

BOOK REVIEWS

An Annotated Bibliography of Chicano Folklore from the Southwestern United States.

Compiled by Michael Heisley.

Pp. vi + 188.

Los Angeles: Center for the Study of Comparative Folklore and Mythology, 1977.

Reviewed by John H. McDowell

Michael Heisley and his collaborators merit the highest praise for having assembled this exemplary bibliography. A vast body of research, scattered throughout the publishing empires of both Mexico and the United States, finds itself properly cited, indexed, and in many cases, annotated in Heisley's bibliography, which must henceforth be considered an indispensable scholarly tool for inquiries into the folkloric traditions of Chicano populations in the United States.

To be more specific, the bibliography has four endearing traits. The coverage is more than adequate, even complete, though one hesitates to use this term in reference to such a dynamic field of investigation. The scheme of organization is readily intelligible, reflecting the conventional parsing of our intellectual domain. Brief descriptive notes attached to the more readily available items neatly convey the range and scope of scholarship in each case. And a set of indices (by author, geographical locale, and subject matter) renders previously fugitive materials as handy as one's mastery of the alphabet.

This bibliography should facilitate (and perhaps even stimulate) work by professionals and apprentices alike in the rich domain of Chicano folk expression. In its pages we gain access to the major threads of scholarly interest affecting this domain, including the quest for Indian and European sources, the description of Mexican prototypes, the exploration of the crucible of Chicano experience in the Southwest, and the documentation of contemporary forms emerging out of a Chicano matrix which is increasingly urban and resistant to facile geographical or sociological description.

Yupa Folktales. By Johannes Wilbert.

Pp. xiii + 191, bibliography, glossary, photographs, drawings, map.

Los Angeles: Latin American Studies Center 1974. \$9.00 cloth.

Reviewed by G. J. Longenecker

Johannes Wilbert's book, Yupa Folktales, represents some of the long and hard work this anthropologist and director of the UCLA Latin American Studies Center has accomplished with South American Indian groups. Because of Wilbert's distinguished background and his previous work, one would expect a volume such as this to have some new theoretical aim or some startlingly fresh tales to contribute to folktale research. This work does neither. It is simply one more scholarly plodding through stories claiming them to be typical of a culture and relating them to that culture. Fortunately, and to Wilbert's credit, his writing style is not as dull as his theoretical objectives.

This book contains a Preface and an Introduction in addition to three main sections. The first section, "Ethnography and Narrative Reality," deals with the ethnographic features of the Yupa as they are revealed in the narratives. Wilbert offers some extra information to that found in the tales in order to round out an overview of the Yupa. "Narrative Material and Motif Content," the second section of the work, contains the tales. It is instructive to note that he entitles this section "material" and not "folktales" (as is done in the title) since what Wilbert does is to relate the stories as he understands them. He does not offer the recorded tales of the narrators