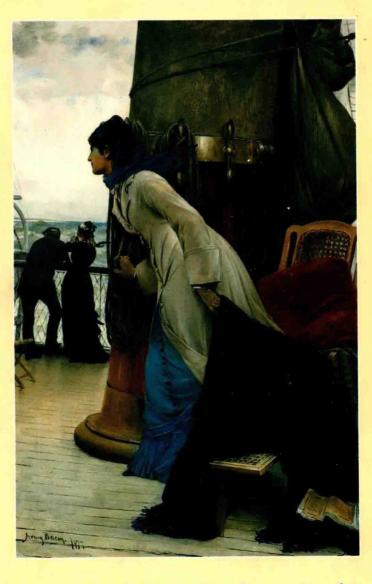
The American Tradition in Literature

VOLUME I

TENTH EDITION



George Perkins Barbara Perkins

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The American Tradition in Literature

TENTH EDITION

VOLUME 1

Edited by

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Praise for The American Tradition in Literature

- "While I have used several different American literature anthologies over the years, I keep coming back to *The American Tradition in Literature* because I think it is the best in the field." Richard Rust, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- "This is an amazing book." Andrea K. Frankwitz, Biola University
- "Both volumes of *ATIL* are very, very strong and very representative of the best American literature has to offer." Paul Cook, Arizona State University
- "It is a book students would be apt to keep for a lifetime." David T. Stout, Luzerne County Community College
- "ATIL offers an excellent choice of texts and full texts; excellent and unbiased introductions; and excellent scholarship evident through the bibliographies, introductions, and footnotes. I have never considered changing texts—and not because I am a 'stick in the mud.' My choice is always a conscious one—for excellence of presentation in all ways. I say a huge thank you to McGraw-Hill for being wise enough to stay with these outstanding editors." Donna M. Bauerly, Loras College
- "ATIL provides seminal selections from the canon, gives generous selections of our most influential writers, and is alert to the changing face of American letters." Margaret S. Norris, Massasoit Community College
- "The selections are appropriate, diverse, and representative; the page design is pleasing; and the explanatory material allows the individual instructor or student plenty of opportunity to convey his/her own interpretations." Charmaine Allmon Mosby, Western Kentucky University
- "The best things about the book are the wide array of authors, the deep selections of each author, and the fact that native Americans and women are well represented. *ATIL* is an excellent book to use for the freshman/sophomore American literature course." Patrick Mathias, Itasca Community College
- "The three greatest strengths of this anthology are its adherence to a strong and relatively traditional core of proven texts and writers; its admirably cogent biographies of the authors it includes; and its generally helpful footnotes and introductory sections." Keith Lawrence, Brigham Young University
- "The three great strengths of the text are its large selection of early American writers, its large selection of contemporary poetry, and the section on emerging American writers." Lorraine Mercer, Portland State University
- "The four strengths of *ATIL* are its large number of selections for any course format, its introductions and head notes, the inclusion of recent writers, and the OLC. It is an excellent survey text which provides good coverage of the material necessary to build an effective course." James S. Sodon, St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley
- "ATIL is innovative, as with the inclusion of 'global' authors and a variety of graphics." Joel Rich, University of St. Francis

- "ATIL is an extremely good text which covers the major authors and which has excellent supplemental materials." Patricia A. Blaine, Paducah Community College
- "The book has excellent selections, strong organization, and solid expository material." Jeffery Renard Allen, Queens College/CUNY
- "What I like best about [the introductory material] is that there is enough scholarship and detail to satisfy the more scholarly of our students, yet it is written in a such a manner that the less scholarly are sufficiently stimulated to read [it]." Thomas L. Hayes, John Carroll University

Preface

With this tenth edition, *The American Tradition in Literature* celebrates its golden anniversary as it completes fifty years of scholarly and educational leadership. In the seventy-five years since the study of American literature became a serious scholarly discipline, no other anthology has held favor so long or been so frequently admired and imitated.

PAST TRADITIONS, PRESENT RENEWAL

For this celebratory edition, we have reviewed the past half-century and looked toward the new millennium to reshape the book for America's ongoing needs. In symbolic homage to past traditions and present renewal, we have kept two cover images and changed the third. For Volume One, Henry Bacon's First Sight of Land continues its poignant evocation of the immigrant experience. For the Shorter Edition, Joseph Stella's Brooklyn Bridge maintains its multi-layered theme of connection. For Volume Two, Jasper Johns's Three Flags brings to traditional ideas of arrival and adjustment a resonance newly acquired from the events of September 11, 2001. The stars and stripes lie atop, beneath, or between one another in ambiguous enlargement, diminishment, or displacement, encouraging multiple symbolic interpretations. So, too, does the many-faceted history of American literature invite frequent and necessary reflection on repeated and newly emergent themes.

FEATURES OF THE TEXT: INNOVATION AND CONTINUITY

Readers of this new American Tradition in Literature will find its distinctive qualities of selection and scholarship continued and enhanced. Maintaining that necessary core, we have responded to changing pedagogic climates and have taken advantage of improved book-making technologies and advances in electronic support systems to incorporate a number of major innovations.

