



Inventing the American Primitive: Politics, Gender and the Representation of Native American Literary Traditions, 1789-1936 (Paperback)

By Helen Carr

New York University Press, United States, 1996. Paperback. Condition: New. New. Language: English . Brand New Book. American mainstream culture has always been fascinated with the notion of the primitive, particularly as embodied by Native Americans. In *Inventing the American Primitive*, Helen Carr illustrates how responses to the existence of Native American traditions have shaped ideas of American identity and American literature. *Inventing the American Primitive* examines a body of work, both literary and anthropological, that describes, inscribes, translates and transforms Native American myths and poetry. Drawing on post-colonial and feminist theory, as well as ethnography's recent textual turn, Carr reveals the conflicts and ambivalence in these texts. Through their writings, the writers and anthropologists studied were attempting to preserve a culture which their country, with their help or connivance, sought to destroy. The contradictions and tensions of this position run throughout their work. Although there is no simple narrative of progress in this story, as it moves from the eighteenth-century primitivism to twentieth-century modernism, the book shows the process by which the richness and complexity of Native American traditions came to be acknowledged. *Inventing the American Primitive* offers a radical new reading of American literary history, as well...



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