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King-Kok Cheung (ed.), *An Interethnic Companion to Asian-American Literature* (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997, £45 cloth, £15.95 paper). Pp. 414. ISBN 0 521 44312 1, 0 521 44790 9.

This book is an extremely useful resource for students of American literature and for mature scholars who wish to extend their understanding of the multi-ethnic literatures of the United States. It is set out clearly in two parts, the first of which offers surveys of the primary (but not only) literatures by North American authors of Asian descent: Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, South Asian, Vietnamese. This is an important point, because the book excludes literature written in languages other than English and which constitutes very different ethnic canons. The emphasis here is on the bodies of writing that engage directly with the experience of Asian ethnic minorities in the United States. King-Kok Cheung, in her illuminating editorial introduction, places issues such as these in a sophisticated theoretical context and in so doing demonstrates the complexity that now characterises the field of Asian-American literature. Moving away from treatments of cross-cultural identity and marginality towards constructions of ethnic and gender identity, Cheung shows how Asian-American literature is a far from homogenous field in terms of both primary literature and critical studies of those writings. She outlines the historical development of Asian-American literary criticism in very helpful ways to emphasise the shifting character of this important area of American cultural study.

Part One comprises Sau-ling Cynthia Wong's survey of Chinese-American literature; N. V. M. Gonzalez and Oscar V. Campomanes on Filipino-American literature; Stan Yogi's survey of Japanese-American literature; Elaine H. Kim on Korean American literature ; Ketu H. Katrak on South Asian-American literature; and Monique T. D. Tru'o'ng's survey of Vietnamese-American literature. The historical and chronological accounts provided in this first part of the book are complemented and extended by the issue-based essays of Part Two. In the concluding part, Rachel C. Lee discusses journalistic representations of Asian Americans and literary responses to those in the period 1910 to 1920. Postcolonialism, nationalism and the emergence of Asian-American literatures is discussed in Stephen H. Sumida's essay. Shirley Geok-lin Lim takes up issues of immigration and diaspora, while Jinqi Ling considers issues of identity crisis and gender politics from the perspective of Asian-American masculinity. Donald C. Goellnicht reprises some of the issues broached in the introduction in his essay, "Blurring Boundaries: Asian-American Literature as Theory." The book concludes with an extremely valuable bibliography, a resource for all who want an introduction to the area of Asian-American literary study and those who want to extend their understanding of perhaps the better-known Asian-American authors, like the Chinese-American writers Frank Chin, Maxine Hong Kingston, Amy Tan and Gish Jen or the Japanese-American authors Janice Mirikitani and Hisaye Yamamoto, to include other writers and those from other Asian ethnic groups. Each of the essays in Part One includes a bibliography relating to writers of specific ethnic literatures and at the end of Part Two these listings are collated and extended in the very helpful primary and secondary bibliographies.

This book offers a valuable resource to literary scholars in particular and Americanists in general. It is highly readable, very informative, and should find a place in every university library as well as on the reading lists for American literature survey courses.

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