New Illustrations. The program of illustration has been greatly expanded. Full-color inserts at the center of each volume are supplemented by dozens of black and white depictions ranging from early portrayals of the monsters that Europeans imagined as inhabiting the New World, through the insights into poetic practice provided by Robert Frost's manuscript of "Stopping by Woods," to the chillingly prescient twin towers and clouds on the cover of Don DeLillo's *Underworld*.

Augmented Canon. In this edition we continue the revisions to the American literary canon this book pioneered in 1974. The greatly enlarged attention to African Americans, Native Americans, and women that distinguished our fourth edition spawned an industry of much longer books so focused on the margins that they engulfed the center and obscured the very concept of marginality. In this tenth edition we continue to honor the central tradition as we reconfigure the boundaries once more, especially with respect to women on the frontier, writing about writing, the literature of the South and West, writers of mixed heritage, American writers born abroad, emerging literary voices, and concern with ecology and the land.

Specifically, Volume I invites attention to women's place in frontier settlements: in Michigan with excerpts from Caroline Stansbury Kirkland's A New Home—Who'll Follow?, and in Ohio with Alice Cary's "The Wildermings." Selections from Fanny Fern demonstrate a nineteenth-century woman's successful career in journalism, and Rose Terry Cook's "How Celia Changed Her Mind" helps show how women wrote their concerns into the history of American realism.

Volume II continues the examination of women on the frontier with Mary Austin's "The Fakir" and Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins's "First Meeting of Piutes and Whites." Mark Twain's "How to Tell a Story" helps define his literary practice, Frank Norris's "A Plea for Romantic Fiction" offers a sidelight on the reigning realism of the period, and the addition of "The Muse's Tragedy" presents an earlier work by Edith Wharton to set beside her later "Roman Fever." Ellen Glasgow's "Jordan's End," Susan Glaspell's "A Jury of Her Peers," and Caroline Gordon's "The Ice House" draw renewed attention to three strong writers from the first half of the twentieth century. Representation of African American literature is enriched by the inclusion of Claude McKay, whose poems help to demonstrate the indebtedness of twentieth-century American literature to writers who were born abroad; by Jay Wright, a poet of large gifts and cosmopolitan tastes; and by Charles Johnson, whose "Exchange Value" speaks eloquently of intercultural boundaries. The addition of works by Simon J. Ortiz and Leslie Marmon Silko enlarge the presence of the Native American voice. Other distinctive voices added to this edition belong to Mary Oliver, a poet especially eloquent on nature and ecology; Lorna Dee Cervantes, a poet with a strong Hispanic sensibility; Annie Proulx, whose "The Half-Skinned Steer" recounts a western folktale; Barbara Kingsolver, whose "Homeland" speaks of tribal identity and the land; Don DeLillo, with his apocalyptic vision in "The Angel Esmeralda"; and Jhumpa Lahiri, a recent immigrant, with "The Third and Final Continent," an incandescent story of displacement and discovery.

Profusion Without Confusion. In making the necessary selections from the vast possibilities of America's literary history, we have attempted to diminish the bewilderment forced upon students by the inclusion of clearly tangential or superfluous matter. While each volume contains a comprehensive table of contents more than sufficient for the college American literature survey in all its variety, *The American Tradition in Literature*, 10th edition remains the most *concise* anthology among its many competitors. To further facilitate ease of use in this edition, the page has been thoroughly redesigned, offering a more inviting, "open" look.

Easy Expansion: Online Offerings. Instructors who want to augment their courses with choices supplemental to ours may have their selections printed and bound from "Selections from the American Tradition in Literature," an electronic database on the McGraw-Hill/Primis system (http://www.mhhe.com/primis/). A small sampling of titles included to date suggests the range of an ongoing effort: John Wise's "Vindication of the Government of the New England Churches," Mercy Otis Warren's "The Group," Henry David Thoreau's "Life Without Principle," Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Egotism, or the Bosom Serpent," traditional songs including "The Greenland Whale Fishery" and "Go Down, Moses," Sojourner Truth's "What Time of Night It Is," Henry James's "Turn of the Screw," Abraham Cahan's "Circumstances," Edith Wharton's "The Other Two," Zitkala-Sa's "The Big Red Apples," John M. Oskison's "The Problem of Old Harjo," Letters of Sacco and Vanzetti, James Baldwin's "Notes of a Native Son," Ed Bullins's "A Son, Come Home," Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail," Nash

Candelaria's "The Day the Cisco Kid Shot John Wayne," Richard Rodriguez's "Aria: A Memoir of a Bilingual Childhood," Anne Sexton's "The Fury of Flowers and Worms," Raymond Carver's "What We Talk About When We talk About Love." All selections are accompanied by biographical introductions and footnotes.

Improved Organization. General introductions have been rewritten, divided into smaller units, and newly placed to accompany more closely the literature they are designed to elucidate. Examples include discussions of "Puritanism," "The South and the Middle Colonies," "Transcendentalism," "Romanticism," "A Literature of Social and Cultural Challenge," and "The Globalization of American Literature."

