

A Selected Bibliography of American Indian Literatures

A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff

ADE Bulletin 75 (Summer 1983), pp. 47–48

ISSN: 0001-0898

CrossRef DOI: 10.1632/ade.75.47

Copyright © 1983 by The Association of Departments of English

All material published by the The Association of Departments of English in any medium is protected by copyright. Users may link to the ADE Web page freely and may quote from ADE publications as allowed by the doctrine of fair use. Written permission is required for any other reproduction of material from any ADE publication.

Send requests for permission to reprint material to the ADE permissions manager by mail (26 Broadway, New York, NY 10004-1789), e-mail (permissions@mla.org), or fax (646 458-0030).

A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN INDIAN LITERATURES

I. Bibliographies

- Brumble, H. David, III, comp. *An Annotated Bibliography of American Indian Bibliographies*. Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1981. An excellent guide with suggestions for further reading.
- Littlefield, Daniel, and James Parin, comps. *A Bibliography of Native American Writers, 1772-1924*. Native American Bibliography Series. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1981. Comprehensive guide with brief biographies of the authors. This series publishes bibliographies of many Indian tribes and on many topics pertaining to American Indians.
- Marken, Jack, comp. *The American Indian: Language and Literature*. Arlington Heights, Ill.: AHM, 1978. Though not complete and not annotated, this is a good listing of traditional literatures and anthropological or linguistic studies.
- Ruoff, A. LaVonne Brown. "American Indian Literatures: A Guide to Anthologies, Texts, and Research." In *Studies in American Indian Literature*, ed. Paula Gunn Allen. New York: MLA, 1983, pp. 281-309. Both this bibliographic essay and the annotated bibliography below are designed to introduce teachers to classroom texts, scholarly editions, cultural backgrounds, and criticism.
- , and Karl Kroeber, comps. *American Indian Literatures in the United States: A Basic Bibliography for Teachers*. New York: Assn. for the Study of American Indian Literatures, 1983.

II. Classroom Texts

The following are anthologies of oral and written (especially contemporary) literatures. As yet no authoritative classroom anthology of both oral and written literatures exists. In selecting oral texts, teachers should look for those that reproduce as much as possible of the original narrative, song, or ceremony as performed and that include commentary and notes on ethnographic backgrounds.

- Bierhorst, John, ed. *Four Masterworks of American Indian Literature*. New York: Farrar, 1974. Offers opportunity for depth study of individual long works, such as the "Iroquois Ritual of Condolence" and "Navajo Night Chant."
- . *The Red Swan: Myths and Tales of the American Indians*. New York: Farrar, 1976. Broad and representative sampling of narratives.

A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff

- Curtis, Natalie Burlin, ed. *The Indians' Book: Songs and Legends of the American Indians*. 1907; 2nd ed. 1923; rpt. New York: Dover, 1968. Reasonably reliable anthology of songs.
- Evers, Larry, ed. *The South Corner of Time: Hopi, Navajo, Papago, and Yaqui Tribal Literature*. Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 1980. Though containing written literature, this southwestern anthology emphasizes oral literatures.
- Hobson, Geary, ed. *The Remembered Earth*. 1979; rpt. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 1981. Contemporary poetry and prose.
- Niatum, Duane, ed. *Carriers of the Dream Wheel*. New York: Harper, 1975. Good contemporary poetry anthology by a fine poet.
- Ramsey, Jarold, ed. *Coyote Was Going There: Indian Literature of the Oregon Country*. Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 1977. Diverse collection emphasizing oral narratives.
- Thompson, Stith, ed. *Tales of the North American Indians*. 1929; rpt. Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Press, 1966. Varied collection of oral narratives.
- Underhill, Ruth M. *Singing for Power: The Song Magic of the Papago Indians of Southern Arizona*. 1938; rpt. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1976. Translations of Papago songs with sensitive, informative discussions of cultural context.

