This bibliography acknowledges the efforts of authors in the Hispanic American population. It covers literature by authors of Cuban, Mexican, and Puerto Rican descent who are or were U.S. citizens or long-term residents. It is made up of fiction and non-fiction books drawn from standard reviewing documents and other sources including online sources. Its purpose is to give users an idea of the kinds of materials available from Hispanic American authors. It is not meant to represent all titles or all formats which relate to the literature by authors of Hispanic American heritage writing in the United States. Presence of a title in the bibliography does not imply a recommendation by the Iowa Department of Education. The non-fiction materials are in the order they might appear in a library based on the Dewey Decimal Classification systems; the fiction follows. Each entry gives author if pertinent, title, publisher if known, and annotation. Other information includes designations for fiction or easy books; interest level; whether the book is in print; and designation of heritage of author. (JLB)
ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

NATIVE AMERICAN, AFRICAN AMERICAN, ASIAN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC AMERICAN LITERATURE

HISPANIC AMERICAN LITERATURE

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 1994

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ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

NATIVE AMERICAN, AFRICAN AMERICAN, ASIAN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC AMERICAN LITERATURE

For Preschool Through Adult

HISPANIC AMERICAN LITERATURE

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JANUARY 1994
PREFACE

A report by the Population Reference Bureau, Inc. on "America's Minorities - The Demographics of Diversity," predicts that half the school population in the United States will be made up of ethnic minorities early in the twenty-first century. Already the four largest groups - African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans make up a third of the school-age population. It, therefore, seemed appropriate to acknowledge the efforts of authors in this population.

This bibliography of fiction and nonfiction books was drawn from standard reviewing documents and other sources including on-line sources. It was prepared to give users an idea of the kinds of materials available. It is not meant to represent all titles or all formats which relate to the literature by authors of non-European heritage writing in the United States in English or whose writing has been translated into English. While we have consulted our sources carefully and have endeavored to eliminate authors not members of the designated ethnic group, and members of the designated group who are from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America or from Africa or Asia, we acknowledge the probability of errors in this bibliography and beg the user's pardon in such cases. We have also included collections of literature and folklore even if collected by persons not members of the designated group when the literature itself was all or partly by ethnic authors and if that folklore was developed in what is now the United States or has received major modification in that area. Presence of a title in the bibliography does not imply advocacy by the Department of Education.

The bibliography is divided into sections by the four major ethnic groups, African American, Asian American, Hispanic American and Native American. Each section is in classed order, that is, in the order materials might appear on the shelves of a library. Numbers assigned are from the Dewey Decimal system and are approximations of call numbers which might be assigned in a library or library media center. Fiction books are labeled with an "F" and Easy books for lower elementary and preschool are labeled with an "E". Entries give author where pertinent, title, publisher if known, and annotation. Most materials included were in print at the time the bibliography was prepared. Those known to be out of print are marked o.p. Publisher's address is given when known for companies not included in BOOKS IN PRINT. IL introduces the Interest Level when known or estimated. Abbreviations for ethnic groups will be explained in the appropriate section.
HISPANIC AMERICAN LITERATURE

Section Introduction

Among the sources used in the development of this segment of the bibliography are UNDERSTANDING CHICANO LITERATURE, by Carl R. Shirley and Paula W. Shirley (University of South Carolina Press, 1988), MEXICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE, edited by Charles Tatum (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1990) and NORTH OF THE RIO GRANDE: THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN SHORT STORY (Mentor, 1992). To the extent known, authors are identified as Cuban American, Mexican American, and Puerto Rican American. Chicano is considered a synonym of Mexican American which is the term used in this document for ethnic designation. Hispanic American is used when exact information is unavailable or when the author is other than the above. The abbreviations used include HA, PR, MA.

