

arrived there from the East or the North.

The students and teachers of Native American studies will find this an interesting, informative, well-written book. For them, it will be an easy-to-use finger-tip digest with a 450-entry bibliography. The bibliography was updated from the 1975 publication by adding 100 entries dated 1976 and later. The bibliography alone is worth the purchase price for researchers in Native American Studies.

— Charline L. Burton  
Central State University

**Ani Dike Egwuonwu. *Marriage Problems in Africa.* (New York: Continental Services, 1986) 119 pp. \$5.95 paper.**

Ani Dike Egwuonwu is a social scientist and this book is the outcome of several years of observations and interviews about marriage problems in Africa. Egwuonwu intended to show a vivid picture of the problems that have had a deleterious effect on traditional African marriages. The subtlety of his use of the institution of marriage to capture the underlying prejudices and stereotypes that exist among African tribes was certainly a creative venture.

Egwuonwu pointed out that the most salient problem facing Africans wanting to marry is the choice of a mate. The choice of a spouse in Africa is determined by a number of factors that inevitably decrease the number of eligibles. First, there are prevailing myths that assume a taboo-like effect on persons who deviate from the tribal traditions in their choice of a spouse. The myths are related to ancestors, hereditary diseases, and virginity.

The author also directs attention to the diversity of ethnic groups in each African country which limits the number of potential mates. For example, Egwuonwu provided illustrative accounts of personal experiences that show the adverse effect of some tribal folkways on relationships between persons from different tribes.

Egwuonwu also describes the caste-like social status of two tribes in Nigeria, the Oru and the Osu. These two groups are labeled as social outcasts. Marriage is sanctioned only with in-group members. For the most part, Egwuonwu's analysis of the social interaction between these groups and other tribal units suggests that relationships are hindered by ethnocentric views.

Marriage problems were also related to religion and marriage traditions. The largest religious groups in Africa are Christians and Muslims.

The pool of eligible marriage mates becomes even smaller because Christians and Muslims are not allowed to marry each other.

Egwuonwu provided an interesting account of Africans who favor polygamy. His explanation will appear legitimate for most uninformed readers. This book is saturated with information that reveals the hidden aspects of African culture. The saliency of ethnicity on social relationships in Africa was the motivating force for this work. It is apparent that, in general, marriage problems in Africa are the result of negative inter-ethnic relations.

The comprehensiveness of the Egwuonwu study is reflected in two appendices on the data collection device and descriptive statistics. Twenty-five frequency tables are used to summarize a wide range of data on the values and perceptions of Africans concerning marriage-related issues. The author's integration of this vast amount of information is nothing less than remarkable.

In sum, *Marriage Problems in Africa* is a welcome addition to existing books on ethnic relations and marriage and the family. Tables were used sparingly and judiciously. They are located in the appendix. A sincere concern for the reader's susceptibility to imposing figures is marked by the absence of such devices in the body of the text. This text will be most useful in undergraduate courses in minority groups, race and ethnic relations, marriage and the family, and social change and development.

—Melvin C. Ray  
Iowa State University

**Louise Erdrich. *Love Medicine*. (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1984) 272 pp., \$13.95.**

*Love Medicine* brings together the stories of the Kashpaws and Lamartines, two Chippewa families of North Dakota. Two major themes, love and death, produce both the continuity of the novel and of family traditions that are the foundation of each character's life. As different individuals tell their stories, the reader is given a multifaceted perspective of the events that influence the families over a fifty-year period.

Louise Erdrich presents a diverse group of characters connected by common ancestors and culture. Two brothers, Nector and Eli, stay with