CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521822831 - The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature
Edited by Joy Porter and Kenneth M. Roemer
Frontmatter
More information

The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature

Invisible, marginal, expected – these words trace the path of recognition for American Indian literature written in English since the late eighteenth century. This Companion chronicles and celebrates that trajectory by defining relevant institutional, historical, cultural, and gender contexts, by outlining the variety of genres written since the 1770s, and also by focusing on significant authors who established a place for Native literature in literary canons in the 1970s (Momaday, Silko, Welch, Ortiz, Vizenor), achieved international recognition in the 1980s (Erdrich), and performance-celebrity status in the 1990s (Harjo and Alexie). In addition to the seventeen chapters written by respected experts – Native and non-Native; American, British, and European scholars, the Companion includes bio-bibliographies of forty authors, maps, suggestions for further reading, and a timeline which details major works of Native American literature and mainstream American literature, as well as significant social, cultural, and historical events. An essential overview of this powerful literature.

JOY PORTER is a lecturer in the Department of American Studies at the University of Wales, Swansea, UK where she teaches American and Native American history and literature. Previously she was Senior Lecturer in American History at Anglia Polytechnic University, Cambridge. She is the author of *To Be Indian: the Life of Seneca-Iroquois Arthur Caswell Parker, 1881–1955* (2002). Her work can be found in a variety of books such as *The State of US History* (Berg 2002) and journals such as *New York History* and *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. Her next book is *Native American Freemasonry,* the research for which is supported by a Leverhulme Research Fellowship.

KENNETH M. ROEMER, an Academy of Distinguished Teachers Professor at the University of Texas at Arlington, has received four NEH grants to Direct Summer Seminars and has been a Visiting Professor in Japan, a guest lecturer at Harvard, and lectured in Vienna, Lisbon, Brazil, and Turkey. His articles have appeared in journals such as *American Literature*, *American Literary History*, and *Modern Fiction Studies*. His *Approaches to Teaching Momaday's* The Way to Rainy Mountain (ed.) was published by the MLA; his *Native American Writers of the United States* (ed.) won a Writer of Year Award from Wordcraft Circle. He has written four books on utopian literature, including *The Obsolete Necessity* and *Utopian Audience*. His collection of personal narratives, verse, and photography about Japan is entitled *Michibata de Deatta Nippon* (A Sidewalker's Japan).

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521822831 - The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature
Edited by Joy Porter and Kenneth M. Roemer
Frontmatter
More information

THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO

NATIVE AMERICAN LITERATURE

EDITED BY

JOY PORTER

and

KENNETH M. ROEMER

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521822831 - The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature
Edited by Joy Porter and Kenneth M. Roemer
Frontmatter
More information

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSIGTY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge, CB2 2RU, UK
Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521529792

© Cambridge University Press 2005

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2005

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN-13 978-0-521-82283-1 hardback
ISBN-10 0-521-82283-1 hardback
ISBN-13 978-0-521-52979-2 paperback
ISBN-10 0-521-52979-4 paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs
for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this book, and does not guarantee
that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521822831 - The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature
Edited by Joy Porter and Kenneth M. Roemer
Frontmatter
More information

To
Mildred Allison Roemer, 1906–2003
Brooklyn and East Rockaway, New York
Arthur Kenneth Roemer, 1912–2005
East Rockaway, New York
and
Kathleen and John Porter,
Derry/Londonderry, N. Ireland.

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521822831 - The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature
Edited by Joy Porter and Kenneth M. Roemer
Frontmatter
More information

CONTENTS

List of illustrations *page* ix
Notes on contributors x
Acknowledgments xvi
A note on individual and tribal names xvii

Introduction
KENNETH M. ROEMER 1

Timeline: literary, historical, and cultural conjunctions
KENNETH M. ROEMER 25

Part I Historical and cultural contexts

1. Historical and cultural contexts to Native American literature
JOY PORTER 39

2. Translation and mediation
DAVID MURRAY 69

3. Women writers and gender issues
ANNETTE VAN DYKE 85

Part II Genre contexts

4. Non-fiction prose
BERND PEYER 105

5. Native American life writing
HERTHA D. SWEET WONG 125

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521822831 - The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature
Edited by Joy Porter and Kenneth M. Roemer
Frontmatter
More information