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305.8 Atkin, S. Beth. VOICES FROM THE FIELDS: CHILDREN OF MIGRANT FARMWORKERS TELL THEIR STORIES. Interviews and photographs by S. Beth Atkin. Little, Brown, 1993. IL Grades 3-12. HA

Children from nine to eighteen tell about their lives in prose statements or in poems.


Ten oral histories document the details of the lives of women of the author's mother and grandmother's generations.


During the three day celebration of the Fiesta of the Day of the Dead, a young boy and his family make preparations to honor the spirits of the dead. Special bread and other special foods, sugar skulls, candles, decorations of graves and altars, visits from family are all involved in the celebration.

398.2 Belpre, Pura. ONCE IN PUERTO RICO. Frederick Warne, 1973

Legends from Puerto Rico's past collected by a renowned children's story teller.

398.2 Belpre, Pura. THE RAINBOW COLORED HORSE. Frederick Warne, 1978

A variation of the tale of the magical horse of many colors, called a male Cinderella story.

Early folk stories from northern New Mexico and southern Colorado from the sixteenth century when Spanish began to explore and settle this area. SAYINGS AND RIDDLES IN NEW MEXICO, Borgo Press, 1982 is in print.


Sixty-four folk tales from New Mexico. Spanish regionalism, Anglicisms and idiomatic expressions will limit the appeal of the tales.


Niguayona, a hero from the Puerto Rican Taino people, is told by a golden-green macaw that he can help a friend who is ill buy bringing back to her the red fruit of a tall caimoni tree. This title and HOW WE CAME TO THE FIFTH WORLD/COMO VINIMOS AL QUINTO MUNDO: A CREATION STORY FROM ANCIENT MEXICO are volumes in the Tales of the Americas series.

398.2 West, John O. MEXICAN-AMERICAN FOLKLORE. August House, 1988. IL Grades 9-Adult. HA

Wide representation of Mexican-American folklore but many errors and poor photographs detract from the quality.


Several hundred Hispanic folk songs from the Southwest including romance, decima, canción and corrido.

783.65 Delacre, Lulu (Puerto Rican American). LAS NAVIDADES: POPULAR CHRISTMAS SONGS FROM LATIN AMERICA. Lyrics translated into English by Elena Paz (Hispanic American) Scholastic, 1992. IL Grades PK-3. HA

Christmas songs, mainly from Puerto Rico, but representing also Mexico and Venezuela, in English and Spanish. ARROZ CON LECHE; POPULAR SONGS AND RHYMES FROM LATIN AMERICA (Scholastic, 1989. Ages 2-5) offers Spanish and English versions for 12 songs and rhymes familiar to children in Latin America.

784.4 West, Patricia M. HISPANIC FOLK SONGS OF THE SOUTHWEST: AN INTRODUCTION (PART I) and FOR BILINGUAL PROGRAMS (PART II). University of Denver, Center for Teaching, etc., 1982. IL Grades K-12. HA
784.5 Delacre, Lulu (Puerto Rican American). **ARROZ CON LECHE: POPULAR SONGS AND RHYMES FROM LATIN AMERICA.** Scholastic, 1989. IL Grades PS-3. HA


Thirty-two page sampling of readings by Latin American authors for secondary students.

810.8 AZTLAN: AN ANTHOLOGY OF MEXICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE. Edited by Luis Valdez (Mexican American) and Stan Steiner. Random House, 1972. ©.p. IL Adult. HA

Mexican and Mexican American literature showing interrelationship of the two literatures from pre-Columbian period to 1960s.


Award-winning stories and poems from the Chicano Literature Contest held at the University of California, Irvine.

810.8 CHICANO VOICES. Edited by Carlota Cardenas de Dwyer (Mexican American). Houghton Mifflin, 1975. IL Grades 9-12. HA

Good introduction to Chicano literature. Useful teacher's guide.