New Timelines. Historical timelines have been added to major introductory units, highlighting connections between history and literature.

New And Revised Introductions, Notes, And Bibliographies. In addition to the introductions, notes and bibliographies written for writers new to this edition, earlier headnotes, footnotes, and bibliographies have been carefully updated. Painstaking revision of the general bibliographies at the end of each volume ensure their continued value as guides to reliable sources of information.

Whitman In Both Volumes. Walt Whitman's work continues to be fully represented in Volume I. In Volume II, we limit the presentation to major poems especially relevant to discussions of later poetic practice.

A NOTE ON THE WORK OF ANTHOLOGIZING: PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE

Criteria for Selection. In this revision, the broad aims that have established for this work a tradition of its own within the American literary community have remained constant. Major authors are allotted generous space. Less significant writers are represented by their best and most characteristic work. Literary merit remains foremost in the criteria for selection, with serious attention given to the continuing critical discussion of the nature of that merit.

Context and Interpretation. Connections between literature and social environment, intellectual history, and biography, are discussed in introductions to periods and authors. Selections are annotated to facilitate understanding, but interpretative footnotes are avoided so that students may be encouraged to develop their individual critical powers and strategies.

Organization. Within each division, the arrangement is generally chronological, with departures highlighting the ways in which authors are related to one another and the ways in which they reflect regional influences, social forces, dominant ideas, historical events, and changing aesthetic values.

Texts: Sources, Variants, Dates. For each selection we provide a faithful copy of the text that in our judgment provides the best reading. The source of each text, unless it is obvious, is stated in the bibliographical note accompanying the author introduction or in a footnote.

Texts of early writers are treated according to the level of difficulty presented. Some, like Bradford's *Of Plymouth Plantation*, in which archaic spelling, punctuation, and abbreviations present a handicap to many readers, have been normalized in accordance with present practice, but the language has not been altered or modernized. The texts of colonial poets are generally untouched and, like most of the prose, have been clarified only by annotation.

Significant dates appear at the end of a selection: that of first publication in a volume by the author at the right margin, preceded by the date of first serial

publication; an established date of composition, if significant, appears in the left margin. Omission of text is indicated by three asterisks. Titles are original with each author except when printed between square brackets.

SUPPLEMENTS FOR STUDENTS

Student's Online Learning Center to accompany *The American Tradition in Literature*, 10th edition (www.mhhe.com/perkins): A rich online learning center by Professor Geoffrey Grimes of Mountain View College offers 20 Featured Author casebooks (in-depth examination of key works, key terms, quizzes, writing activities, related links, photos, and more); a guide to writing in American Literature, with sample student papers; a guide to thinking critically about literature; course outlines; the Tables of Contents to all volumes, embedded with links to recommended websites; a linked timeline offering historical and cultural context for all anthologized works; literature-specific weblinks; and more.

Novels and Short Stories: A number of contemporary and classic works of fiction are available at a substantial discount when packaged with *The American Tradition in Literature*, 10th edition, including:

Alexie, The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven
Cisneros, The House on Mango Street
Dillard, Pilgrim at Tinker Creek
Erdrich, Love Medicine
Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God
Kingston, Woman Warrior
McCarthy, All the Pretty Horses
Momaday, House Made of Dawn
Tan, Joy Luck Club

WebWrite (www.metatext.com/webwrite), User's Guide with Password (ISBN 0-07-244993-4): This web-based writing program enables instructors and students to enter an online workshop to review, collaborate on, and revise student papers. Writing is done directly onto a webpage or pasted in from other applications. WebWrite also provides access to a complete online reference library.

SUPPLEMENTS FOR INSTRUCTORS

Instructor's Manual to Accompany *The American Tradition in Literature*, 10th edition (0-07- 248682-1): This popular ninth edition resource, authored by Professor Thomas M. Kitts of St. John's University, has been thoroughly updated and revised for the 10th edition. The manual offers suggested course outlines, expanded chronologies, quiz and exam questions, sample student papers, writing prompts, recommended websites, and more.

Instructor's Online Learning Center to accompany *The American Tradition* in Literature, 10th edition (www.mhhe.com/perkins): The instructor's section of the text's website offers the complete Instructor's Manual as a downloadable Word document and links of interest to instructors of literature.

PageOut, WebCT, and more! The online content of *The American Tradition* in *Literature*, 10th edition is supported by WebCT, eCollege.com, and Blackboard. Additionally, our PageOut service is available to get you and your course up and running online in a matter of hours, at no cost! To find out more contact your local McGraw-Hill representative or visit http://www.pageout.net.

In Their Own Voices: A Century of Recorded Poetry (0-07-242404-4): Qualified adopters may request for classroom use this audio CD collection of classic and contemporary poems in the voices of the poets who wrote them.

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The list of instructors and students who have used and commented upon *The American Tradition in Literature* over the years is far too long to include here, but to all of them we give our continued heartfelt thanks. As before, final responsibility for the new edition remains our own.

George Perkins Barbara Perkins

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