6. America's indigenous poetry
NORMA C. WILSON 145

7. Pre-1968 fiction
A. LAVONNE BROWN RUOFF 161

8. Fiction: 1968 to the present
JAMES RUPPERT 173

9. American Indian theatre
ANN HAUGO 189

Part III Individual authors

10. N. Scott Momaday: becoming the bear
CHADWICK ALLEN 207

11. Simon Ortiz: writing home
PATRICIA CLARK SMITH 221

12. James Welch: identity, circumstance, and chance
KATHRYN W. SHANLEY 233

13. Leslie Marmon Silko: storyteller
ROBERT M. NELSON 245

14. Gerald Vizenor: postindian liberation
KIMBERLY M. BLAESER 257

15. Louise Erdrich's storied universe
CATHERINE RAINWATER 271

16. Joy Harjo's poetry
LAURA COLTELLI 283

17. Sherman Alexie: irony, intimacy, and agency
DAVID L. MOORE 297

Bio-bibliographies 311
Further reading 329
Index 331

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521822831 - The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature
Edited by Joy Porter and Kenneth M. Roemer
Frontmatter
More information

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures

5.1 "On the War Path" by Making Medicine, Cheyenne, August 1875. (Courtesy of the National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution.) *page* 130
5.2 "Indian between Two Cultures" by Wohaw, Kiowa, January 1877. (Courtesy of Missouri Historical Society.) 131
5.3 "A class of Indians in Fort Marion with their Teacher, Mrs. Gibbs" by Zo-Tom, Kiowa, 1877. (Courtesy of the Southwest Museum, Los Angeles, California, Neg. No. 34, 649.) 131
5.4 "Courtship Scene Drawn on Envelope dated 1877" by unknown Cheyenne artist/s, post 1877. (Courtesy of the Southwest Museum, Los Angeles, California, Neg. No. 37, 103.) 132

Maps

1. Indian country in the year 1492 *page* 62
2. Indian country in 1776 62
3. Indian "removals" to Oklahoma 63
4. Federal and state Indian reservations 64
5. Indian groups without reservations 65
6. Alaska Native regional corporations 66

The maps are taken from *American Indians: Answers to Today's Questions* by Jack Utter. (Reproduced by permission of the University of Oklahoma Press.)

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521822831 - The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature
Edited by Joy Porter and Kenneth M. Roemer
Frontmatter
More information

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

CHADWICK ALLEN is Associate Professor of English at Ohio State University and Associate Editor of Studies in American Indian Literatures. He is the author of *Blood Narrative: Indigenous Identity in American Indian and Maori Literary and Activist Texts*, which was a finalist for the MLA First Book Prize, and articles and book chapters on the discourses of indigenous activism, postcolonial and indigenous theories, and popular representations of US frontiers. He is a past President of the Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures and a recipient of two Fulbright research awards to Aotearoa/New Zealand.

KIMBERLY M. BLAESER (Anishinaabe), a Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, teaches Native American Literature, Creative Writing, and American Nature Writing. Blaeser is an enrolled member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and grew up on the White Earth Reservation. Her publications include two collections of poetry, *Trailing You*, which won the 1993 First Book Award from the Native Writers' Circle of the Americas, and *Absentee Indians and Other Poems* (2002). She is the author of *Gerald Vizenor: Writing in the Oral Tradition* and the editor of two anthologies: *Stories Migrating Home: a Collection of Anishinaabe Prose* (1999) and *Traces in Blood, Bone, and Stone: Contemporary Ojibwe Poetry* (2004). Her poetry, short fiction, essays, and scholarly articles have appeared in widely read Canadian and American collections, including *Reinventing the Enemy's Language* and *Nothing but the Truth*.

LAURA COLTELLI is full professor of American literature at the University of Pisa. Her works include essays on American poetry and analyses of colonial journals and travel literature. She has published numerous studies on Native American literature, including *Winged Words. American Indian Writers Speak* (1990) and Joy Harjo's *Spiral of Memory* (ed., 1999). Her recent

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521822831 - The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature
Edited by Joy Porter and Kenneth M. Roemer
Frontmatter
More information

books include *Voci dal Sudovest. Terra e identità negli scrittori indianoamericani* (2002) and a volume on radical women writers, *Le radici della memoria. Meridel Le Sueur e il radicalismo americano degli anni '30* (2002). She has edited Italian translations of works by Silko, Momaday, Harjo, and Ortiz, as well as an anthology of contemporary American Indian writers. She is the general editor of the series "Crossroads" devoted to American writers, recently inaugurated with a collection of poems by Sherman Alexie.