810.8 CUBAN AMERICAN WRITERS: LOS ATREVIDOS. Selected by Carolina Hospital. Linden Lane Pr., 1989. IL Grades 9-Adult. CA

Authors included: Roberto Fernandez (fiction); Ricardo Pau-Llosa (poetry); Mercedes Limon (poetry); Pablo Medina (poetry, fiction); Iraidi Iturralde (poetry); Lourdes Gil (poetry); Jorge Guitart (poetry); Carlos Rubio (fiction); Bertha Sanchez-Bello, 1960- (poetry, essays); Elias Miguel Munoz (poetry, fiction); Gustavo Perez-Firmat (poetry); and Carolina Hospital (poetry).

810.8 GROWING UP LATINO: MEMOIRS AND STORIES. Houghton, 1993. Edited by Harold Augenbraum and Ilan Stavans. IL Grades 10-Adult. HA

Twenty-six essays and stories from contemporary Latino authors this is reviewed as a possible text for advanced high school and college level literature courses.
810.8 HISPANICS IN THE UNITED STATES: AN ANTHOLOGY OF CREATIVE LITERATURE, VOL. II. Edited by Gary D. Keller and Francisco Jimenez (Mexican Americans). Bilingual Rev. Pr., 1980. IL Adult. HA

Prose, poetry and theater. Vibrant writing in a textbook style package. Spanish items are not translated. Includes two sympathetic non-Hispanic writers. Reviewed as highly recommended.

810.8 HISPANICS IN THE UNITED STATES: AN ANTHOLOGY OF CREATIVE LITERATURE, VOL. II. Edited by Francisco Jimenez and Gary D. Keller (Mexican Americans). Bilingual Rev. Pr., 1982. IL Adult. HA

Prose, poetry and theater.


Spanish and English poems and stories, many of which are matched sets, represent well known Hispanic authors such as Nicholasa Mohr and Sandra Cisneros.

810.8 LAS MUJERES HABLAN: AN ANTHOLOGY OF NUEVO MEXICANA WRITERS. Edited by Diane Rebolledo, Eulinda Gonzales-Berry and Teresa Marquez. El Norte Publications, 1988 (Publisher not in BIP). IL Adult. HA

Selections from some of the best writing by Mexican American woman authors.


Contemporary fiction, nonfiction and poetry, much of it lucid, passionate and reflecting everyday life.

810.8 NOSOTRAS: LATINA LITERATURE TODAY. Edited by Maria del Carmen Boza, Beverly Silva and Carmen Valle (Hispanic Americans). Bilingual Review/Pr., 1986. IL Adult. HA

Thirty-five selections by authors from major Latin communities of the United States.

810.8 PUERTO RICAN WRITERS AT HOME IN THE USA: AN ANTHOLOGY. Edited by Faythe Turner. Open Hand, 1991. IL Grades 10-Adult. PR

Excerpts from fiction, short stories and poems by seventeen contemporary Puerto Rican authors. Includes Piri Thomas, Aurora Levins Morales and Judith Ortiz Cofer.

Native American, African American, Chicana and Asian women are represented in this anthology.


These stories and poems emphasize the cultural lives of Hispanics. All entries are presented in both languages.

810.8 VOCES: AN ANTHOLOGY OF NUEVO MEXICAN WRITERS. Edited by Rudolfo A. Anaya (Mexican American). University of New Mexico Press, 1987. IL Adult. HA

Contemporary prose and poetry in English and Spanish by residents and natives of New Mexico.

810.8 VOICE OF AZTLAN: CHICANO LITERATURE OF TODAY. Edited by Dorothy Harth and Lewis M. Baldwin. New American Library, 1974. ©.p. IL Adult. HA

Short stories, drama, poetry and portions of novels from Mexican American literature.


Mexican American Literature accompanied by incisive, thoughtful comments.

810.8 WOMAN OF HER WORD: HISPANIC WOMEN WRITE. Edited by Evangelina Vigil. Arte Publico Pr., 1983. HA

Prose, poetry and art by Chicana, Puero Rican, Cuban and other Latin American women.


