

## Native American Legends of the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Valley

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2000. xvii, 187 pp. Illustrations, notes, tables, bibliography, index. \$17.95 paper.

Reviewer Richard Thomas is emeritus professor of history at Cornell College. His research interests include American Indians, recent history, and material culture.

With the exceptions of two new chapters, a new introduction, and a revised bibliography, this book is a reprint of a book originally published in 1978. The work, largely a collection of papers and lectures from a 1974 symposium at Iowa State University, promised to "provide some insights into an area where current and accurate material are generally lacking" (xv). Reviews of the first edition expressed appreciation for the many Indian voices included as well as the wide spectrum of views represented. Earlier reviews also noted the lack of a clear organizational theme for the collection, which is still absent in this reprint. (See, for example, Michael Green's review in the *Annals of Iowa* 45 [1980], 239-42.)

The two new chapters continue Indian voices. Maria Pearson (Yankton Sioux) documents Indian leadership and the political actions of Governor Robert Ray in the 1970s on the issue of the disposition of Indian remains. Lance Foster's (Ioway) new essay connects the burial issue with tribal traditional values and contemporary Indian identity.

Reissuing the original edition without seriously addressing any of a number of significant changes in Indian concerns in a book that seeks to fill the void of "current and accurate material" does not seem helpful or merited. Issues such as the impact of Indian gaming, the success or failure of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) in Iowa, and declining support for urban Indian centers are not included. The editors acknowledge some of these new realities in the new preface but make no contribution to help us understand any of them.

*Native American Legends of the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Valley*, edited by Katharine B. Judson. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2000. 204 pp. Illustrations, index. \$38.00 cloth, \$18.00 paper.

Reviewer James P. Leary is professor of American folklore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research and publications have focused on midwestern folklore.

Moved by the stories of native peoples, and concerned that they might not reach a broad readership in unromanticized form, Katharine Berry Judson, a librarian trained in history, drew heavily on the massive nar-

rative collections gathered for the Smithsonian's Bureau of American Ethnology to produce four volumes of American Indian "myths and legends." This particular collection, first published in 1914, presents 102 American Indian traditional tales drawn mostly from Cherokee (23), Menomini (25), and Ojibwa (23) tellers as set down by such anthropological folklorists as James Mooney, Albert E. Jenks, Walter J. Hoffman, and Henry Rowe Schoolcraft. Plainly yet engagingly rendered in prose departing but little from the original sources, the stories concern origins, primordial elements, plants and animals, and culture heroes and tricksters. Historian Peter Iverson's new introduction succinctly sketches Judson's life and editorial methods, astutely lauds her as a pioneer of contemporary "multiculturalism," and argues convincingly for the ongoing importance of traditional storytelling among native peoples.

Serious students of American Indian storytelling might wish for more. Perhaps a bibliographic reconstruction of the sources from which the tales are drawn? Perhaps the names and brief biographies, to the extent available, of the original storytellers? Perhaps comparative notes on those stories in the collection that are widespread and oft-reported in oral tradition? Complaints aside, however, the republication of *Native American Legends* is most welcome, for both its historical significance and its clear, sensitive rendering of well-chosen, compelling traditional stories.

*The American West: Out of Myth, Into Reality*, by Peter H. Hassrick. Seattle: University of Washington Press for the Trust for Museum Exhibitions, 2000. 176 pp. 135 illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.95 paper.

Reviewer Joni L. Kinsey is associate professor of art history at the University of Iowa. She is the author of *Thomas Moran and the Surveying of the American West* (1992) and *Plain Pictures: Images of the American Prairie* (1996).

This bountifully illustrated book, written to accompany a traveling exhibition, is a good introduction to American western art, its history, and its current reputation. Written for general readers rather than specialists, it is light on text and even shorter on details, but it nevertheless offers a decent overview of the main currents of western art and recent thinking about it. The central essay, written by an authority on the subject, surveys the breadth of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century painting. It is followed by rather short syntheses of some of the themes in the field written by several other scholars. Hassrick, most recently the Charles M. Russell Professor of Western Art at the

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