Travel writing has always been intimately linked with the construction of American identity. Occupying the space between fact and fiction, it exposes cultural fault lines and reveals the changing desires and anxieties of both the traveler and the reading public. These specially commissioned essays trace the journeys taken by writers from the pre-revolutionary period right up to the present. They examine a wide range of responses to the problems posed by landscapes found both at home and abroad, from the Mississippi and the Southwest to Europe and the Holy Land. Throughout, the contributors focus on the role played by travel writing in the definition and formation of national identity, and consider the diverse experiences of canonical and lesser-known writers. This Companion forms an invaluable guide for students approaching this new, important, and exciting subject for the first time.
THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
AMERICAN TRAVEL WRITING

EDITED BY
ALFRED BENDIXEN
Texas A&M University

AND

JUDITH HAMERA
Texas A&M University
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TERRY CAESAR has taught at Clarion University, Pennsylvania; Mukogawa University (Japan); and San Antonio College, Texas. He is the author of Forgiving the Boundaries: Home as Abroad in American Travel Writing (1995). He has also published academic essays on the subject, as well as personal essays of his own travel to such places as Saudi Arabia, China, and Brazil. He has co-edited with Eva Bueno a collection of essays on Latin American popular culture, Imagination Beyond Nation (1998). He is currently a columnist for the online journal, Inside Higher Ed.

WILLIAM MERRILL DECKER is Professor of English at Oklahoma State University, where he teaches American literature and serves as Director of Graduate Programs in English. He is the author of The Literary Vocation of Henry Adams (1990) and Epistolary Practices: Letter Writing in America before Telecommunications (1998), and is a co-editor of and contributor to Henry Adams and the Need to Know (2005).

PHILIP GOULD is Professor of English at Brown University, Rhode Island. He is the author of Barbaric Traffic: Commerce and Antislavery in the Eighteenth-Century World (2003) and former President of the Society of Early Americanists. He is currently working on a study of loyalist writing in Revolutionary America.

JUDITH HAMERA is Professor and Head of the Department of Performance Studies at Texas A&M University. She is the author of Dancing Communities: Performance, Difference and Connection in the Global City (2007), the editor

CHRISTOPHER MCBRIDE completed his PhD in English at the Claremont Graduate University, California, and is currently a member of the English faculty at Solano College, California. He is the author of The Colonizer Abroad: American Writers on Foreign Soil, 1846–1912 (2004) as well as articles on American conjure stories, Herman Melville, William Dean Howells, and Mary Austin.

CHRISTOPHER MULVEY is Professor Emeritus of English and American Studies at the University of Winchester. He is the recipient of awards from the Arts and Humanities Council, the British Academy, Cambridge University, and the University of Virginia. His books include Anglo-American Landscapes (1983), Transatlantic Manners (1990), New York: City as Text (1990), Frank Thomas Morrell: Edwardian Entrepreneur (1994), Black Liberation in the Americas (2001), and Dominic St. John Mulvey: London Irishman (2005). He is a General Editor with Henry Louis Gates and Maria Diedrich of The African American Research Library, for which he has created an electronic scholarly edition of the first African American novel, William Wells Brown’s Clotel, or the President’s Daughter (London, 1853) published online by Virginia University Press in March 2006. He is presently working on an electronic scholarly edition of Phillis Wheatley’s Poems (London, 1773) and a history of American transportation and culture. He has recently established the Winchester University Press and is planning a Museum of the English Language for the City of Winchester.

HILTON OBEZINGER teaches writing and American literature at Stanford University. He is the author of American Palestine: Melville, Twain, and the Holy Land Mania, as well as articles on American Holy Land travel, Mark Twain, Herman Melville, and American cultural interactions with the Middle East. His current project is Melting Pots and Promised Lands: Early Zionism and the Idea of America. A recipient of the American Book Award, he has also published books of poetry, fiction, and oral history.

DEBORAH PAES DE BARROS is Associate Professor of English at Palomar College, California. She is the author of Fast Cars and Bad Girls: Nomadic Subjects and Women’s Road Stories (2004).

MARTIN PADGET lectures in American Studies at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. He is the author of Indian Country: Travels in the American Southwest, 1840–1935 (2004) and Photographers of the Western Isles (2008). His current research examines travel writing and the Southwest from the Spanish colonial era to the present day.

THOMAS RUYS SMITH is a Lecturer in American Literature at the University of East Anglia. He is the author of *River of Dreams: Imagining the Mississippi Before Mark Twain* (2007), and is currently at work on a social and cultural history of New Orleans.

VIRGINIA WHATLEY SMITH is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, where she teaches African American literature. She has presented papers or been published on Richard Wright, W. E. B. Du Bois, John A. Williams, Ann Petry, Sarah Baartman, and others. She published *Richard Wright’s Travel Writings*, an essay collection, in 2001. Currently, she is writing a biography on Richard Wright.

WILLIAM W. STOWE is the Benjamin Waite Professor of English at Wesleyan University, Connecticut. His work on travel writing began with *Going Abroad: European Travel in Nineteenth-Century American Culture* (1994). Recent publications include studies of landscape and leisure in Thoreau, Jewett, Fuller, Henry Ward Beecher, and Henry James, and an essay on literary aspects of the rural cemetery movement entitled “Writing Mount Auburn: Language, Landscape, and Place.”