### **UCLA**

# **American Indian Culture and Research Journal**

#### **Title**

Handbook of North American Indians: Indians in Contemporary Society. Volume 2. Edited by Garrick Bailey and William Sturtevant.

#### **Permalink**

https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1br8r5n9

### **Journal**

American Indian Culture and Research Journal, 33(3)

#### ISSN

0161-6463

#### **Author**

Fixico, Donald L.

#### **Publication Date**

2009-06-01

#### DOI

10.17953

# **Copyright Information**

This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial License, available at <a href="https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/">https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/</a>

Reviews 119

reality of health and health care among the Inuit people. Utilizing his thirty years of treating Inuit patients in their own isolated setting, the author's longitudinal data offer a picture of the transitional nature of health among a group of people influenced by their southern and European counterparts. I found his message of structural change clear, as fundamental programs and policies will be necessary to ensure the good health and survival of the Inuit. I am left wondering what is in store for the people written about in this book. As a budding medical anthropologist, Burgess's story and experience has me thinking about all the different ways a medical anthropologist could be useful in this setting. This autobiography is particularly important because it begs the reader to think critically and imagine new ways of approaching health problems. I feel challenged to think of new possibilities for social and behavioral sciences and how my area of expertise can be linked up with physicians and their work in the future. I think Burgess would appreciate this aspect of his work and would hope that it is used as an exemplar of the multifaceted approach necessary to combat some of our most destructive, and preventable, human diseases.

Steven D. Gomez University of Oklahoma

Handbook of North American Indians: Indians in Contemporary Society. Volume 2. Edited by Garrick Bailey and William Sturtevant. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 2008. 577 pages. \$64.00 cloth.

Garrick Bailey, an anthropologist at the University of Tulsa, has completed a much-needed handbook of the twenty-volume set of the *Handbook of the North American Indians*, a project that began in 1965. This book has a history of its own with the late D'Arcy McNickle, a Native scholar, who was the original volume editor. With McNickle's death, Vine Deloria Jr., Lakota activist-scholar, agreed to take over the project in 1978, and his own passing in 2005 led to the handover of this volume to Garrick Bailey when general editor, William Sturtevant, asked him to complete it. This volume is the fifteenth one to be published of the original set. The volume's overall purpose is to provide basic reference information on Indians and Arctic people as they face issues in their changing environments.

Following Bailey's fine introduction, the volume contains four categorical areas: "The Issues in the United States" has fifteen essays, "The Issues in Canada" includes twelve essays, "Demographic and Ethnic Issues" consists of five essays, and there are fifteen essays in "Social and Cultural Revitalization." Authorities in their areas of expertise ranging from law professors, historians, political scientists, literature scholars, and others who study American Indians and Arctic people write all the essays. Most of them are leading scholars in their field.

"The Issues in the United States" covers Indians in the military, termination and relocation, Indian land claims, activism since 1950, federal-tribal relations, state-tribal relations, tribal governments, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, health issues, restoration of terminated tribes, recognition of tribes, economic development, Alaska Native corporations, and gaming. "The Issues in Canada" focuses on Native rights, case law, Aboriginal land claims, Native governments, Native reserves, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, health care, economic development, Nanuvat, James Bay Cree, and Nisga'a.

"Demographic and Ethnic Issues" addresses Native population, freedmen, Canadian Native populations, Métis, and Native American identity in law. "Social and Cultural Revitalization" covers urban communities, the Native American Church, powwows, Native museums and culture centers, language programs, news media, theater, film, literature, tribal colleges, Native American studies programs, Indian law programs, repatriation, and global indigenous movement.