Moving poems about the Latino experience in the United States. Poet does not use periods or commas. Spanish version contains numerous mistakes.


811 Alarcon, Francisco X. (Hispanic American). SNAKE POEMS: AN AZTEC INVOCATION. Chronicle, 1992. IL

Includes social protest pieces typical of 60s Chicano poetry and linguistic experiments combining barrio slang, Spanish and English. Contains DAWN'S EYE, and NATIONCHILD PLUMAROJA. Alurista uses Indian and sociopolitical themes.


A later collection.


A mock-epic poem of the Chicano political movement by a major Chicano novelist.

811 Baca, Jimmy Santiago (Mexican American). MARTIN AND MEDITATIONS ON THE SOUTH VALLEY. New Directions, 1986. IL Adult

Powerful imagery demonstrating understanding of change and unpredictability in lives of rural Hispanics who live on the edge of urban expansion. Other titles in print include IMMIGRANTS IN OUR OWN LAND AND SELECTED EARLY POEMS (New Directions, 1990).


"Exciting poetry" by an author more widely known for literary criticism.


Some of Castano's poems were in the 1986 edition of BEST NEW CHICANO LITERATURE (q.v.).


Striking imagery from one of the brightest poets on the Mexican American horizon covering intimate reflections and social commentary.


The woman's perspective, reflecting the anguish of living with drugs and violence always present, but also celebrating the support and comfort of friends and family.
811 Cisneros, Sandra (Mexican American). MY WICKED WICKED WAYS. Third Woman Press. Chicano Studies, University of California, 1988; Random Turtleback. IL Adult.

The narrator seeks to come to terms with the confusion and pain of childhood.


"Essential lessons" for young Mexican Americans on relationship with dominant Anglo culture. Graphic imagery and sharp wit. Primarily love poems, both sensual and spiritual, but also relates to Chicano movement.


Poetry from a historian and autobiographer.


May be in Spanish only. Another title in print is VENCIDO EL FUEGO DE LA ESPECIE. SLUSA, 1983.


The first Chicano literary work to set forth a social agenda. Written as rallying cry for young Chicanos of the 60s.


One of the poets of the Chicano political movement.

811 Leon, Nephtali de (Mexican American). CHICANO POET. IL Adult.

Chicano movement poet, playwright and writer of children's literature.

811 Leon, Nephtali de (Mexican American). COCA COLA DREAM. IL Adult.


Medina has also written MARKS OF LIGHT, a novel (not in BOOKS IN PRINT), and EXILED MEMORIES: A CUBAN CHILDHOOD (U. of Tex. Pr., 1990).

Narrator of these poems is a modern woman making her way in a conflict-ridden urban setting who finds peace in her ever present thoughts of the desert. BORDERS (Arte Publico, 1986); and COMMUNION (Arte Publico, 1991) are also in print.


Bilingual. Munoz's poetry tells of the pull of two cultures.


Won the national Anhinga Poetry Award. BREAD OF THE IMAGINED (Bilingual Rev.-Pr., 1992) is also available.


Gentle poetry, rich in images which echo Mexican American life close to the U.S.-Mexico border. LIME ORCHARD WOMAN (Sheep Meadow Press, 1988); TEODORA LUNA'S TWO KISSES (Norton, 1990, 1992); WHISPERING TO FOOL THE WIND (Sheep Meadow, 1982) are also in print. Called one of the most outstanding Chicano poets.


A respected writer, scholar and educator, better known for novels or short stories but also author of poetry of note.


By Chicano author whose stories won a prize in a Best Chicano literature award contest.


Celso is a philosopher, the town drunk, and a teller of tales. In him we see the way of life in a New Mexican village. Jorge Huerta has adapted this poetic work into I AM CELSO, a one-man show. GOING AWAY HOME INDIAN (Ahsahta Pr, 1990) is a newer book of poetry by Romero.


