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found only two or three typos in 430 pages. Such important details always add to a pleasurable reading experience.

John J. Bodine

The American University

O Brave New Words!: Native American Loanwords in Current English. By Charles L. Cutler. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1994. 286 pages. \$24.95 cloth.

The title of Charles Cutler's book comes from a scene in Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in which Miranda says, "O brave new world/That has such people in't!" to which Prospero responds, "'Tis new to thee." Cutler's play on words offers an enticing little vignette of historical linguistic events from the beginning of contact with American Indians and their languages to the present-day usage of their words. The trick of replacing *words* for *world* works very well with Prospero's response, because ultimately the languages and subsequent borrowing of words were indeed novel to the newcomers. The title, therefore, is attractive and enticing.

Cutler begins the book with a preface, explaining the book's purpose with the aphorism that Native American loanwords are "alien yet familiar." He notes that native words that deal with all aspects of culture, geography, and phenomena unique to this continent are "a haunting presence in English of North America" (p. xiii). He explains that his interest in Native American loanwords dates back to 1971 and the absence of previous, comprehensive research tracing the history of linguistic borrowing from American Indian languages. Thus, motivated by the lack of such research and the encouragement of certain colleagues, Cutler decided to compile a full list of current words; he soon found that the project had become a book-length endeavor.

Cutler's methodology for research included combing a selective group of dictionaries to document the process of borrowing as well as to date the usage and any morphosyntactical changes that the term possibly underwent. Along the way, he made the conscious decision to exclude place-names, because other scholars were already doing such work. He excluded proper nouns as well, such as tribal names, but does not explain his reasons, simply summarizing his methodology.

Cutler consulted *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language: Second Edition-Unabridged*; *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*; and *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* for etymologies and currency of the loanwords. He examined *The Oxford English Dictionary*, second edition, *Dictionary of Americanisms*, and *The Dictionary of Canadianisms* for dating purposes, although he mentions that "I will gratefully receive improved dates and thank the senders" (p. xv).

The book is organized largely with historical linearity beginning in London in 1583. The chart on page 2 reveals the frequency of the borrowing of loanwords from this date, nearly one hundred years after Columbus's historic journey. Later in the book (and in the appendix), Cutler addresses the influence of Spanish borrowing from Central and South American Indians but maintains his commitment to focus on the loanwords in English, unless a word comes to English via Spanish borrowing.

Almost every chapter contains an interesting story that traces borrowings in the context of history and subsequent influences. The third chapter deviates from the usual format Cutler uses, because this chapter addresses the historical situation of American Indian languages. The author mentions that, at the time of Columbus's arrival in the "New World" (perhaps not the best way to describe pre-America; it was not new to the inhabitants he encountered), there were between one thousand and two thousand different languages extant on the continent. This information presents at least two interesting points for the reader to ponder: (1) With such a vast number of languages, how is it possible to capture all the contacts and borrowings that may have happened? and (2) Isn't it rather limiting to exclude words, for example, that do not appear in any dictionary but do occur in everyday speech and even in other forms of print? In any event, the chapter continues with information concerning the subsequent classifications of the languages and the ensuing debates spawned by the classifications.

Cutler continues the chapter by mentioning the formation of regional lingua francas and how they functioned in the regions where the Indians employed them. He even discusses the widespread use of sign language among the Plains Indians. In order to make the points of diversity and intricacy concerning American Indian languages, he provides structurally complex examples of translated morphosyntactical phrases and sentences from various languages, such as *eh-kiwi-n-a-m-oht-wa-ch(i)*, which is Fox for

"then they together kept (him) in flight from them" (p. 28). Cutler then addresses silence and oratory in American Indian cultures and stresses the importance of both in historical and present contact. He concludes the chapter with the sobering irony that many of the languages are on the verge of death and will be remembered only through English terms that are a result of earlier borrowings.

Cutler's research ranged the continent to find words. Although some areas are not as well represented as others, he offers explanations as to the lack of representation. For example, in chapter 9, he addresses two issues of identification for the Eskimo people: First, they are not Indian. Second, *Eskimo* historically had an Algonquian derivation thought to mean "he eats raw flesh," but there are other possible origins of *Eskimo*. Cutler acknowledges that others are in the habit of calling these people Inuit, but he decides to maintain the familiar term *Eskimo*, alluding to the fact that they themselves prefer the latter. He continues by explaining that the isolation of the Eskimo people effectively worked against the inclusion of their language in the English tendency for linguistic borrowing.

In subsequent chapters, Cutler posits that the popularity of and interest in Indian culture in the newly forming American nation was a significant factor in linguistic borrowing. During periods of high popularity, greater borrowing occurred.

In the final chapter, Cutler traces current loanwords from American Indian languages and, commenting on the relatively small percentage in terms of the scope of English borrowing—approximately fifteen thousand to twenty thousand words per year—he questions the future influence of ancestral languages on English. He ponders the current state of language usage among the tribes, the use of ancestral languages by modern American Indian authors, and the current interest in American Indian languages and cultures and concludes that linguistic borrowing is not just a historical phenomenon. It is, he concurs, bound to be an integral part of the future of American culture and American English—indeed, the English of the world.

Two glossaries are included at the end of the chapters. The first glossary is designated for loanwords coming from languages north of Mexico. Much of this glossary appears in the previous chapters, but Cutler provides the glossary to trace the date of first recorded use, etymologies, pronunciations, and definitions of the terms. As one reads through the list, it can be frustrating to find

that many words are vaguely attributed to their sources with the qualifying "perhaps" or "possibly." One other observation concerning the etymologies is that "etym. above" recurs often for compound words or terms with a similar root. But the vastness of the list is quite impressive and offers enlightenment as to the influence of American Indian languages on the newcomers.

The second glossary deals with loanwords from Eskimo and Aleut languages. It is short, for reasons explained in chapter 9, and, although it is full of terms that many may never have heard, it also contains some familiar terms that may surprise some readers as to their origin. The dates of some terms reflect the extent of contact, such as 1662 for *kayak*, and confirm Cutler's contention that isolation and popularity are extremely influential in the process of borrowing.

There also is an appendix that includes terms from Latin American Indian languages. For this list, Cutler compiled words from such languages as Guarani, Arawakan, Nahuatl, Tupian, Quechua, and Taino. In this list, the terms are only defined or described; Cutler does not provide dates as he does in the glossaries. This list is extensive and will provide some nice surprises for those who endeavor to peruse the terms.

Taken as a whole, *O Brave New Words!* offers the reader a unique collection of American Indian words that have gone beyond their original sphere of usage. It is a very valuable collection of terms from American ancestral languages, tracing the subsequent influence the terms have exerted upon a developing nation and upon the world.

Frederick H. White

Trailing You. By Kimberly M. Blaeser. Greenfield Center, New York: Greenfield Review Press, 1994. 86 pages. \$9.95 paper.

After reading Kim Blaeser's *Trailing You* and experiencing a sense of intellectual delight at what was written there, I will say that this northern writer seems to me much more than a kitchen poet or a fine domestic poet, although those terms could be used to mark off certain boundaries in her poems.

The overall image, expressed in one way or another, is one of growth, or breaking out into a more expansive realm of consciousness. Even when the vision is at its darkest and coldest, as in her