

Cambridge University Press

0521841720 - Transamerican Literary Relations and the Nineteenth-Century Public Sphere

Anna Brickhouse

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

## TRANSAMERICAN LITERARY RELATIONS AND THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY PUBLIC SPHERE

This wide-ranging comparative study argues for a fundamental reassessment of the literary history of the nineteenth-century United States within the transamerican and multilingual contexts that shaped it. Drawing on an array of texts in English, French, and Spanish by both canonical and neglected writers and activists, Anna Brickhouse investigates interactions between US, Latin American, and Caribbean literatures. Her many examples and case studies include the Mexican genealogies of Nathaniel Hawthorne, the rewriting of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by a Haitian dramatist, and a French Caribbean translation of the poetry of Phillis Wheatley. Brickhouse uncovers lines of literary influence and descent linking Philadelphia and Havana, Port-au-Prince and Boston, Paris and New Orleans. She argues for a new understanding of this most formative period of literary production in the United States as a "transamerican renaissance," a rich era of literary border crossing and transcontinental cultural exchange. This innovative and important contribution will open up new directions in the field of American literary studies.

ANNA BRICKHOUSE is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She was awarded the Darwin Turner Award from the Modern Language Association in 2002 and has published in such journals as *American Literary History*, *PMLA*, *Nineteenth-Century Literature* and *African American Review*.

Cambridge University Press

0521841720 - Transamerican Literary Relations and the Nineteenth-Century Public Sphere

Anna Brickhouse

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE STUDIES IN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

*Editor*

Ross Posnock, *New York University*

*Founding Editor*

Albert Gelpi, *Stanford University*

*Advisory Board*

Sacvan Bercovitch, *Harvard University*

Ronald Bush, *St. John's College, Oxford University*

Wai Chee Dimock, *Yale University*

Albert Gelpi, *Stanford University*

Gordon Hutner, *University of Kentucky*

Walter Benn Michaels, *University of Illinois, Chicago*

Kenneth Warren, *University of Chicago*

*Recent books in this series*

145 ANNA BRICKHOUSE

Transamerican Literary Relations and the Nineteenth-Century Public Sphere

144 ELIZA RICHARDS

Gender and the Poetics of Reception in Poe's Circle

143 JENNIE A. KASSANOFF

Edith Wharton and the Politics of Race

142 JOHN MCWILLIAMS

New England's Crises and Cultural Memory: Literature, Politics, History, Religion, 1620–1860

141 SUSAN M. GRIFFIN

Anti-Catholicism and Nineteenth-Century Fiction

140 ROBERT E. ABRAMS

Landscape and Ideology in American Renaissance Literature

139 JOHN D. KERKERING

The Poetics of National and Racial Identity in Nineteenth-Century American Literature

138 MICHELE BIRNBAUM

Race, Work, and Desire in American Literature, 1860–1930

137 RICHARD GRUSIN

Culture, Technology, and the Creation of America's National Parks

136 RALPH BAUER

The Cultural Geography of Colonial American Literatures: Empire, Travel, Modernity

Cambridge University Press

0521841720 - Transamerican Literary Relations and the Nineteenth-Century Public Sphere

Anna Brickhouse

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

TRANSAMERICAN  
LITERARY RELATIONS  
AND THE  
NINETEENTH-CENTURY  
PUBLIC SPHERE

ANNA BRICKHOUSE

*Assistant Professor of English  
University of Colorado at Boulder*



**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
 0521841720 - Transamerican Literary Relations and the Nineteenth-Century Public Sphere  
 Anna Brickhouse  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge, CB2 2RU, UK  
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA  
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
 Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain  
 Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa  
<http://www.cambridge.org>

© Anna Brickhouse 2004

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 2004

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

*Typeface* Adobe Garamond 11/12.5 pt    *System* L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> [TB]

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

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Brickhouse, Anna.

Transamerican literary relations and nineteenth-century public sphere / by Anna Brickhouse.

p. cm. – (Cambridge studies in American literature and culture ; 145)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-84172-0

1. American literature – 19th century – History and criticism. 2. Literature, Comparative – American and Latin American. 3. Literature, Comparative – Latin American and American.
4. American literature – Appreciation – Latin America. 5. Caribbean Area – Intellectual life – 19th century. 6. Latin America – Intellectual life – 19th century. 7. American literature – Appreciation – West Indies. 8. American literature – Latin American influences.
9. American literature – West Indian influences. I. Title. II. Series.

PS159.L38B75 2004

810.9'003 – dc22 2004045192

ISBN 0 521 84172 0 hardback

The publisher has used its best endeavours to ensure that URLs for external websites referred to in this book are correct and active at the time of going to press. However, the publisher has no responsibility for the websites and can make no guarantee that a site will remain live or that the content is or will remain appropriate.