One of the poets who add vitality to Chicano verse.

Representative works of a poet always seeking for peace in a confused, compassionless world. Shows fine imagination and rich style.


Militant poetry representative of 60s Chicano movement. EAGLE-VISIONED - FEATHERED ADOBES: POEMS (Cinco Puntos, 1990) is also in print.


Chronicles life from 8 through fatherhood when he rediscovers the world with his daughter.


Powerful vignettes of Fresno, of field work and of human beings.

Soto, Gary (Mexican American). FATHER IS A PILLOW TIED TO A BROOM. Slow Loris, 1980. IL Adult.

There is striking imagery in this brief book. A little girl narrator thinks of her mother who is crazy, her father who is a drunk. Other poems tell of violence to children and some of the abandoned ones.


Poems about life in a Mexican American neighborhood, pinatas, fireworks, ordinary and startling moments in the life of a child.


Forty-one poems in quiet, conversational manner about everyday life of the poet's childhood. TALES OF SUNLIGHT (U. of Pittsburgh Pr., 1978), and WHERE SPARROWS WORK HARD (U. of Pittsburgh Pr., 1981) are also in print.

Ulibarri, Sabine, 1919- (Hispanic American). AL CIELO SE SUBE A PIE [YOU GET TO HEAVEN ON FOOT], 1966. IL Adult.

The author expresses a strong loyalty to his Mexican American heritage in this title and in AMOR Y ECUADOR [LOVE AND ECUADOR] (1966, o.p.)
811 Valle, Carmen (Puerto Rican American). UN POCO DE LO NO DICHO. O.P. IL Adult.


Strong, independent feminine voice which tells of the barrio and family life, of loneliness and love, cutting through sexist cliches with wry humor.


Expresses desire to return to cosmic womb using trees and birds, but also blood, milk and breasts as images.


Continues exploration of the theme of birthing, here relating it to her own childhood through young adulthood. As a child she equates child birth with elimination. Preservation of self in a harsh environment and exploring her feminine self rather than her Chicana self are themes of this and other collections by Alma Villanueva. LIFESPAN (Place of Herons Pr., 1984, i.p.) and POEMS which won the Third Chicano Literary Prize, Irvine 1976-1977 are other titles.


Delightfully challenging poetry with multiple meanings and levels of imagery.


Over forty poets thought to be marginalized by Eurocentric Culture including Hispanic, African, Native and Asian Americans.

811.08 INVENTING A WORD: AN ANTHOLOGY OF TWENTIETH-CENTURY PUERTO RICAN POETRY. Edited by Julio Marzan. Columbia U. Pr, 1980. IL Grades 10-Adult. PR


Contains introductory essay by editor and poetry by Alfonso Rodriguez, El Huitlacoche, Leroy V. Quintana, Alma Villanueva, and Carmen Tafolla.

811.08 RESTLESS SERPENTS. IL Adult. HA

A collection of Mexican American Poetry including Jose Antonio Burciaga and Bernice Zamora.

812 El Teatro Campesino and Luis Valdez, 1940- (Mexican American).

LUIS VALDEZ - EARLY WORKS: ACTOS, BERNABE, AND PENSAMIENTO SERPENTINO. Arte Publica, 1990. IL Adult. HA

A collection of plays by Luis Valdez. Valdez was an initiator of El Teatro Campesino which tried to serve as a voice of the barrios, to inform the Chicanos of oppressive conditions and their rich heritage. They developed actos or improvisational skits, often with a humorous punchline, mitos, which include themes such as history, legend and religion and corridos or ballads. BERNABE is a mitos about the village idiot who wishes to marry the Earth.


Includes the title play, EVERY FAMILY HAS ONE, and THE IMPERFECT BACHELOR.


