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Book Reviews

Stories Told in Winter. By Douglas Hadley. Illustrated from the original prints of Valerie Willson. Forest Grove, Ore.: Champoe Press, 1979. 76 pp. \$50.00 hardcover

Mythological themes from the Pacific Northwest are here refurbished and culturally shaped. Characters and motifs are drawn from various parts of the coast: from the Tsimshian mainly comes the theft of light by Raven, from the Swinomish and Skagit come the world flood and the work of Doquebuth the Changer, from the Haida comes "The Advent of Shining Heavens," from the Wishram comes Coyote's decision about the permanence of death—ten selections in all, each stylized, each domesticated for the most part, and each complemented by one or two full page impressionistic illustrations. The volume is definitely eye pleasing, skillfully designed, admirably printed.

First, a comment about the decorative prints of Valerie Willson is in order. The bold, flat patterns and the linear quality of this artist's work do add to the general presentation, providing here and there a tranquil unity, an unusual and thoughtful design, even a touch or a reminder of art nouveau distinctiveness. In some instances, unfortunately, the approach appears to be less solid and other qualities seem to intrude—a romantic vision reminiscent of a high class perfume advertisement, a suggestion of oriental wood block offerings, and the usual tendency to depict Indian men in a standardized fashion, only as tall, long-faced males. The influences at work on the Indian material, in any case, offer a clue to this publication, for the author has also cited "embellishments" derived from a western European storytelling tradition. It is not too distracting, perhaps, to hear some of the characters speak like a reformed Falstaff or a serious Friar Tuck—"Make ready a feast, that we may disport ourselves and be joyful"—but neither is it easy to imagine a supernatural figure at the Source of the Nass speaking thus. The indirect result of these efforts, then, or the real service done in this retelling, is probably a quiet highlighting of the old theater of nature and of an audience, forever invisible, that could only applaud by giving a human personality to the wind and the mountains. The author, for his part, says that he is conveying

something of Northwest Indian beliefs, but this aspect of that older life has only a minimal impact in his work.

The golden land, especially in this luminous corner of the world, we like to think, is still there waiting, and a vital part of us, when we encounter selections such as these will respond. These "Hadley stories," then, appear to be just as much a species of nature writing as they are a collection of doctored Indian tales. Yet, these ten stories can still be a good introduction to Northwest Indian myths for the first-time reader. The Indian encountered may seem to belong to the traveler's brochure or to the postage stamp, but a portion of the older sentiment is there nevertheless. Especially in two instances, one may notice, does the older content seem to balance comfortably with the latter day writing approach: the stories are "Coyote's Decision" and "The Advent of Shining Heavens."

The first story has Coyote and Eagle attempting to bring back the souls of their wives and friends from the Land of the Dead. But the basket containing the souls grows heavier day by day because those inside are once again taking on substance. Finally the basket can no longer be lifted from the ground; only the lid can be opened. Reluctantly Coyote releases the unhappy people and some fifty souls rise quickly to the treetops and return to their own faraway land. The partners are momentarily stunned, but, after deep reflection, the decision is made. It is simple and final, for Coyote typically has a part to play that bears on this issue. And in this instance the "cultural atmosphere" is unobtrusively under control.

The final selection "The Advent of Shining Heavens" is also a straightforward account of a girl named Lla-djat, or the North-east Wind, a headman's daughter who once had a difficult time deciding on a suitor. The theme hinges on revenge or on a matter of retribution because Lla-djat, after her exile from the village, finds a special child inside a cockleshell and through him eventually meets Master Carpenter. As in many Indian myths, the villagers who treated Lla-djat badly are totally wiped out, leaving the mother and her special son to take their places as seasonal aspects of the year.

In conclusion, it is not difficult to find oddities of various kinds in this book, but they are outweighed by the remarkable drama that unfolds. In this sense, the stories and the illustra-

tions go hand in hand and create, I believe, a positive and worthwhile impression.

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Language, Culture, and History: Essays by Mary R. Haas. edited by Anwar S. Dil. Palo Alto, Ca.: Stanford University Press, 1978. 382 pp. \$15.00 softcover

Mary R. Haas, now Professor Emerita at the University of California, Berkeley, is one of the foremost living Americanists, or linguists who study American Indian languages. This excellent collection of her essays on *Language, Culture, and History*—primarily on topics related to American Indian linguistics—is a fine introduction to the field and a well-chosen selection of the work of this author (one of a series edited by Anwar Dil). Although of most use to specialists, this volume (which includes a complete bibliography of Haas's work) has much to offer the general student of American Indian studies.

The book contains reprints of twenty-eight of Haas's papers, (reedited and with many misprints and mistakes in the originals corrected), arranged under three headings: "Sociolinguistics and Language Science," "History of Language Science," and "Historical and Areal Linguistics in North America." These titles may be misleading, though, for only the first section contains any papers unrelated to American Indian linguistics (one or two strictly general articles, and a number of Thai and Burmese). Most of the volume reflects Haas's lifelong interest, the languages of North America, particularly those of the Muskogean language family, and their study by linguists; and the volume could well be used as a textbook for a survey course in this field.

Several important papers on the history of American Indian linguistics are collected in the second section of the book, including "The Study of American Indian Languages" (pp. 110–129), a comprehensive survey especially revised for this volume, and a number of articles focusing on the contributions of Americanists like Franz Boas, Edward Sapir, and Leonard