CONTENTS

Preface	xi
Acknowledgments	xv
CHAPTER ONE ORAL TRADITION AS PR	ROCESS 3
I. The Generation of Messages	3
(1) News(a) Eyewitness(b) Hearsay(c) Visions, Dreams, and Hallucina	3 4 6 tions 7
(2) The Interpretation of Experience(a) Reminiscence(b) Commentaries(c) Verbal Art	7 8 10 11
(3) Oral History	12
II. DYNAMIC PROCESSES OF ORAL TE	RADITION 13
 (2) Accounts (a) Historical Gossip (b) Personal Tradition (c) Group Account (d) Traditions of Origin and Genesis (e) Cumulative Accounts 	17 17 18 19 s 21 24

VI	Contents
V 1	Comenia

(3) Epic		25
(4) Tales, Pro	overbs, and Sayings	25
III. Oral Trai	DITION AS A SOURCE OF HISTORY	27
(1) Definition	n	27
(a) From C	dition as Evidence Observation to Permanent Record ce of What?	29 29 31
PERFORMAN	CHAPTER TWO ICE, TRADITION, AND TE	XT 33
I. Performanc	E	34
(1) Performii	ng	34
(2) Performe	rs	36
II. Performan	ICE AND TRADITION	39
	ction of Performances	39
-	ncy, Time, and Place	39
	tent of the Performance	41
	nbering: Cueing and Scanning	42
	otechnic Devices	44
(i) Object		44 45
(ii) Land (iii) Mus		45 46
(e) Learnir		47
(2) Variabilit	y Within a Tradition	48
(a) Poems	and Their Kin	48
(b) Epic		51
(c) Narrati	ive	53
(3) Authentic	city, Antiquity, and Authorship	54
III. RECORDING	G Traditions	56
(1) Incidenta	l and Accidental Mentions	57

Contents	vii
(2) Systematic Research	58
(3) The Recording Situation	59
IV. TESTIMONY AND TEXT	63
(1) Verbal Testimony	63
(2) Text	66
CHAPTER THREE GETTING THE MESSAGE 68	
I. FORM AND CONTENT	68
(1) Linguistic Form	69
(2) Internal Structure	71
(3) Genres	79
II. MEANING	83
(1) Apparent Meaning	84
(2) Intended Meaning	86
(a) Metaphor and Metonym(b) Stereotype	87 88
III. THE AIMS OF THE MESSAGE	91
CHAPTER FOUR	24
THE MESSAGE IS A SOCIAL PRODUCT	94
I. THE SOCIAL USES OF MESSAGES	95
(1) The Institutional Framework	95
(a) Performance and Institution(b) Social Control of Information	95 96
(c) Official and Private Traditions	98
(2) Messages as Tools	100
(a) Functions	100

viii	Contents
* ***	Contents

(b) Tradition as Weapon(c) Ideological Uses(d) Idealization(e) Whose Past is History?	102 103 105 107
(3) Performers(a) The Usual Performing Situation(b) A Novel Recording Situation	108 109 110
II. TRADITION MIRRORS SOCIETY (1) The Congruence of Traditions and Society	114 114
 (2) How Is Such Congruence Attained? (a) The Limits of Society and the Limits of Tradition (b) Significance (c) Repertory 	116 116 118 119
(3) Homeostasis	120
CHAPTER FIVE THE MESSAGE EXPRESSES CULTURE	124
I. THE SUBSTANCE OF CULTURE	124
(1) Basic Concepts(a) Space(b) Time(c) Historical Truth(d) Historical Causality and Change	125 125 127 129 130
(2) Worldview(a) Finding Worldviews(b) Effects of Worldviews	133 133 136
II. IMAGES AND CLICHÉS AS COLLECTIVE REPRESENTATIONS	137
(1) Images	137
(2) Clichés	139
(A) CHOICS	139

Contents	ix
Contents	1X

(3) Interpreting Clichés: The Mbegha Case	140
(4) The Validity of Interpretations and Implicit Meaning	142
CHAPTER SIX TRADITION AS INFORMATION REMEMBERED 147	
I. The Corpus as a Pool of Information	148
(1) What Is the Corpus?(a) The Corpus Is Collective(b) Properties of the Corpus	148 148 150
 (2) Information Flows (a) In a Single Society (b) In Several Societies (i) Wandersagen (ii) Feedback (c) Capturing the Information Flows 	152 152 154 155 156 157
(3) The Interdependence of Traditions	158
II. THE CORPUS AS REMEMBERED OVER TIME	160
(1) The Fallacy of Structuralism(a) Assumptions and Theory(b) Procedure of Analysis	162 162 163
(2) Structuring	165
(3) Structuring of Narrative Accounts	167
(4) Effects of Structuring	172
III. CHRONOLOGY AND INFORMATION REMEMBERED	173
(1) Measurement of Time	174
(2) Memory Organizes Sequences	176

ntents

(3) Sources for Dating: Lists and Genealogies(a) Lists(b) Genealogies	178 179 182
CHAPTER SEVEN ORAL TRADITION ASSESSED 186	
I. THE LIMITATIONS OF ORAL TRADITION AND OUTSIDE SOURCES	186
(1) Chronology and Interdependence	187
(2) Selectivity and Interpretation	190
(3) Degree of Limitations	192
II. THE UNIQUENESS OF ORAL TRADITION	193
(1) As a Source	193
(2) As Inside Information	197
III. Conclusion	199
Notes	205
Bibliography	229
Index	247