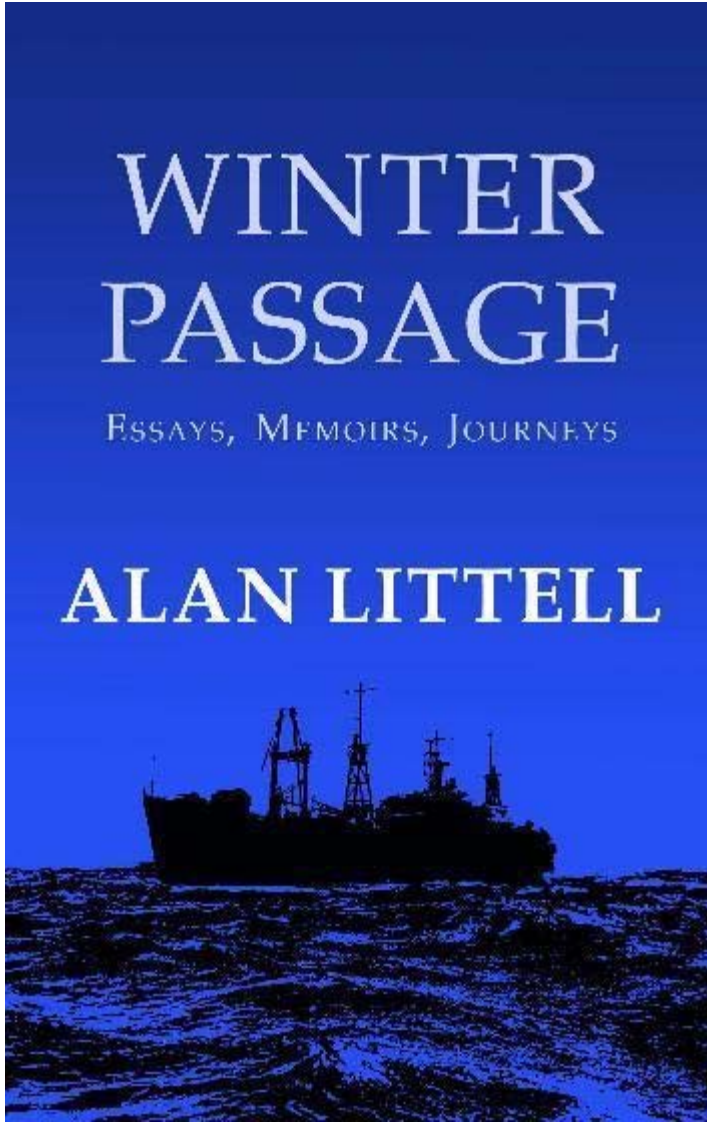


**Alfred University alumnus Littell has new book published**

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ALFRED, NY – A new book by Alfred University alumnus Alan Littell '53 is now available at the university's campus bookstore and online from Amazon and Barnes & Noble, following publication Sept. 1 by a regional New York imprint, Six Mile Creek Press of Ithaca.

"Winter Passage: Essays, Memoirs, Journeys" is a collection of Littell's journalism dating back six decades. It's the author's first work of non-fiction. "Corruption," a novel written under the pseudonym Ciaran Ross and issued by an internet publisher, appeared in 2003. A second novel, "Courage," was written under Littell's own name and published by St. Martin's Press in 2007.

"Winter Passage" takes its title from the new book's opening chapter. The narrative of a sea voyage, the article appeared initially in a Paris literary journal, in 1960. Thirteen years later and renamed "Freighter Solitaire," it was published in the United States by The New York Times.

The book's final essay also touches on the sea. It recounts a two-year-old British child's 1941 escape by troopship from wartime Egypt and her journey 21 years later in a far grander vessel from England to New York. The title of the piece is "Twice an Immigrant."

Bracketed by these two nautical yarns, the rest of the volume is landbound – but with three exceptions. Among them is a piece Littell wrote for a national yachting magazine and headed “A Mariner’s Log,” excerpts from the diary he kept as a young merchant seaman after the Second World War. Another, “Sailing Turkey’s Indigo Sea,” written for newspaper distribution, tells the tale of a schooner voyage the author made in 1991 to the eastern Mediterranean.

The third in this particular series takes to the air. Published originally in 1976 by The New York Times – in the book it’s called “Flight” – it relates what Littell describes as “the almost mystical experience of occupying the cockpit observer’s seat behind the captain of a British Airways jumbo jet on an overnight flight from New York to London.”

Littell says the most personal of the book’s 23 essays and memoirs are the pair of articles covering the two years, in the early 1960s, when he lived and worked as a newspaper editor in Paris. But he says the single essay – an opinion column he wrote for Alfred-area papers – that had, in the writing, the greatest emotional impact on him is the one he calls “The Boy in the Shallows.”

“I wrote it in anger,” he says. “It’s the story of the three-year-old Kurdish boy found dead in 2016 at the foot of a Turkish beach. He had drowned while trying to flee the holocaust that was, and is, Syria.

“That boy remains for me a portrait of our peculiar age,” Littell adds. “I cite his death as a metaphor of brutality, greed, indifference and corruption; and in case I may have missed something, I’ve invited readers of the story to fill in the blanks.”

The book’s gathering of Littell’s journalism was culled from some 40 American newspapers and magazines. In addition to The New York Times, they numbered broadsheets and tabloids published in most of the country’s major cities.

The author earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Alfred University in 1953 and lives in Alfred. From 1968 to 1984 he served as director of the university’s news bureau. His family ties to Alfred University include a son, Harry, master of fine arts graduate and proprietor of Six Mile Creek Press, publisher of “Winter Passage.”

Robert Littell, a novelist living in France and brother of Alan, is a member of the school’s class of 1956. Alan Littell’s late wife, Caroline, dedicatee of “Winter Passage,” at one time directed the university’s overseas study program.

Caroline Littell – then Caroline Jane Penelope Byass – was the immigrant depicted in the new book’s closing chapter.