

William A. Douglass and Richard W. Etulain, eds. *Basque Americans: A Guide to Information Sources*. Ethnic Studies Information Guide Series, Vol. 6. (Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1981) xiii, 169 pp., \$38.00.

This is a selected and annotated bibliography on the European and American Basques, the immigrants and their descendents known as the Amerikanauk. It is useful for both lay people and serious researchers and, short as it may seem, treats a wide variety of subjects concerning one of the least known minority ethnic groups that are an integral part of this multicultural country.

Basques, as a basic bibliography, lists sixteen categories; three of these contain a large number of the entries. They are: "General Works on Old World Basques," "History of the Basques in the United States," and "Language," the subjects that have occupied the attention of most students. For its stated purpose, the work is more than adequate in general Basque ethnology. While Douglass and Etulain appear as the leading scholars, seven other contributors also review the 413 entries and there is no noticeable lack of quality in the analyses and explication from the work of these associates.

The annotations for each book, monograph, article, or essay are of varying lengths. Appropriately, a few are nearly as long as 600 words, with others between 400-600 (Nos. 82 and 129, for instance), signaling the relative importance of the subject. Although some entries are as short as 4-5 lines, they are adequate for their purpose and, regardless of length, the reader finds clear prose and lucid style. For its well-designed structure, organization of its subject matter, and especially for its carefully edited, compact annotations, some of which can serve as models of scholarly integrity and bravery, this source book should rank as one of the best to appear on an American ethnic minority.

That American Basques are concentrated mainly in the four-state area of Nevada, California, Oregon and Idaho, and the center of Basque studies is located in the University of Nevada at Reno, ought to register as important facts as well as the realization that the Amerikanauk have had their share of discrimination and vituperation. Yet, these archetypal shepherds, lawyers, teachers, business people and so forth, as small as the group has been, emerge here as one of the most decent, hard-working though nearly forgotten people in this country. These two leading, distinguished scholars have made a notable contribution to American ethnography free of slanted editorializing which will surely stand for decades to come.

—Sergio D. Elizondo
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