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	page ix
<i>Note on texts and translations</i>	xii
Prologue	I
1 Introduction: transamerican renaissance	15
Blindness and binocularity	15
Nation/transnation: a thirty-year précis	23
“American Renaissance” and the competing public spheres of the nineteenth century	26
Diachrony, genealogy, revisionism: Phillis Wheatley to Octavio Paz	33
2 Scattered traditions: the transamerican genealogies of <i>Jicoténcal</i>	37
The writing(s) of 1826	40
Hispanophilia and exceptionalism: <i>Jicoténcal</i> and/in exile	47
Nation and collaboration: Varela, Heredia, Rocafuerte, and the itinerancies of authorship	51
<i>Jicoténcal</i> ’s hemispheric arena: del Monte’s Cooper, Heredia’s Cooper	57
<i>Jicoténcal</i> , <i>The Last of the Mohicans</i> , and the reproduction of historical understanding	62
William Hickling Prescott: the discourse of Conquest in the 1840s	74
3 A francophone view of comparative American literature: <i>Revue des Colonies</i> and the translations of abolition	84
Francophobia and its discontents in the 1830s	84
Cyrille Bisette and (trans)american revolution	89
Henri Grégoire and <i>De la littérature des Nègres</i> : Jeffersonianism revisited	94
The French Caribbeanization of Phillis Wheatley: a poetics of anticolonialism	100
“Less French than the American is English”: literary fusion in the French Caribbean	113

Cambridge University Press  
 0521841720 - Transamerican Literary Relations and the Nineteenth-Century Public Sphere  
 Anna Brickhouse  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
	Victor Séjour and the colonial family romance	117
	Transnationalism, multilingualism, and the early histories of African American literature	125
4	Cuban stories	132
	Cuban writers, US readers: transmission and appropriation in the 1840s	132
	The transamerican Bryant: "A Story of the Island of Cuba"	139
	Cirilo Villaverde, Cuba's literary fate, and the US machinery of slavery	153
	Domingo del Monte and Alexander Hill Everett: the politics of Cuban-US literary exchange	160
	Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda and the resistance of Manifest Destiny	173
5	Hawthorne's Mexican genealogies	180
	The many tongues of "Yankeeland"	180
	"El árbol de las manitas": Frances Calderón de la Barca	185
	<i>La mano colorada</i> : Stephens's <i>Travel in Yucatan</i> and the matter of origins	191
	Travel writing and the politics of reception	195
	<i>El filibustero</i> : the Yucatecan literary terrain of Justo Sierra O'Reilly	199
	<i>La hija de Rappaccini</i> : Octavio Paz and the allegory of history	212
	"The Doppelgänger in your psyche"	218
6	Transamerican theatre: Pierre Faubert and <i>L'Oncle Tom</i>	221
	Impasse and imagination: Haiti in the US public sphere	221
	Faubert's historiography of revolution	228
	The theatre of slavery	233
	Revision in <i>L'autre monde</i> : <i>Ogé</i> and <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>	236
	Franco-Africanism and US literary history	241
	<i>Epilogue</i>	251
	<i>Notes</i>	265
	<i>Index</i>	314

Cambridge University Press

0521841720 - Transamerican Literary Relations and the Nineteenth-Century Public Sphere

Anna Brickhouse

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## *Acknowledgments*

For generous support of my work on this project at the most crucial stages, I thank the University of Colorado and in particular the fellowship programs in Junior Faculty Development, Implementing Multicultural Perspectives in Research and Teaching, and Undergraduate Research Opportunities. I also want to thank my colleagues in the English department here, who have offered me encouragement, indispensable advice, and innumerable kinds of support through the research and writing of this book. Nan Goodman, Suzanne Juhasz, and Lee Krauth read early and late drafts and offered their encouragement; Karen Jacobs and Jane Garrity brought to bear their sharp editorial skills and asked many insightful questions as I was completing the manuscript. For pointing me along the way to important resources and studies, I thank my colleagues in ethnic American and postcolonial studies, including Adélékè Adéèkó, Frederick Aldama, Arnab Chakladar, Cheryl Higashida, Daniel Kim, Vincent Woodard, and especially John-Michael Rivera, who read the entire manuscript in early and late stages, with healthy skepticism and great generosity, and helped to shape my thinking from beginning to end. My friends in the junior faculty reading group bravely navigated the most muddled sections of my introduction and epilogue, and reminded me to keep a sense of humor through the whole process. Many thanks to Valerie Forman, Jeremy Green, and Will West, and my endless gratitude to Jill Heydt-Stevenson, who was also my weekend writing partner and a constant source of wisdom and cheer.

Other departmental colleagues who offered support and friendship include Jeff Cox, Jeffrey DeShell, Marcia Douglas, Katherine Eggert, Kelly Hurley, Beth Robertson, Jeffrey Robinson, Elizabeth Sheffield, Charlotte Sussman, Eric White, Mark Winokur, and Sue Zemka as well as Mike Preston, for the generous gift of his complete set of Emerson's writings; Marty Bickman, for his mentorship as a teacher; and John Stevenson and Mary Klages, our department chair and our director of undergraduate studies. I could never have completed this book without their commitment to

Cambridge University Press

0521841720 - Transamerican Literary Relations and the Nineteenth-Century Public Sphere

Anna Brickhouse

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

*Acknowledgments*

protecting research time for assistant professors, and their understanding and creativity in working around my Byzantine writing and parenting schedule.