Includes title play and EL JARDIN, LOS DORADOS, and RANCHO HOLLYWOOD, the first two of which are published separately by Players Press (1991). EL JARDIN is a parody of Eden with Eve complaining of beans and the serpent calling her his little enchilada. LOS DORADOS (THE GOLDEN ONES) views 150 years of Mexicans in the United States. RANCHO HOLLYWOOD is a satire of Latinos in movies and on TV. The title play is Morton’s most famous. It is based on a real incident when an Anglo police chief was tried for slaying a Chicano. Danny’s wife tells of his many deaths: born poor; poorly educated; shot; buried and finally killed again in court when the police chief gets two to ten years for aggravated assault. JOHNNY TENORIO AND OTHER PLAYS (Arte Publico, 1992) is also in print.


The title play is two acts. The other plays, PUENTE NEGRO; AUTUMN GOLD; and BLACKLIGHT, are all three acts. The title play presents a scene from the life of Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, celebrated Mexican writer and feminist thinker. BLACKLIGHT tells of the disintegration of a border town Chicano family.


Ramirez wrote the Teatro de la Esperanza (Theater of Hope) of Santa Barbara. One of his plays, LA BOLSA NEGRA (THE BLACK BRIEFCASE) is reviewed as a Chicano version of "Pardoner's Tale" by Chaucer. A group of Chicanos finds a briefcase full of money. First they decide to divide it, then they each become greedy. In the end they appeal to the audience to be unselfish.


The Chicano play which is best known to Anglo audiences, ZOOT SUIT is a musical which had a long run in California and a short run at the Winter Garden Theater on Broadway in 1979. It includes elements of the acto, mito and corrido forms developed by Valdez and El Teatro Campesino. In ZOOT SUIT, Henry Reyna and the members of his gang are arrested and convicted for killing another Chicano. After a successful appeal they must return to a world which still has no room for them and their arrest gave the press an excuse to instigate riots and Anglo soldiers and sailors an alibi for beating up on anyone in a zoot suit. The play ran for 46 weeks in Los Angeles but was not successful in New York. See also 812 El Teatro Campesino.


Chicano Heritage Series.


Includes THE INTERVIEW by Ron Arias, BRUJERIAS by Rodrigo Duarte-Clark, SUN IMAGES by Estela Portillo Trambley, RANCHO HOLLYWOOD by Carlos Morton, and MANOLO by Ruben Sierra, and others.


Some twenty-five authors who represent a true American mosaic, including Toli Morrison, Frank Chin, Jessica Hagedorn, Salvatore La Puma, Leslie Silko and Milton Murayama.
813.08 CUENTOS CHICANOS: A SHORT STORY ANTHOLOGY. Edited by Rudolfo A. Anaya (Mexican American) and Antonio Marquez. Rev. ed. New America, University of New Mexico, 1989. IL Grades 10-Adult. HA

Balanced collection of 21 short stories by prominent contemporary Mexican American authors such as Anaya, Ron Arias, Denise Chavez and Alberto Rios. Mostly in English.

813.08 IGUANA DREAMS: NEW LATINO FICTION. Harper Collins, 1992. IL Adult. HA

An excellent introduction to styles and themes in contemporary Latino fiction. Includes standards like Rolando Hinojosa and Sandra Cisneros as well as newcomers.

813.08 MIRRORS BENEATH THE EARTH: SHORT FICTION BY CHICANO WRITERS. Curbstone, 1992. IL Adult. MA

New fiction from thirty-one California and Southwest Mexican American writers. Most are not yet established but this is a good selection teating barrio life, black magic, Catholicism, borders, family, redemption and poverty.

813.08 TIERRA: CONTEMPORARY SHORT FICTION OF NEW MEXICO. Edited by Rudolfo A. Anaya (Mexican American). Cinco Puntos, 1989. IL Adult. HA

813.08 Cervantes, Esther De Michael, and Alex Cervantes. BARRIO GHOSTS. New Readers Press, 1988. IL Grades 6-9. HA

Five ghosts stories with Hispanic flavor and much action.