ANN HAUGO, an Assistant Professor in the School of Theatre at Illinois State University, teaches theatre history, literature, and criticism, including courses on American Indian theatre. Her publications on American Indian theatre have appeared in books such as *American Indian Theatre: a Reader, The Color of Theatre: Race, Culture, and Contemporary Performance*, and *The Blackwell Companion to American Drama*, and in various academic journals and periodicals. She has served as Project Associate with Project HOOP (Honoring Our Origins and People through Native Theatre, Education, and Community Development) and as Consultant to the Native American Women Playwrights' Archive.

DAVID L. MOORE is Associate Professor of English at the University of Montana. He teaches and publishes on Native American and American literatures, and has taught previously at the University of South Dakota, Salish Kootenai College, and Cornell University. He was the recipient of a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Society for the Humanities at Cornell University and of the Faculty Research Fellowship in Western Studies at the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West. His publications include an edited volume of *American Indian Quarterly* as well as numerous articles and essays in key journals and collections from Cambridge, Prentice Hall, Gale, Nebraska, New Mexico, Smithsonian, and other publishers. Currently he is working on a book on Native American redefinitions of America.

DAVID MURRAY is Professor of American Literature and Culture in the School of American and Canadian Studies, University of Nottingham, England. He is the author of *Forked Tongues: Speech, Writing and Representation* in North American Indian Texts (1992) and *Indian Giving: Economies of Power in Early Indian–White Exchanges* (2000), and has edited *Literary Theory and Poetry* (1989) and *American Cultural Critics* (1995), as well as essays and articles on Native American topics.

ROBERT M. NELSON is a Professor of English at the University of Richmond, where he teaches a variety of courses in Native American literature. He is a

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521822831 - The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature
Edited by Joy Porter and Kenneth M. Roemer
Frontmatter
More information

former co-editor of *Studies in American Indian Literatures* and is current editor of the online *Guide to Native American Studies Programs* in the US and Canada. In addition to his book, *Place and Vision: the Function of Landscape in Native American Fiction*, he has authored many critical essays on contemporary American Indian writers. His previous work on Silko includes several published articles, and he has a book in progress on the embedded texts in Silko's novel *Ceremony*.

BERND PEYER is a lecturer at the Center for North American Studies, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt, Germany. He has taught at D-Q University, Dartmouth, and the Technische Universität Dresden. He has received ACLS and Ford Foundation Fellowships, the latter to the McNickle Center for the History of American Indians; a Gordon Russell Visiting Professor Grant to Dartmouth; and a Mellon Postdoctoral Research Fellowship to the Newberry Library. His publications in the US include *The Singing Spirit: Early Short Stories by North American Indians* and *The Tutor'd Mind: Indian Missionary-Writers in Antebellum America*. His anthology of American Indian nonfiction prose from the 1760s to the 1920s is forthcoming from the University of Oklahoma Press.

JOY PORTER is a lecturer in the Department of American Studies at the University of Wales, Swansea, UK, where she teaches American and Native American history and literature. She is the author of *To Be Indian: the Life of Seneca-Iroquois Arthur Caswell Parker, 1881–1955* (2002). Her work can be found in a variety of books such as *The State of US History* (2002) and journals such as *New York History* and *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. Her next book is *Native American Freemasonry*, the research for which is supported by a Leverhulme Research Fellowship.

CATHERINE RAINWATER is Professor of English at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. Her essays have appeared in journals such as *American Literature*, *Philological Quarterly*, and *Modern Fiction Studies*. Her most recent books are *Dreams of Fiery Stars: the Transformations of Native American Fiction* (1999), and *Figuring Animals: Essays on Animal Images in Art, Literature, Philosophy, and Popular Culture* (co-edited with Mary S. Pollock, 2004). She won the MLA Norman Foerster Prize (1990) for her work on Louise Erdrich and the Penelope Niven Creative Nonfiction Literary Award (2004) for a personal essay called "My Father's Clothes." She is president of and newsletter editor for the Ellen Glasgow Society and has also served on the editorial boards of *Canadian Literature* and, currently, *Modern Fiction Studies*.

