

**FOUR NEW RIVER STORIES  
TWO PUSHCART NOMINATIONS  
BY RICHIE SWANSON**

**Pushcart Nominations**

***THE ONE ABOVE THE BOTTOMS*** relates the capture of a white mother and her children during removal of Dakota from the upper Mississippi. Read it at <http://www.prickofthespindle.com/pages/archives.htm>, Volume 7.1, March 2013.

***RIVER SUN WARBLERS*** is a creation story starring America's brightest songbird, the prothonotary warbler, on the frozen and primal Mississippi.

It's available in the anthology *Front Porch Edition, Spring 2013 issue* published by *The American Athenaeum*, <http://swordandsagapress.com/American-Athenaeum.php>.  
**You can also read it at the Myth tab of this website.**

**Three River Stories**

***INDIAN PICTURES: From Wapahasha's Prairie to Wounded Knee*** depicts a famous painter who as a U.S. Army colonel facilitates the removal of his artistic subjects, including his ex-wife and grandson.. <http://heartjournalonline.com/indian-pictures>.

***EDEN NEVER HEARD*** features two gay entrepreneurs who fall in love amid unfriendly conditions on the upper Mississippi River during the settlement and logging era. It appeared at [www.wildemagazine.org](http://www.wildemagazine.org), Fall 2013 issue. Now it's **at the Short Story Tab of this website.**

***INJUN JOE AND PRINCESS WENONAH*** releases Injun Joe from Tom and Becky's cave and the Dakota woman Wenonah from her suicidal leap in Longfellow's *Song of Hiawatha*. **Read it at the Short Story Tab of this website.**

**River Sun Warbler Gallery**

Click on **Photo Galleries** on the top right of this website, then on **River Sun Gallery** to view beautiful photos of river sun warblers, thanks to Allen Blake Sheldon, Andy Nyhus, Kay Shaw, Bill Draskowski, Howard Munson of Hiawatha Audubon Society.

**Editors' comments on Richie's work**

“*Indian Pictures* is astounding in its detail and symbols, challenging, swift moving and thrilling. Richie Swanson telescopes a poignant, misshapen and singularly American adventure in indigenous conquest and subjugation that HEArt offers as a standard for new social justice literature.”—Daniel Morrow, fiction editor, HEArt Online.

“Richie Swanson's short story, "**River Sun Warblers**," evokes a timelessness found within the natural world. Readers feel they are both witnessing the primordial beginnings of Nature—or life itself—while also glimpsing the often unseen natural world we're surrounded by every day. His work is reminiscent of writers like Kenneth Grahme (*Wind and the Willows*) or Rudyard Kipling (*The Jungle Book*). It is both intensely creative and refreshing. Wholly original and completely representative of the type of work we want to publish in *American Athenaeum*. If I had a wish-list this was at the top of it"—Hunter Liguore, Editor-In-Chief, *American Athenaeum*.

“It’s all there in ‘**The One above the Bottoms**’—characters as we can imagine they really were in their time, writing that is lush and fertile, and sound research to give it all fortitude. And Swanson pulls no punches. The writing itself is as adventurous and unafraid as its storyteller, taking us into territory we would not dare venture ourselves, into unexpected terrain that is sometimes frightening and sometimes heart-rending, and in the end, makes us glad we went there. [Editor’s Note: *The One above the Bottoms* was selected as a Kindle Exclusive fiction feature in *Prick of the Spindle, Vol. 7.1*]—Cynthia Reeser, Editor-in-Chief, *Prick of the Spindle Magazine*, Publisher of Aqueous Books.

“A fascinating critique” of “Mark Twain and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.”—*Thirty First Bird Review*’s comment on *The Reckoning of Injun Joe and Princess Wenonah*, now at [www.RichieSwanson.com](http://www.RichieSwanson.com).