

The University of Washington Press and American Ethnic Studies: A Brief History

The contributions of the University of Washington Press to the study and scholarship of underrepresented minorities are reflected in a wide range of books published over some seven decades. The Press has published a substantial volume of scholarship in Native American studies, beginning in the 1940s, and in Asian American studies, beginning in the 1970s. More recently, fields such as African American studies and Latino/a studies are increasingly well represented among the books produced by the Press. These lists have added significantly to the constitution and growth of scholarship in the field of American ethnic studies. The UW Press has made a body of work by and about minorities in North America widely available to scholars and the general public with books that have become essential curricular materials for undergraduate and graduate students. Through its ongoing dissemination of scholarship emerging from the field of American ethnic studies, the Press has contributed to the education of generations of scholars.

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

As of November 2007, there were more than 250 books in print that were published or distributed by the UW Press in the field of Native American studies. The Press has established a reputation as one of the leading publishers on Native American material culture, and this is the list for which it is probably best known.

The list began in the 1940s with publications on anthropology, archaeology, and linguistics of Native peoples of the Pacific Northwest, including British Columbia and Alaska. Among the early authors were such eminent scholars as Viola Garfield, Erna Gunther, Frederica de Laguna, Verne Ray, and Melville Jacobs. Two of the early monographs written by University of Washington faculty and first published in the 1940s are still bestsellers today: *Ethnobotany of Western Washington: The Knowledge and Use of Indigenous Plants by Native Americans* by Erna Gunther (1945) and *The Wolf and the Raven: Totem Poles of Southeastern Alaska* by Viola E. Garfield and Linn A. Forrest (1948).

Bill Holm's *Northwest Coast Indian Art*, published in 1965, provided the first systematic formal analysis of northern Northwest Coast Native art, and it established a vocabulary that became the basis for all subsequent study of this extraordinary art. Its value was early recognized by both Native artists and scholars, and it quickly became a seminal work in the field. As of 2007, it has sold over 100,000 copies and remains actively in print. Native American art continues to be a central focus of the Press. Among many other distinguished authors in the field published by the UW Press are Janet Berlo, Kate Duncan, Audrey Hawthorn, Aldona Jonaitis, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Dorothy Jean Ray, and Robin Wright.

The UW Press was one of the first academic publishers to establish relationships with art museums both locally and worldwide for the purpose of co-publishing and distributing catalogues of collections or special exhibitions, especially those dealing with Native American art. An ongoing series published with the Burke Museum has included books by UW faculty,

including *A Time of Gathering: Native Heritage in Washington State* edited by Robin Wright (1991), *Exploring Coast Salish Prehistory* by Julie Stein (2000) and *Pacific Voices: Keeping our Cultures Alive* by Miriam Kahn and Erin Younger (2006).

A Time of Gathering and *Pacific Voices* are representative of the growing emphasis that the Press has placed on incorporating Native voices into its scholarly publications. Over the years, an effort to identify and publish works by and about Native artists and scholars has resulted in such titles as *During My Time: Florence Edenshaw Davidson, A Haida Woman* by Margaret Blackman (1982), *Raven Steals the Light* by Bill Reid and Robert Bringhurst (1984), *Reading the Fire: The Traditional Indian Literatures of America* by Jarold Ramsey (1999), and *White Grizzly Bear's Legacy: Learning to Be Indian* by Lawney Reyes (2002). There are currently four titles in the Classics of Tlingit Oral Literature series, including the forthcoming *Anóoshi Lingít Aaní Ká / Russians in Tlingit America* edited by Nora Marks Dauenhauer, Richard Dauenhauer, and Lydia Black (2008). Works such as Ann Fienup-Riordan's *Yup'ik Elders at the Ethnologisches Museum Berlin: Fieldwork Turned on Its Head* (2005) and *Yuungnaqpiallerput / The Way We Genuinely Live* (2007) have placed Native voices and points of view at the forefront of discussions of art and material culture. Tellingly, these and other books that document Native voices return to the communities that have inspired them and are found in the libraries of Native artists, dancers, and scholars, where they are cited as sources of inspiration and pride.

The UW Press is committed to remaining the premier publisher in Native American studies. Most recently, the Press published a groundbreaking study (now in its second printing) of the history of the Native American community in Seattle since the city's founding. *Native Seattle: Histories from the Crossing-Over Place* by Coll Thrush (2007), a University of Washington Ph.D, quickly sold through its first printing and will appear in a paperback edition in 2008. The Press also is expanding its program documenting native languages. Two major linguistic reference works were published in the 1990s: *Lushootseed Dictionary* by Dawn Bates, Thom Hess, and Vi Hilbert (1994), and *Sm'algyax: A Reference Dictionary and Grammar of the Coast Tsimshian Language* edited by John Asher Dunn (1995). Work is currently underway with Heritage College in Toppenish to publish a Sahaptin grammar. The Press will co-publish a cultural atlas with the Umatillas in 2008 and will publish new research on Chinook jargon in 2009.

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

As of November 2007, there were more than 75 books in print published by the University of Washington Press in the field of Asian American studies.

