

AIW Publications 2014

AIW Book Announcement January 2014

Books by author(s)

Author(s): Marshall Joseph Becker and Jonathan C. Lainey

Title:

THE WHITE DOG SACRIFICE

A Post-1800 Rite with an Ornamental Use for Wampum

Publisher: Transactions of the American Philosophical Society

Year: 2013

Volume 103, Part 3 — \$37

ISBN: 978-1-60618-033-4

In a search for Iroquoian ritual uses for the marine shell beads now called wampum (porcelaine in French), Marshall Joseph Becker and Jonathan C. Lainey identify the White Dog Sacrifice (WDS) as a possible candidate. Many unusual elements of the WDS have led outsiders to record, and often to publish, their observations of various details of these rituals. Since these records of the WDS often mention the use of wampum, and ethnographic accounts of wampum as part of any religious contexts are extremely rare, the authors focus their study on descriptions of the WDS to see if wampum beads were essential to the ritual.

The WDS involved ceremonial sacrifice and subsequent cremation of one, or sometimes two “white” dogs to carry away the sins of native believers. Examination of the accounts recording the WDS reveals that they fall within a narrow range of time and space beginning about 1799. A “string of beads” used to adorn a sacrificed dog also was first noted in 1799, but if these were wampum or glass bead ornaments is not certain. If they were wampum they might have been used to convey a message through the sacrificed dog.

By 1800 the rite of the WDS evolved from the previous eating of dogs at feasts into a ritual sacrifice within which wampum may have been only incidentally included. Reports of the WDS among the Seneca and other Iroquoians reveal that this rite emerged early in the nineteenth century. Diplomatic uses for wampum were coming to an end around 1800. The impact of the WDS on reducing wampum supplies was insignificant. More important is the authors’ finding that the WDS was not incorporated into the midwinter rituals of all New York’s Iroquoian people as had been commonly assumed. Also, wampum appears to have been rare or absent from all known Iroquoian ritual activities prior to 1800. Another discovery previously overlooked is the importance of burning of baskets in connection with these Midwinter rituals. Basket burning survived long after the sacrificial offering of dogs had ended.

AIW Publications Announcement April 2014

Publications by author(s)

Author(s): Alice Beck Kehoe

Title:

A Passion for the True and Just: Felix and Lucy Cohen and the Indian New Deal

Publisher: University of Arizona Press

Year: 2014

ISBN: 978-0-8165-3093-9

A Passion for the True and Just reveals the moral underpinnings of Felix and Lucy Kramer Cohen and their important contribution to the Indian New Deal. Alice Beck Kehoe illuminates Felix Cohen's uncompromising commitment to the "true and the just," rooted in his Jewish intellectual and moral heritage, and Social Democrat principles, that changed American legal philosophy.

Publications by editor(s)

Author(s): Brad Evans and Aaron Glass

Title:

Return to the Land of the Head Hunters

Edward S. Curtis, the Kwakwaka'wakw, and the Making of Modern Cinema

Publisher: University of Washington Press

Year: 2014

ISBN: 978-0-295-99344-7

In 1914, the American photographer Edward S. Curtis released the first feature-length, silent, fiction film to star an entirely indigenous cast. *In the Land of the Head Hunters*, made with the Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) people on location in British Columbia, premiered in Seattle and New York in December of that year, accompanied by a live rendition of the original musical score written for the film—purportedly based on Curtis's own wax cylinder recordings of Native music—by John Braham, best known for his work arranging Gilbert and Sullivan in the US. Although a critical success, the melodramatic film made no money and was quickly lost to the archive. Though partially restored in the early 1970s (and released as *In the Land of the War Canoes*), the original has been completely inaccessible and largely overlooked by film history.

Based on recent archival research, in 2008 a collaborative team led by Aaron Glass (Bard Graduate Center), Brad Evans (Rutgers University), and Andrea Sanborn (U'mista Cultural Centre) oversaw a new restoration of the film that returned the film's original title, inter-title cards, long-missing footage, color tinting, initial publicity graphics, and original musical score—now thought to be the earliest extant original feature-length film score in America.

In recognition of the film's centennial, and alongside the release of a restored version by Milestone Films, *Return to the Land of the Head Hunters* brings together leading anthropologists, Native American

authorities, artists, musicians, literary scholars, and film historians to reassess the film and its legacy. The volume offers unique Kwakwaka'wakw perspectives on the film, accounts of its production and subsequent circulation, and evaluations of its depictions of cultural practice.

Resituated within film history and informed by a legacy of Kwakwaka'wakw participation and response, the movie offers dynamic evidence of ongoing cultural survival and transformation under shared conditions of modernity.

AIW Publications Announcement July 2014

Publications by editor(s)

Ed. James Mackay and David Stirrup

Tribal Fantasies: Native Americans in the European Imaginary, 1900-2010

Palgrave, 2012
ISBN: 9781137288813

This transnational collection discusses the use of Native American imagery in twentieth and twenty-first-century European culture. With examples ranging from Irish oral myth, through the pop image of Indians promulgated in pornography, to the philosophical appropriations of Ernst Bloch or the European far right, contributors illustrate the legend of "the Indian." Drawing on American Indian literary nationalism, postcolonialism, and transnational theories, essays demonstrate a complex nexus of power relations that seemingly allows European culture to build its own Native images, and ask what effect this has on the current treatment of indigenous peoples.

Ed. Gillian Roberts and David Stirrup

Parallel Encounters: Culture at the Canada-US Border

Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2014
ISBN: 978-1-55458-984-5

The essays collected in Parallel Encounters offer close analysis of an array of cultural representations of the Canada-US border, in both site-specificity and in the ways in which they reveal and conceal cultural similarities and differences. Contributors focus on a range of regional sites along the border and examine a rich variety of expressive forms, including poetry, fiction, drama, visual art, television, and cinema produced on both sides of the 49th parallel.