Although volume 2 can be praised for covering forty-seven topics in this massive work, tribal natural resources, music, art, and especially water rights are missing topics. Broad in scope, the planning committee for this reference work has done well in considering all issues involving Native peoples. High-quality and informative essays in particular include Pamela Bennett and Tom Holm's "Indians in the Military," which shows the long tradition of American Indians serving in the armed services. Vine Deloria's essay on activism provides a foundation for many issues in this volume as American Indians began to assert their rights in the mainstream after 1950. Alex Tallchief Skibine's essay on federal-tribal relations and Carole Goldberg's essay on state-tribal relations are particularly enlightening in demonstrating how federal-tribal relations have changed and how state-tribal relations have become more important in the last part of the twentieth century to the present. Jennie Joe's essay on health and health issues reminds us that the American Indian and Eskimo population is young in general, but is plagued by diabetes, heart disease, cancer, accidents, homicide, and suicide. Many of these can be prevented. For Canada, James Waldram's essay describes a resurgence of Aboriginal healing, and points out that since 1960 new health problems have occurred while Native health remains marginalized from the Canadian mainstream. In "Aboriginal Economic Development," Carl Beal notes that some First Nations of Canada have more success when they have sufficient land holdings, resources, and the necessary technology.

In regard to social and cultural progress, Lisa Watt and Brian Laurie-Beaumont's "Native Museums and Cultural Centers" adds fresh information regarding contemporary Native life and Indian groups that have started their own museums. By the end of the twentieth century, there were more than 150 tribally controlled museums as Native groups strove to preserve their own heritage and present it from their own points of view. Tribal control is a part of the focus in Wayne Stein's essay on tribal colleges as he points out that, as of 2007, there were thirty-six tribal colleges in the United States and twelve in Canada. Education remains an avenue to Native progress as Clara Sue Kidwell points out in her essay about American Indian studies programs and how they have increased in large numbers. By 2006, eighty-seven programs existed in the United States, and there were eleven in Canada. Kidwell also mentions the

Reviews 121

intellectual movement for a Native American discipline based on theory and methodology; law also remains a key area for Native advancement. Rennard Strickland and Sharon Blackwell's "Lawyers and Law Programs" traces this historical development of Indians in law but concludes that successful tribal leaders are knowledgeable of the law by necessity in order to face the issues of contemporary American Indians and Arctic people.

The lengthy bibliography is one of the volume's outstanding parts. This listing of one hundred pages is rich in secondary and primary sources and will aid readers in their next step to find additional information regarding the subject(s) they seek. In addition, the volume is well indexed in twenty-eight pages to make it useful to readers of contemporary Indian issues. Like the other handbooks, this one is equally important as a major reference work and of high quality based on the latest research data. It is a welcome addition, especially to Native groups, tribal leaders, scholars interested in contemporary Native issues, and individuals wanting accurate and the most recent information. In sum, Garrick Bailey and the Smithsonian staff are to be congratulated for completing this excellent reference book, which is the most useful as volume 2 of the *Handbook of North American Indians*. This is Bailey's magnum opus work at present, and he has done exceedingly well in pulling it together, working to update essays and recruiting new authors to complete this much-needed reference work.

Donald L. Fixico Arizona State University

**Interventions: Native American Art for Far-Flung Territories.** By Judith Ostrowitz. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2009. 240 pages. \$45.00 cloth.

In her book, *Interventions: Native American Art for Far-Flung Territories*, Judith Ostrowitz sees a strategic approach to the production and placement of contemporary Native art. Ostrowitz refers to the intervention by Native artists in artistic dialogue on a worldwide scale. In order to participate in these dialogues, the Native artists have had to extend themselves beyond the physical, and sometimes aesthetic, limitations of their own nations, hence the subtitle. Ostrowitz documents a number of installations, performances, architecture, and specific works of art—including new media—that seek to intervene in these worldwide dialogues, resulting, by and large, in Native art being placed far from the territory of the tribe or nation from whence it originates. This is a complex book, not so much in the reading, but because the issues raised are incredibly interwoven, and it is hard to follow just one thread (issue) to its conclusion. The challenge in reading this book is not a reflection of the writer's abilities but is due to the complexity of the issues and the myriad of interconnections between the issues.

Interventions is a collection of essays that essentially address representation. As used in the book, representation is a conceptual term that can be