The Press's outstanding Asian American list has an unusual history: it began with reprints of out-of-print volumes by Asian American writers that were needed for the core curriculum in an emerging academic discipline. Among the earliest published were three books that had a special connection with Seattle: Carlos Bulosan's autobiography, *America Is in the Heart* (1946, first UWP edition 1973), Monica Sone's memoir, *Nisei Daughter* (1953, first UWP edition 1979), and John Okada's novel, *No-No Boy* (1957, first UWP edition 1980). All of these titles are still in print, and they—along with many other reprints, including plays by Frank Chin, Jade Snow

Wong's *Fifth Chinese Daughter* (1945, UWP edition 1989), Miné Okubo's *Citizen 13660* (1946, UWP edition 1983), and Toshio Mori's *Yokohama, California* (1949, UWP edition 1985)—continue to be core texts in Asian American studies courses wherever they are offered.

The establishment of the Association of Asian American Studies in the early 1980s marked the maturation of the field and encouraged the production of original scholarship. The UW Press has made significant contributions to the field through the publication of such books as *Asian America* by Roger Daniels (1989), *Margins and Mainstreams* by Gary Okihiro (1994), *Judgment without Trial* by Tetsuden Kashima (2003), and *Altered Lives, Enduring Community* by Stephen Fugita and Marilyn Fernandez (2004). Among the most successful publications have been autobiographies and memoirs of first and second generation Asian Americans including *Desert Exile* by Yoshiko Uchida (1982), *Quiet Odyssey* by Mary Paik Lee (1990, the first published autobiography by a Korean American woman), and such recent titles as *Nisei Memories* by Paul Howard Takemoto (2006), and *The Adventures of Eddie Fung* edited by Judy Yung (2007).

A third component of the list consists of original novels, short stories, plays, and poetry by contemporary Asian American writers, including N.V.M. Gonzalez, Bienvenido Santos, Peter Bacho, Russell Leong, Shawn Wong, Jeffery Chan, Kip Fulbeck, Gary Pak, James Masao Mitsui, and Philip Gotanda. These works have also contributed to the growing curriculum in Asian American literature.

Most of the books on this list have been by or about Chinese, Japanese, Korean, or Filipino Americans. Although the Press has published a few books dealing with more recent immigrant communities such as the Hmong and the Vietnamese, we hope to expand the program further to serve our changing population. The Scott and Laurie Oki Endowed Series in Asian American Studies, established in 1997, includes sixteen titles published through 2007, and its financial support will ensure that the UW Press will remain at the forefront in this growing field.

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

The Press can trace the beginning of its list in African American studies to the reprinting of *Long Old Road* by Horace Cayton (1964, UWP edition 1970) and is best known in the field for its classic regional history by Professor Quintard Taylor, *The Forging of a Black Community: Seattle's Central District from 1870 through the Civil Rights Era* (1994).

The recently established and endowed V Ethel Willis White Series supports scholarship either written by African American scholars or written about the African American experience. The first two books appearing in the series are *Passing the Three Gates: Interviews with Charles Johnson* edited by Jim McWilliams (2005), and *On American Soil: How Justice Became a Casualty of World War II* by Jack Hamann (2007). The third will be published in 2008, *Carl Maxey: A Fighting Life* by James Kershner.

The UW Press has become a leading publisher of work on African American art and artists, including works on one of this country's major artists of the twentieth century, painter Jacob Lawrence. In 1986, the Press published the first full-length biographical study of Lawrence,

Jacob Lawrence, American Painter by Ellen Harkins Wheat, in conjunction with a touring retrospective exhibition mounted by the Seattle Art Museum. In 2000, the Press published *The Complete Jacob Lawrence* by Peter Nesbett and Michelle DuBois, a catalogue raisonné of his sixty-year career, followed in 2005 by *Jacob Lawrence: The Complete Prints* by Peter Nesbett.

Jacob Lawrence personally created an endowment with the Press that has allowed us to build a major list focused on artists of color, including *Storm Watch: The Art of Barbara Earl Thomas* (1997); *Dox Thrash: An African-American Master Printmaker Rediscovered* by John Ittmann (2001); *Never Late for Heaven: The Art Of Gwen Knight* by Sheryll Conkelton and Barbara Thomas (2003); *Elizabeth Catlett* by Melanie Anne Herzog (2005); and *Portraits of a People: Picturing African Americans in the Nineteenth Century* by Gwendolyn DuBois Shaw (2006).

The growth of the Press's list in African American studies has been substantial over the past two decades. With the benefit of two endowed series this field will continue be a major focus for the Press.

LATINO/A STUDIES

The Press has only recently begun to publish in Latino/a studies. Its first book in the field, *The Floating Borderlands: Twenty-five Years of U.S. Hispanic Literature* edited by Lauro Flores (1998) is an anthology of the best contemporary Hispanic writing. The Press also reprinted *Mexican Labor and World War II: Braceros in the Pacific Northwest, 1942-1947* by Erasmo Gamboa (1990, UWP edition 2000) and published the bilingual book, *Alfredo Arreguín: Patterns of Dreams and Nature/ Diseños, Sueños y Naturaleza* by Lauro Flores (2002, 2007).

Latino/a studies is a field in which the Press hopes to expand its publications in the coming years, and we hope to build this list using our experiences in other areas of American ethnic studies as models. Projects are currently under consideration, and the Press is actively considering ways in which to attract outstanding manuscripts in the field, particularly those with a Northwest focus.

The UW Press has throughout its history been responsive to changes in the field of American ethnic studies, representing the strengths of its home university and demonstrating an ongoing commitment to disseminating work by, about, and for underrepresented minority groups.

David Jessup
(in consultation with Naomi Pascal and Jacqueline Ettinger)