A Selected Bibliography of American Indian Literatures

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I. Bibliographies


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.


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."


III. Criticism


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.

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.


———. "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.


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.


MELUS (Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States). English Dept., Univ. of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221. Includes frequent articles on American Indian literatures.