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521822831 - The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature
Edited by Joy Porter and Kenneth M. Roemer
Frontmatter
More information

KENNETH M. ROEMER, an Academy of Distinguished Teachers Professor at the University of Texas at Arlington, has received four NEH grants to Direct Summer Seminars and has been a Visiting Professor in Japan, a guest lecturer at Harvard, and lectured in Vienna, Lisbon, Brazil, and Turkey. His articles have appeared in journals such as *American Literature*, *American Literary History*, and *Modern Fiction Studies*. His *Approaches to Teaching Momaday's* The Way to Rainy Mountain (ed.) was published by the MLA; his *Native American Writers of the United States* (ed.) won a Writer of Year Award from Wordcraft Circle. He has written four books on utopian literature, including *The Obsolete Necessity* and *Utopian Audiences*. His collection of personal narratives, verse, and photography about Japan is entitled *Michibata de Deatta Nippon* (A Sidewalker's Japan).

A. LAVONNE BROWN RUOFF is Professor Emerita of English, University of Illinois at Chicago, and former interim director of the D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian History, Newberry Library. She received the MLA's Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award (2002) and a Lifetime-Achievement Award from the American Book Awards of the Before Columbus Foundation (1998). She directed four NEH Summer Seminars for College Teachers and has received an NEH research grant and fellowship. General editor of the American Indian Lives Series for the University of Nebraska Press, Ruoff is the author of *American Indian Literatures* (1990), and the co-editor, with Jerry W. Ward, Jr., of *Redefining American Literary History* (1990). She has published annotated editions of books by S. Alice Callahan (Muscogee-Creek), George Copway (Ojibwe), Charles Eastman (Dakota), and E. Pauline Johnson (Mohawk).

JAMES RUPPERT is the President's Professor of Alaska Native Studies and Cultures working in the English, Alaska Native Studies, and Northern Studies departments at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He is a past-president of the Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures and has won three Fulbrights. His published work includes *Mediation in Contemporary Native American Fiction*, *Nothing but the Truth: An Anthology of Native American Literature* (with John Purdy), and *Our Voices: Native Stories from Alaska and the Yukon*.

KATHRYN W. SHANLEY is chair of the Native American Studies Department at the University of Montana and an enrolled Assiniboine (Nakota) from the Ft. Peck Reservation in Montana. She has also taught at the University of Washington and Cornell University. Shanley focuses on the intersections between educational institutions, Native communities and groups, and

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521822831 - The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature
Edited by Joy Porter and Kenneth M. Roemer
Frontmatter
More information

Native political movements. She has published widely in the field of Native American literary criticism on issues of representation of Indians in popular culture, as well as about authors such as James Welch, Maria Campbell, Leslie Marmon Silko, Linda Hogan, Thomas King, and N. Scott Momaday. She recently edited *Native American Literature: Boundaries and Sovereignties* (2001) and has a forthcoming book on the writings of James Welch.

PATRICIA CLARK SMITH (Micmac) is Professor Emerita at the University of New Mexico. She has written essays on Native American literature, is one of five editors of *The Bedford Anthology of World Literature*, and has published two books of poems. She has been awarded a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, a Rockefeller Research Grant, and a Fulbright Faculty Development Grant. She and Michael Running Wolf retell stories of their people in *On the Trail of Elder Brother: Glous' gap Stories of the Micmac Indians*. She has written two books for young people on Native subjects, *As Long as the Rivers Flow: the Stories of Nine Native Americans* (with Paula Gunn Allen of Laguna Pueblo) and *Weetamoo, Heart of the Pocassets*.

ANNETTE VAN DYKE is an Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary and Women's Studies at the University of Illinois at Springfield where she teaches Native American Women's Literature and other women's literatures. She is the author of *The Search for a Woman-Centered Spirituality* (1992) and numerous essays in *SAIL*, *MELUS* and elsewhere on Native authors. She served as President of the National Women's Studies Association from 2000–2001 and received the 2004 Naomi B. Lynn Award for her outstanding contribution to women at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

NORMA C. WILSON, Professor of English at the University of South Dakota, where she has taught since 1978. She moved to South Dakota soon after completing a Ph.D. in English at the University of Oklahoma with a dissertation on "The Spirit of Place in Contemporary American Indian Poetry." Her book of poems, *Wild Iris*, was published in 1978 by Point Riders Press, Norman, Oklahoma. She has published numerous essays on Native literature in journals such as *Studies in American Indian Literatures*. In 2001 The University of New Mexico Press published her book, *The Nature of Native American Poetry*. She was a writer in residence at Fundacion Valparaiso, Mojacar, Spain in 2002.

