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American Indian Literatures: An Introduction, Bibliographic Review, and Selected Bibliography. By A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff.

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Indian and white, simply wanted to believe in Grey Owl; many gave testimony that he was one of the most persuasive individuals they had ever encountered.

Smith's persistent endeavors to find and talk with Grey Owl's family and associates on both sides of the Atlantic add an important ingredient to this book. While fully crediting those who had written about Grey Owl before him, this historian conducted his own research and fieldwork, where his talents complement his archival genius. Through interviews and correspondence and what became personal friendships, Smith unearthed facts and opinions with which to round out "the making of Grey Owl." In this singular creation, the Indians of "Archie Belaney's North" are given full voice, alongside Belaney's English and Canadian publishers and publicists, readers, audiences, and admirers. The author's acknowledgments section contains a five-page list of the firsthand contacts from whom he elicited data that helped him "to complete this obsession of more than twenty years" (p. 223).

Smith might have completed the book sooner had he not been so meticulous about reporting his sources. An extensive and useful bibliography is another great value of this volume, along with full references and annotations in the seventy pages of endnotes. Donald Smith's passion is surely a scholarly one, a zeal to leave no stone unturned, and to share his search and its yield with his readers. He finds excitement in researching the lives of others and shares that, too. (Two previous books have approached history via biography.) Thirty-six pages are filled with excellent photographs, grouped in sections following the relevant text. Like Grey Owl, Smith is both an engaging storyteller and an exacting craftsman.

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**American Indian Literatures: An Introduction, Bibliographic Review, and Selected Bibliography.** By A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff. New York: Modern Language Association, 1990. 200 pages. \$17.50 paper. \$37.00 cloth.

In a model preface, A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff, professor of English at the University of Illinois at Chicago, defines terminology, identifies the intended audience, and traces the lineage of this

book. The basic problem she addresses is the exclusion of American Indian literatures from anthologies and courses on American literature. Ruoff seeks to address this by providing a history of American Indian literature and the sources needed for teachers and scholars to study this literature. The book serves its purpose very well. As Ruoff notes, this is not her first such attempt. The work that most directly precedes this one is her "American Indian Literatures: Introduction and Bibliography" (*American Studies International*, Fall 1986:2-52). The other comparable review is Andrew O. Wiget's "Native American Literature: A Bibliographic Survey of American Indian Literary Traditions" (*Choice*, June 1986:1503-1512).

Part 1, "Introduction to American Indian Literatures," covers over half of the book, 115 of the two hundred pages. It is a very useful overview of both the oral and written literatures. Genre as well as historical approaches are provided. The genres covered are oral literatures (ritual drama, songs, narratives, oratory), life history and autobiography, and written literature. The questions concerning oral versus written literature are set forth clearly and comprehensively. Translation and performance are two other areas that are sensitively addressed. The chief historical division chosen is 1968, which saw the publication of Momaday's *The House Made of Dawn* and the beginning of the "renaissance of American Indian literature" (p. 76).

The "Bibliographic Review," part 2, begins with a discussion of selected bibliographies and research guides. This is followed by a section on anthologies, collections, and re-creations. These two sections correspond directly to the first two sections of part 3, "A Selected Bibliography of American Indian Literatures." The bibliography includes all items cited in the text, plus additional materials.

The remaining section of part 2 is devoted to "Scholarship and Criticism," and it is further subdivided, roughly following the genres discussed in part 1. Unfortunately, these subdivisions do not exactly match the continuing sections of the bibliography in part 3. Ruoff alludes to this inconsistency in the preface, but the extent of the difficulty is not apparent until the reader tries to find the full citations for works mentioned in parts 1 and 2. (The most convoluted search I encountered was for "Krupat and Swann, *Recovering the Word*," referenced from Bright, William, "The Natural History of Old Man Coyote," page 167, part 3, D. Schol-

arship and Criticism: Studies of Oral Literature. I finally found it on page 175, part 3, D. Scholarship and Criticism: General Literary Studies, under Swann and Krupat. The search actually began in part 2 on page 127, when I tried to find the original reference to the Bright article.) A disconcerting note in the review of "Scholarship and Criticism" occurs on page 126, where Alan Dundes is credited with a "Jungian interpretation of it (earth diver motif) as an anal-creation story." Of course, this should read "Freudian" interpretation; the error is carried over from Ruoff's previous work, cited above.

An inconvenience in using this work is inherent in the structure of part 3. There are eleven separate alphabetical sections, not counting the section on films and videotapes and the three sections on journals and small presses. On the one hand, this organization allows a reader to pursue selected aspects such as teaching American Indian literatures or references to works about a particular American Indian author, but this same organization precludes finding all references to works by a particular author or scholar in one place.

The book concludes with a useful three-page chronology of "Important Dates in American Indian History, 1500 to the Present" and an index to "persons, organizations, important bills and acts, events, and a few relevant topics about American Indians," which are contained in parts 1 and 2. A very nice feature is the attribution of tribes of authors and scholars throughout the volume.

The intended audience of students and teachers of American literature will find that this volume, most particularly part 1, will give them a good introduction to this aspect of American literature, which is so poorly covered in standard texts. This volume, read in conjunction with Wiget's "Native American Literature" (cited above), should begin to compensate for the more obvious lacunae in their preparation. Both Ruoff and Wiget have been involved with the Modern Language Association's Committee on the Literatures and Languages of America, and their continuing work in this area is an important contribution to the increasing accessibility of these materials in the curriculum.

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