III. Criticism

- Allen, Paula Gunn, ed. *Studies in American Indian Literature*. New York: MLA, 1983. Best guide to field; emphasis on written literature. Essays, course designs, review of scholarship, bibliography.
- Chapman, Abraham, ed. *Literature of the American Indians: Views and Interpretations*. New York: New American Library, 1975. Literature and criticism; includes essays by several Indian writers.
- Finnegan, Ruth. *Oral Poetry*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1977. Helpful general introduction to study of song as literature.
- Hymes, Dell. *'In Vain I Tried to Tell You': Essays in*

This bibliography is designed to suggest places to begin the study of American Indian literatures.

- Native American Ethnopoetics*. Studies in Native American Literature. Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 1981. Indispensable study on ethnopoetic approaches to American Indian oral literatures.
- Kroeber, Karl, ed. and comp. *Traditional Literatures of the American Indians: Texts and Interpretations*. Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1981. Excellent starting point for study of narratives; includes texts and critical essays.
- Larson, Charles R. *American Indian Fiction*. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 1978. Only book-length study of American Indian novelists, 1899-1978; stronger on plot summary than on criticism.
- Ruoff, A. LaVonne Brown. "Old Traditions and New Forms." In *Studies in American Indian Literature*. Ed. Paula Gunn Allen. New York: MLA, 1983, pp. 147-68. Only history of literature written by Indians during this period.
- Swann, Brian, ed. *Smoothing the Ground: Essays on Native American Oral Literature*. Los Angeles: American Indian Studies Center, Univ. of California, Los Angeles, 1982. Essays by a variety of critics.
- Tedlock, Dennis. "On the Translation of Style in Oral Narrative." *JAF*, 84 (1971), 114-33. Rpt. in *Toward New Perspectives in Folklore*. Ed. Américo Paredes and Richard Bauman. Publications of the American Folklore Society, Bibliographical and Special Series, Vol. 23. Austin: Univ. of Texas Press, pp. 114-33.
- . "Pueblo Literature: Style and Verisimilitude." In *New Perspectives on the Pueblos*. Ed. Alphonso Ortiz. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 1972, pp. 219-42. These two articles provide a fine introduction to the importance of tape-recorded oral performance as a guide to the structure of Zuni narratives.
- Toelken, Barre. *The Dynamics of Folklore*. Boston: Houghton, 1979. Good general introduction to oral narrative and song as literature.

IV. Journals and Newsletters

The following periodicals publish articles and bibliographies on American Indian literatures.

- American Indian Culture and Research Journal*. American Indian Studies Center, 3220 Campbell Hall, Univ. of California, Los Angeles 90024. Interdisciplinary.
- American Indian Quarterly*. Native American Studies Program, Univ. of California, Berkeley 94700. Interdisciplinary.
- Journal of Ethnic Studies*. Western Washington Univ., Bellingham 98225. Interdisciplinary journal on multiethnic cultures.
- MELUS* (Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States). English Dept., Univ. of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221. Includes frequent articles on American Indian literatures.
- Minority Voices*. Paul Robeson Culture Center, 101 Walnut Bldg., Pennsylvania State Univ., University Park 16802. Interdisciplinary journal of the arts.
- NAIES*. Ethnic Studies Dept., California State Polytechnic Univ., Pomona 91768. Newsletter of National Association of Interdisciplinary Ethnic Studies.
- Studies in American Indian Literatures*. Dept. of English and Comparative Literature, 602 Philosophy Hall, Columbia Univ., New York, NY 10027. Newsletter of the Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures. Essays and bibliographies.

Part I: Introduction to American Indian literatures -- Backgrounds -- Oral literatures -- Life history and autobiography -- History of written literature -- Part II: Bibliographic review -- Bibliographies and research guides -- Anthologies, collections, and re-creations -- Anthologies -- Collections and re-creations of oral literatures -- Collections -- Women's studies -- Image of the Indian -- Part III: A selected bibliography of American Indian literature -- Abbreviations of frequently cited works -- Bibliographies and research guides -- Anthologies, collections and re-creations -- American Indian authors -- Scholarship and criticism -- Teaching American Indian literatures -- Backgrounds -- Films.