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Book Reviews

Bibliography of the Sioux. By Jack W. Marken and Herbert T. Hoover. Native American Bibliography Series, No. 1. Metuchen, NJ & London: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1980. 388 pp. \$17.50.

Every new bibliography, since it brings together an array of material from scattered and obscure sources, is cause for celebration. This volume is no exception. No matter how well versed the user might be in Sioux history and culture, he is bound to find many items among the 3,367 entries printed here that have previously escaped his attention. In this sense this new bibliography is a treasure trove and the user will find that time spent in studying it will be amply repaid.

According to the authors, their intention has been "to list all the important books and articles published through 1978" that relate to the Sioux. Surely this is an admirable goal, aiming for a convenient reference work that would save the user the trouble of consulting a variety of other bibliographies. Yet it is clear that given the enormous literature on the Sioux, completeness could not be achieved—or even approached—and the relative importance of any particular publication is frequently a subjective judgment that relates less to the intrinsic quality of an item than to the needs of the reader.

Given the constraints of size, any bibliography such as this must be judged on its utility. Does it lead the user to relevant literature efficiently and comprehensively? Is it easy to use? Is it arranged according to the likely needs of its users? Looked at from this perspective, this volume is a failure. It appears as a random collection of bibliographic references idiosyncratically arranged in poorly defined categories. One has the impression that the authors took their personal bibliographic files on the Sioux, created at different

times for different purposes, sorted them into rough subject categories, and published the results.

The bibliographic categories represent a range of subjects reflecting the authors' interests. They include Bibliographies; Journals, Newspapers, and Special Reports; Appraisals and Cessions; Arts and Culture; Canadian Sioux; History; Indian Authors; Language; Leaders and Heroes; Religion; Reservation Affairs; Wounded Knee I and II. This is only a sample of the 33 categories, but it represents their diversity and their lack of comparability. The categories are so subjective that it is necessary to search through the entire volume in order to find material on any given topic. This is facilitated by an index of names and subjects; unfortunately, I found so many typographical errors in the numerical citations of the index that it was frustrating to use.

A number of other problems make use of this bibliography difficult. Perhaps the most important is the authors' selection of material. They have minimized references to government documents and reports, as well as newspapers and ephemeral materials such as the publications of Indian schools and tribal councils. They have focused instead on commercially published books and pamphlets and articles in journals. This has resulted in the exclusion of many significant bibliographic references on the Sioux and the inclusion of a large amount of trivia.

About half the entries are annotated, yet it would be incorrect to call this an annotated bibliography. The annotations range from the sublime to the ridiculous, and only infrequently are they very useful. For example, entry 1050, T. J. Farnham's *Travels in the Great Western Prairies, 1841*, bears the annotation: "Printed in several editions in the United States and abroad; translated into German." This is useless to the reader looking for a copy. It would have been more helpful to refer to the edition that appears in R. G. Thwaites' *Early Western Travels*, and to have indicated the extent to which the work includes material on the Sioux. Some annotations are simply incorrect, such as that for entry 2619, *Memoirs of Elaine Goodale Eastman*, which asserts that she did not become an author until she moved to Dakota and married Charles A. Eastman. Other annotations are simply puzzling, such as that for 3367. Raymond Wilson's doctoral dissertation on Eastman: "Says he wrote his books with the assistance of his wife, Elaine Goodale Eastman." Certainly this is not the most significant aspect of Wilson's work.

A very serious problem is the listing of multiple editions without indication of which is more authoritative. For example, the definitive edition of Jonathan Carver's travels, edited by John Parker, is given as entry 2681 without annotation. Entry 2682 lists the 3rd edition of 1781 (as reprinted in 1956 by Ross and Haines); the annotation notes that more than 50 editions have been published and that the work was once thought to have been written by another author. The user of this bibliography has no way of knowing that the discovery of Carver's original manuscript journal established his authorship and showed that the previous published versions had been amended with additional material plagiarized from other sources. Surely the annotation should indicate that only by reference to item 2681 can the reader have access to Carver's original observations on the Sioux. The same problem holds throughout the bibliography, where poor editions, bad translations, incomplete editions, and secondary works are listed alongside original and reprint editions without any commentary to guide the inexperienced reader.

A similar complication is created by multiple listings of the same work. For example, W. R. Hurt's report on Teton Sioux land tenure for the Indian Claims Commission is listed in its original form as entry 106 (under the heading "Appraisals and Cessions"), while the Clearwater Press edition is entry 506 (for unknown reasons classified under "Contemporary Sioux"), and the Garland Press edition is entry 1106 ("History"). Each edition has a different title, yet there is no indication that these three entries all refer to the same work.

Another problem, all too common in the bibliography, is the listing of works that have little or nothing to do with the Sioux. For example, entry 2337, J. G. Jorgensen's *The Sun Dance Religion*, a study of the Ute and Shoshone sun dance, surely does not belong here. The entry bears the annotation: "Very little on the Sioux"—an understatement! This is by no means a unique example.

One final problem might be mentioned. For books in which multiple articles appear, no systematic attempt was made to list them with the main entry. When the user comes to entry 204, *Essays in the Science of Culture*, he is informed that pages 249-268 relate to the Sioux. Not until he comes to entry 246 does he learn that these pages are J. H. Howard's article, "The Cultural Position of the Dakota." (He is never told that entry 1099 is a revision and expansion of this article.) No mention is made in the entry of W. R.

Hurt's article, "The Yankton Dakota Church," pages 269-287 of the same book (listed here as entry 2332). Simple cross-referencing would make the user's work easier.

In summary, the bibliography gives an impression of having been hastily put together, without adequate consideration of the needs of potential users. This is particularly serious because the illusion of completeness suggested by this work may dissuade users from seeking further bibliographic aids, even though the standard bibliographies are listed in the present volume. This is a most unpropitious first volume of a series that is projected to publish during the 1980s 20 or more volumes relating to different tribes. We can hope that future volumes will benefit from the mistakes made by this one, and that authors of other volumes will take their bibliographic work as seriously as other scholarly work. This series could be valuable, or it could end up as another dreary series of ill-conceived bibliographies in search of an audience.

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Lakota Texts and Tales. By Eugene Buechel. Edited by Paul J. Manhart. Pine Ridge, SD: Lakota Language and Cultural Center, 1980. 399 pp. pap. \$4.95.

The state of native American Indian language publications is critical and reflects a condition of near extinction due to the excessive costs of this type of publishing effort. The recent edition of *Lakota Texts and Tales*, collected by Eugene Buechel, S.J., and published by the Lakota Language and Cultural Center at Pine Ridge, is a contribution in demonstrating the continued worth of publishing a volume of native language texts. This edition is designed for use by Lakota studies programs and students of Lakota language and culture. The book contains a collection of Lakota trickster stories, bits of narrative ethnography, some brief biographical sketches, and myths, many never before published. Beyond an introduction in English, this collection is published entirely in Lakota, without translations, which on first reflection gives this book the appearance of limited utility. However, the volume is symbolic of the growing interest in the teaching and speaking the Lakota language,