and other professions. It includes biographical information on many of
the individuals mentioned in Volume I, that is, tribal chiefs, authors,
curators, and so forth. The alphabetized listing concentrates on the
professional achievements of the individuals, rather than personal data.
The information given is derived from questionnaires completed by the
individuals profiled; thus, the biographical sketches range in length
from name, address, and affiliations to profiles over a page in length
detailing community activities, memberships, publications, awards, and
interests. There is no mention as to how the individuals were selected for
inclusion; and the careful reader will note some “prominents” who could
have been included, such as Dennis Banks and Tim Giago. While the
individuals profiled are allegedly current (1986), some have died since the
compilation, including Oscar Howe. New to Volume II is a geographical
index section in which the listees are arranged by city or village in
particular states.

While most of the information presented in this encyclopedia is
available from other sources, its merit is that it combines information
from all these diverse sources into one highly readable and easy to use
reference work. It is a must for both academic and public libraries and for
various agencies concerned with the Indian population.

—Douglas Kachel
Grand View College

Judy Nolte Lensink, ed. Old Southwest/New Southwest: Essays
on a Region and Its Literature. (Tucson: University of Arizona

Here are sixteen essays by various genres of thinkers, among which we
find poets, fiction writers, scientists, historians, academic and lay
scholars, librarians and artists who presented papers in 1985 at a
conference bearing the book’s title. N. Scott Momaday, Frank Waters, R.
Hinojosa Smith, Janice Monk and Vera Norwood, Rudolfo A. Anaya,
and John Nichols are among the contributors. Their papers are the text
of this work on the cultures of the American Southwest. Old Southwest
indeed becomes an American culture reader, like a treatise on its
epistemology and the forms of literature past and present of the region
most of us know as the Southwest. They may give significant scientific,
poetic, critical, even lyrical expressions such as Momaday’s or the
refreshing-refreshingly revealing statement of John Nichols “... a
cultural worker with a voice.”

It is a high effort to hear some of the most committed American voices
reminding us that cultural consciousness, whether it is commonly

Explorations in Sights and Sounds No. 8 (Summer 1988)
accepted now or not, encompasses all of the geographic and ethnic
groups from the past and the present, with a particular reminder that
this Southwestern part of the USA, so much unlike the rest of the
country, must be treated differently owing to its delicate nature.

Many questions are asked: what, indeed is this region called the
Southwest, how can one hope to define it, who speaks for it: the Anglo,
the Hispanic or the Indian? This anthology represents many points of
view that generally support the proposition that the American Southwest
as a national area is in serious danger of becoming a cultural and
environmental wasteland. Most of the essayists voice their concerns for
progress, but with courage for the preservation of literature and desert
with equal zeal; there are those who adhere more closely to their
professional or private interests; even so, there’s a definite collective
stand of protectiveness for all forms of life and images of the land by
these writers as well as those who preceded them.

Devoid of traditional, often distracting markings of the more exacting
scholarly papers, the majority of the essays are properly annotated in
support of the authors’ theses.

It is a strong humanistic appeal to reason, action, and greater
information on the background and presence of the physical and
civilized state, civic condition, and attitudes of the human actors who
live here, in this often misunderstood and misused, much beloved and
cherished part of the United States.

One observes that organized environmentalism may not necessarily
have always served its stated commitment well, nor have various
agencies of the federal government and their administrators normally
demonstrated sensitivity nor common sense in dealing with the preserva­
tion of national resources. There is an emphatic call for revolutionary
action from individuals and groups to “lock up the desert” and reserve
cities as “sacrifice areas” for people to live and stay in.

It is a book that may leave the reader with a strong sense of artistic and
civic redemption, probably as our transcendentalists would have it.

—Sergio D. Elizondo
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