

[Additional information indicating that my above account of the printing history of Brand-Ellis is not entirely accurate has come to my attention since the completion of my review. Gale Research, the parent company of Singing Tree Press apparently published two editions of the work previously. In 1968 Gale published an edition as part of its Social History Reference Series; in 1967 the firm had published a reprint of a "ca 1890" edition, for which Books in Print lists one Henry as additional editor. In 1968 the title was also published as part of Bohn's Antiquarian Library Series; Henry is also an editor of this edition. The Bohn's volumes are slightly cheaper than any of the Gale volumes. I have not, however, been able to examine any of these. ---F. de C.]

Landes, Ruth. The Mystic Lake Sioux: Sociology of the Mdewankantonwan Santee. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 1968. 229 -x pp. \$7.50.

Dr. Landes' work, based on a 1935 study directed by Ruth Benedict, is a refreshingly casual ethnography of a small group of Santee Dakota living along the Minnesota-Wisconsin border. The eastern Sioux, like their Plains brethren (who were, of course, responsible for Custer's demise), were passionately addicted to warring with their traditional enemies, the Ojibwa (apparently both groups, ignorant of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's declaration of peace between them, continue their disregard of each other even today), sought mystical experiences and even became intensely involved in love affairs. Alas, the fair maiden, mourning her unrequited love who plunges to her death over a waterfall (thereafter named for her) may not be a romantic fabrication after all.

The major contribution of Dr. Landes' book, however, is in her careful use of multiple anecdotes from her informants both to describe the old way of life (which she realizes is an idealized account), and to subtly compare it to the somewhat acculturated group with whom she was dealing. The "joking relationship" of near kin, for example, so colorlessly described by most ethnographers is brought sharply into focus with numerous personal tales of "jokes" -- most of them cruel and/or crude -- that such a relationship fosters.

The book is most effective in its examination of the culture on the informants' own terms. Dr. Landes makes no attempt to analyze the culture by extracting dry facts and stacking them upon the pages, but rather allows the reader himself to become the fieldworker faced with a society quickly being strangled between its own values and those of the encroaching outside world.

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Ullom, Judith C. Folklore of the North American Indians: An Annotated Bibliography, illus. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 1969. 124 pages.

Too often, scholarly materials are prepared for the exclusive uses and interests of scholarly audiences, and popular materials, prepared for popular audiences, are rarely seen and appreciated by the scornful professors. In certain quarters, the public schools for example, both kinds