

American Babel

Literatures of the United States from Abnaki to Zuni

EDITED BY **Marc Shell**

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, Massachusetts, and London, England

2002

UNIVERSITÄT ST. GALLEN
HOCHSCHULE FÜR WIRTSCHAFTS-,
RECHTS- UND SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTEN

BIBLIOTHEK

Contents

PART I. INTRODUCTION	
1. Babel in America	3
MARC SHELL	
2. The Name of America	34
ALEXANDER DEL MAR	
PART II. RESISTANCE AND ASSIMILATION	
3. "And in a Christian Language They Sold Me": Messages Concealed in a Slave's Arabic-Language Autobiographical Narrative	41
ALA ALRYYES	
4. Unfaithful Translation: Bilingual Versions as Greek-American Strategies of Concealment	55
YOTA BATAKI	
5. Disturbing the Language Peace: German-Jewish Women Poets in <i>Aufbau</i> , 1933–1993	74
ELISABETH LENCKOS	
6. <i>Mordecai and Haman</i> : The Drama of Welsh America	93
ESTHER WHITFIELD	
7. Ferdinand Kürnberger's <i>Der Amerika-Müde</i> (1855): German-Language Literature about the United States, and German-American Writing	117
WERNER SOLLORS	
PART III. AUTHORITATIVE AND NONAUTHORITATIVE LANGUAGES	
8. "Neither the King's English nor the Rebbetzin's Yiddish": Yinglish Literature in the United States	133
JAMES LOEFFLER	

9. Homing Pidgins: Another Version of Pastoral in Hawai'i 163
SUSANNAH YOUNG-AH GOTTLIEB
10. Irish Gaelic Literature in the United States 188
KENNETH NILSEN
11. Alfred Mercier's Polyglot Plantation Novel of Louisiana 219
LAWRENCE ROSENWALD
12. Written in Sound: Translating the Multiple Voices of the Zuni Storyteller 238
DENNIS TEDLOCK

PART IV. LOSS AND GAIN

13. Contrapuntal Languages: The Games They Play in Spanish 263
DORIS SOMMER
14. America, Everybody's Other World 283
ALICIA BORINSKY
15. The Gothic and the American-Exotic: Baron Ludwig von Reizenstein's *Die Geheimnisse von New-Orleans* 297
STEVEN ROWAN
16. Grave Matters: Poetry and the Preservation of the Welsh Language in the United States 307
MELINDA GRAY
17. Beyond the National Tradition: Thuong Vuong-Riddick's *Two Shores/Deux Rives* 322
DAN DUFFY

PART V. NATIONALISM AND INTERNATIONALISM

18. The Welsh Atlantic: Mapping the Contexts of Welsh-American Literature 343
DANIEL WILLIAMS
19. Carved on the Walls: The Archaeology and Canonization of the Angel Island Chinese Poems 369
TE-HSING SHAN
20. Immigration Blues: The Portrayal of Chinatown Life in Chinese-Language Literature in America 386
XIAO-HUANG YIN
21. "China" in the American Diaspora 404
QIAN SUOQIAO
22. Haitian Literature in the United States, 1948–1986 431
JEAN JONASSAINT
23. Translingualism and the American Literary Imagination 450
STEVEN G. KELLMAN
24. What Is *Aufklärung* (in Pennsylvania)? 465
PETER FENVES

PART VI. AFTERWORD

25. "Prized His Mouth Open": Mark Twain's *The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*: in English, then in French, then clawed back into a civilized language once more by patient, unremunerated toil 491
MARC SHELL