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Murdock and O'Leary: *Ethnographic Bibliography of North America*

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multitude of boxes which had been gathering there since Harrington's death in 1961, one archive worker discovered a carton of dead birds which had been sitting, unlabeled and unpreserved, amongst his field notes for at least two decades.

Harrington's field notes are not only intimidating in bulk, but nearly undecipherable to the uninitiated. Harrington's handwriting was poor at best, and his notes were often written in poor light, or in great haste at the bedsides of dying informants. An additional obstacle to the scholarly use of the notes has been the elaborate and eccentric "language" in which the notes themselves are written. Harrington was a victim of academic paranoia and sought to keep the location of his field work and the identity of his informants shrouded in mystery to even his co-workers in the Bureau of American Ethnology. Thus his texts are peppered with cryptic notations: informants are never identified in full, but referred to only as "Asc." or "SJOS". It is even difficult at times to know the identity of the language group whose vocabulary is being recorded. Furthermore, the language of the notes often lapses in a single paragraph from abbreviated English to phonetic Spanish to an unidentified Native American dialect recorded in Harrington's own linguistic shorthand and back to English again without pause. Future students of the collection should be as grateful to Ms. Walsh for her appendix of abbreviations as for the catalog itself.

Harrington's eccentricities were in many ways to prove his downfall, for they denied the academic community access to his fieldwork for a full generation. Gradually, the National Anthropological Archives have gathered together an almost complete collection of the unpublished field notes that Harrington stored, hid, or simply abandoned in rural post offices and isolated cabins, private homes, and archives across the country. Now Jane Walsh has provided us with an invaluable index; a

guidebook to the rich store of information that was amassed and squandered by the miser of California anthropology, the fascinating and frustrating John Peabody Harrington.



Ethnographic Bibliography of North America.

George Peter Murdock and Timothy J. O'Leary. 4th ed. New Haven: Human Relations Area Files Press, 1975. 5 vols. Until Jan. 1, 1977 \$26.00 per volume; \$125.00 for the set of five volumes. After that date \$35.00 per volume and \$175.00 for the set.

Reviewed by ROBERT F. HEIZER
University of California, Berkeley

This monumental guide to the published literature on North American Indians runs to a total of 1634 pages. Its coverage extends from the Columbian discovery to 1972, includes 40,000 entries and refers to 269 ethnic groups (tribes).

This encyclopaedic reference work is doubtless the most helpful and indispensable research tool that exists for students of American Indians. Volume 1 is concerned with North America in general, divided into Murdock's fifteen culture areas and appended by five subject bibliographies. Volumes 2-5 cover, tribe by tribe, the Arctic and Subarctic, Far West and Pacific Coast, Eastern United States, Plains and Southwest. Volume 3 covers the Far West and Pacific Coast and will be of especial utility to scholars interested in California.

If you have ever written anything on Indians you will find it listed here.

Each volume contains the same lengthy

introduction in which the reader is informed of procedures followed in compiling the bibliography, a section on publications on Indians in government documents, Indian Claims cases, dissertations on Native Americans, manuscripts and archives, non-print materials (films, tapes, maps), and bibliographical tools post-1972 and continuing research.

Murdock, O'Leary, and their assistants have provided all North Americanists with the means of improving scholarship, and I think there will be no objections if I here say for everyone, thanks.



Yurok Myths. A. L. Kroeber. Foreword by *Theodora Kroeber*. Kroeber and the Yurok, 1900-1908 by *Timothy H. H. Thoresen*. Folkloristic Commentary by *Alan Dundes*. Editor's Preface by *Grace Buzljko*. The Geographical Setting by *A. L. Kroeber*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1976. xl + 488 pp., 7 maps, 5 black and white photographs, 3 bibliographies, appendix (recordings of Yurok myths on phonograph cylinders), index (personages, characteristic stories and themes). \$18.50 (cloth).

Reviewed by KATHARINE LUOMALA
Honolulu, Hawaii

The heading clues one not only to the historical and emotional significance of probably the last work to be issued under A. L. Kroeber's name but to the incredibly awesome amount of labor and loving devotion by Kroeber himself and of those who later put the unfinished work together for publication.

Prefaces concern the personal relationship

between Kroeber and the Yurok; the part his early Yurok trips played in his personal history and that of American, particularly of Californian, anthropology; the folkloristic strengths and deficiencies as viewed from the perspective of Kroeber's era and the present; and the difficult editorial problems, intelligently and creatively resolved. Total immersion and empathy with the material, as evident as Kroeber's, suffuse the prefaces through the contributors' efforts to understand what Kroeber had done on the material and what he had hoped to do in the future. A coldly analytical review would violate the warm ambiance with which Kroeber and his followers have surrounded the work.

Through the years after he had collected the narratives, Kroeber worked on them, turning to the manuscript for "the sort of refreshment he brought to a game of chess with a congenial player" (*Theodora Kroeber*, p. xiv). Eliminated was the broken English of either the storytellers or of the interpreter translating for a narrator in the Yurok language. Mrs. C. Goodwin later beautifully Englished some stories recorded in Yurok on phonograph cylinders; those by Ann of Espeu mentioned below are among them. The entire collection is published in English only. Kroeber added for every narrator a biographical and psychological sketch, and for several, especially the two he rated the most gifted, an aesthetic analysis of how, given a certain psychological bent, the teller creatively retold tribal stock-in-trade. Not only is each of the more gifted's stories separately analyzed aesthetically but so are occasional stories by the less talented.

Of the hundreds of footnotes explaining Yurok cultural details and narrative art, some, one feels, spontaneously flooded into minor essays. An example is the one on certain characteristics of Yurok narrative art (pp. 465-467). Nowhere, however, are all the footnoted perceptive comments on narration worked