I am also greatly indebted to a number of wonderful graduate students, particularly Sean Purcell, Matt Reiswig, Jayson Sae-Saue, Michael Stoneham, Lorna Wheeler, and Erika Wurth, for many insights that changed my ideas during seminars and independent studies based on topics in the book; my research assistants, Sarah Dobson and Karen Eblen, for their intrepid ventures into the chaos of my office; and Sara Blakely and Laurence Petit, for their careful work with my translations. In other departments, Beth Dusinberre, Susan Jones, Sarah Krakoff, and Marcia Yonemoto welcomed me into their ad hoc support group for untenured women with small children, and provided me with moral, comic, and culinary support when I most needed it; Laura Michaelis consulted on linguistic matters and offered incomparable narrative entertainment; Ilisa Barbash and Lucien Taylor expounded on the Caribbean and opened their family to mine.

Outside the university, Gretchen Lang and Elisabeth White were my lifelines to sanity as I wrote; I thank Linda Blackford for sending me books on Haiti and Cuba, and for twenty-five years of her friendship and wit.

A number of scholars at other institutions also helped in the conception and completion of this book. Alfred MacAdam urged my first forays outside the US parameters of my dissertation, generously shared his research and his syllabi, and read and reread many early drafts of my Hawthorne chapter. I owe much to my teachers and advisors in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia, especially Ann Douglas, Robert Ferguson, Robert O'Meally, Franco Moretti, and George Stade. I owe even more to my fellow graduate students from this period, for the many things they taught me: Anne Baker, Douglas Brooks, Camille Cauti, Michael Elliot, Laura Frost, David Lipscomb, Miranda Sherwin, Teri Reynolds, Victoria Rosner, Gillen Wood, and especially Nancy Castro, whose talents first inspired my interest in comparative American studies. Providing encouragement at just the right moment, Gordon Hutner and Thomas Wortham published portions of several chapters in *ALH* and *Nineteenth-Century Literature*; I am grateful to them as well as to the editors of *PMLA* for permission to reprint this material here. Many thanks also to William Andrews, Carol Bensick, Vincent Carretta, Bob Fanuzzi, Marni Gauthier, Adriana Méndez Rodenas, Zita Nuñez, Gustavo Pellón, Karen Ramirez, Bruce Simon, Priscilla Wald, and Lois Parkinson Zamora for finding the time in their hectic schedules to read and respond to various chapters or to answer long research questions.



Cambridge University Press

0521841720 - Transamerican Literary Relations and the Nineteenth-Century Public Sphere

Anna Brickhouse

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Acknowledgments*

xi

I particularly want to thank Werner Sollors for his invaluable comments on most of these chapters, at one stage or another, and more generally for reading and supporting my work since I was a graduate student; his intellectual generosity continues to amaze me. At Cambridge University Press, I am ever grateful to Nancy Vogeley and Ralph Bauer for their most helpful suggestions for revision; to Ross Posnock, for his interest in acquiring my book for the Series in American Literature and Culture as well as for his encouraging support; my editor at the press, Ray Ryan, for his hard work and patience in seeing the book through to acceptance; and my copyeditor Libby Willis for her wonderful work and her patience with my habit of inconsistency.

Finally, my deepest gratitude is to my family: my parents-in-law, Harry and Sheila Holsinger, for constantly encouraging me, my grandmother, Dorothy C. Brickhouse, and my late grandfather, Robert L. Brickhouse, for giving me my first books of literary criticism; my father, Robert C. Brickhouse, for being my first editor and greatest supporter; my mother, Elizabeth Brickhouse, for sharing with me her love of the Spanish language and of Latin America and for researching, translating, and helping to find answers to so many of my questions; my late brother Thomas Brickhouse, for bringing me, long before I started this project, to the polyglot beauty of New Orleans, the city he most loved with his artist's eye and poet's sense; my sweetest of sons, Campbell and Malcolm, for changing my perspective about almost everything when they arrived, respectively, at the beginning and the end of writing this book; and my husband, Bruce Holsinger, whom I can never thank enough for offering me at every turn his critical brilliance and sustaining love, and for bringing countless pleasures and joys to my life.

Cambridge University Press

0521841720 - Transamerican Literary Relations and the Nineteenth-Century Public Sphere

Anna Brickhouse

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

### *Note on texts and translations*

In quoting from French and Spanish sources, I have retained the original nineteenth-century orthography, in some cases unconventional even in its own moment, with no alteration. All translations are my own unless otherwise indicated; where they do appear, the inclusion of foreign-language quotations (whether a single word, a key phrase, or an entire passage or poem) has been determined by the context of the surrounding argument or the necessity of illustrating certain points with reference to the original.