
Shadows of the Indian by Raymond William Stedman deals with an important subject. In The Pretend Indians (1980), edited by Gretchen M. Bataille and Charles L.P. Silet, Vine Deloria points out: "The whites are sincere but they are only sincere about what they are interested in, not about Indians about whom they know very little. They get exceedingly angry if you try to tell them the truth and will only reject you and keep searching until they find the Indian of their fantasies" (p. xv). Stedman's Shadows of the Indian is about these fantasies.

Similar to such studies as Roy Harvey Pearce's Savagism and Civilization: A Study of the Indian and the American Mind (1965) and Robert F. Berkhofer's The White Man's Indian (1979), Shadows of the Indian searches for white stereotypes of Indians in paintings, sermons, literature, and plays from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries to the present. Unlike Pearce and Berkhofer, however, Stedman goes beyond a survey of these sources to examine contemporary modes of popular expression: movies, advertisements, cartoons, paperback novels, radio, and television. The chapters—each following a trajectory of images from contact to today—are divided according to theme or stereotype. For example, "La Belle Sauvage" and "Men Friday" are devoted to views of Indian women and men; "Indian Talk" examines linguistic stereotypes; and "Lust Between the Bookends" and "You Know What They Do To White Women" explore sexual images.

This study of racial and cultural stereotyping of the Indian in American culture is recounted with both wit and irony and makes delightful reading. Unfortunately, there is little trenchant analysis of how the stereotypes functioned in the dominant culture or even how they affected Native Americans. Despite this criticism, however, Stedman has in lucid prose and with excellent illustrations provided an extensive catalog of Indian stereotypes, especially as perpetuated in the various media over the last three decades. As an aid to the student of Indian-white relations, Stedman also includes a chronology of literary and historical works on Native Americans in a brief appendix. Shadows of the Indian is a useful contribution to the study of American culture and to American perceptions of the Indian.

Indiana University, Bloomington

Robert E. Bieder