HERTHA D. SWEET WONG is Associate Professor in the English Department at the University of California, Berkeley. She is author of *Sending My*

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521822831 - The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature
Edited by Joy Porter and Kenneth M. Roemer
Frontmatter
More information

Heart Back Across the Years: Tradition and Innovation in Native American Autobiography, published by Oxford University Press (1992), as well as numerous articles on Native American literature, autobiography, and environmental non-fiction. She is editor of Louise Erdrich's "*Love Medicine*": *A Casebook*, also from Oxford (2000) and, with John Elder, co-editor of *Family of Earth and Sky*: *Indigenous Tales of Nature from around the World* (1994). Currently, she is co-editing an anthology of contemporary short fiction by Native North American women and working on a book on visual autobiography.

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521822831 - The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature
Edited by Joy Porter and Kenneth M. Roemer
Frontmatter
More information

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The editors of this volume thank Ray Ryan, of Cambridge University Press, David Murray, and A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff for their help and professional direction with this project. Special thanks are also due to the volume's Cambridge University Press editor Sarah Stanton and to Lesley Atkin. Joy Porter also thanks David S. Berman and Muffy Roxy Porter, who made the editorial task enjoyable. Ken Roemer thanks his wife Micki for her patience.

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521822831 - The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature
Edited by Joy Porter and Kenneth M. Roemer
Frontmatter
More information

A NOTE ON INDIVIDUAL AND TRIBAL NAMES IN THIS VOLUME

The variety in number and type of name Indian individuals and groups possess can sometimes seem confusing, however, rather than dismiss this complexity, it pays to embrace it. Names, and their uses and development over time provide vital keys to understanding. They bring people, places, groups, and their interactions into immediate and sharp focus in ways other sorts of information do not.

A fundamental reason for complexity in Indian names and naming is that many tribes and individuals have, and have had in the past, more than one name. Some Indian names may be intended only for group or family use and yet others reserved for use outside the family or group. People of a single area sometimes have more than one name. The same name was sometimes given to people who lived far away from each other and a single group could be known by a series of names as they traveled from one area to another. Furthermore, often tribes were known by names given to them either by other tribes or by non-Indians. The Cherokee, for example, are known by perhaps fifteen designations and the name Cherokee is itself a name bestowed by others. Further examples are the Ojibwe who are also known as the Ojibwa, Chippewã, Anishinabe, Mississauga, Anishinabeg, and Saginaw; the Diné, who are also known also as Navajo, Dineh, Tenuai, and Navaho; and the Mohican from the Hudson Valley in New York who are also known as Mahican and Mahikan (and often confused with Mohegan of the Thames River in Eastern Connecticut as a result of James Fenimore Cooper's muddling of tribal names in his 1826 novel, *The Last of the Mohicans*). Understandably, as time has progressed, various tribes have ceased to recognize names by which they have been generally known because those names were never their actual names to begin with. Likewise writers over time have changed how they identify themselves, as when Louise Erdrich moved from identifying herself as Turtle Mountain Chippewa to Turtle Mountain Ojibwe. Yet further complexity comes from the fact that as well as there being variation in tribal designation, there have also been changes in how those designations have been spelt.

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521822831 - The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature
Edited by Joy Porter and Kenneth M. Roemer
Frontmatter
More information

Our policy has been to use the designation writers use to refer to themselves, but, where known, to further specify tribal affiliation when nineteenth-century writers have simply been identified using general terms that encompass large groups, such as the designation Sioux. Generally, where tribal affiliation is known it appears as the full tribal name in parenthesis; where an individual is identified as possessing heritage from more than one tribe both tribes are listed in parenthesis separated by a slash. Some writers prefer that a dash separate their tribal designations and every effort has been made to respect that preference. Where an individual is known by a name in an Indian language, this is given in the text first, where possible with an English language translation and alongside any commonly used non-Indian name(s).

For further information on tribal names, consult the following web sites: http://anpa.ualr.edu/; http://americanindian.net/names.html and http://www.nativeculture.com/lisamitten/nations.html. The latter site can be reached through the Bureau of Indian Affairs website http://www.doi.gov/bureau-indian-affairs.html.

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org