813.08 A GATHERING OF FLOWERS; STORIES ABOUT BEING YOUNG IN AMERICA. Harper & Row, 1990. IL 9-12. AF, AA, HA, NA.

Short stories on "what it means to be ethnic and American." Includes Ana Castillo

920 Galarza, Ernesto and Herman Gallegos (Mexican Americans) MEXICAN AMERICANS IN THE SOUTHWEST. Ani-Defamation League, n.d. IL Adult.


The coming of age as a Chicano, an "underground" classic since 1972.


A cross between autobiography and novel, this is the story of Acosta's service to his people as a legal counsel during the period of great unrest among the Chicano people in Los Angeles from 1968-1970. He evokes Mexican revolutionary heroes like Zapata in his writing.
Sandra Martin Arnold was born in Cuba and has lived in the United States since the age of twelve. She writes of another Cuban, a stellar ballerina who continued to perform well enough to win numerous honors and prizes despite failing eyesight which began with a detached retina when she was twenty.

Folk singer, famous in the 1960s and 1970s writes of her Hispanic roots, and her gradual move away from them as she became a successful performer.

Abandoned with over 200 other men when Narvaez met hostile Indians in Florida in 1527, Cabeza de Vaca and some other survivors gradually made their way west, suffering disease and slavery.

Galarza's family migrated from the mountains in Mexico to a northern California urban barrio.

In this autobiographical account, a Mexican American leaves his home in Texas to find adventure. Rough and ready tales of the Wild West.

Honest portrayal of stormy personal life and highly visible public life of a musician, civil rights worker and internationally known pacifist. Hispanics of Achievement series.

Stories from her childhood along the border. Understated humor.


Oral historian Buss has blended diaries and spoken words of Lucas who escaped a violent husband and became an organizer for the United Farm Workers in Illinois and was sprayed with pesticides in Texas. Inspiring but not starry-eyed.


A convincing, exhilarating vision of a new Latino culture running from San Salvador to Los Angeles. Will delight and provoke. Covers hip-hop, priests and anarchists.


Niza was a Italian friar who came to the New World as part of the Spanish missionary effort. He led an expedition seeking for the wealth Cabeza de Vaca reported and was labeled "The Lying Monk" by his contemporaries because of his description of a grand city.


Wild West towns of Colorado and Mexico at the time of Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickok are the subject of this autobiography of a Mexican American.


Lyric images, autobiographical essays and poetry set in a Puerto Rican pueblo and a New Jersey apartment by a poet and novelist. Her first novel was IN LINE OF THE SUN.

Prieto tells of his life from when he was a young doctor in central Mexico to his experience of "institutionalized racism" at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. Inspiring and activist.


Movie star and Mexican American, Quinn describes growing up poor in a barrio and bidding for a career as an actor.


By award winning Chicano author. *The Concrete River* (Curbstone, 1991) is another available title. Colorful characters, shootings, rapes, funerals and other highly charged events but reviewed as written in a "forgettable" style.

921 Serra, Fray Junipero, 1713-1784 (Mexican American). *Writings of Junipero Serra.* Not in BOOKS IN PRINT. IL Adult.

Writings of Junipero Serra. Journal of missionary important to the missions in the southwest including what is now California.


Attacked by Chicano critics and praised by mainstream periodicals, Rodriguez autobiography appears to favor assimilation and to reject bilingual education.

921 Thomas, Piri (Puerto Rican African American). *Down These Mean Streets.* Random Vintage. IL Adult.

Confessional autobiography of a man of Puerto Rican and African ancestry living in Spanish Harlem. Drugs, street fighting and armed robbery were a part of Thomas's search for identity, but he was able to move from machismo to manhood.


Carefully researched reinterpretation of Mexican American history in which author takes issue with Anglo historians, show their view of history to be distorted.
Hispanic population of Southwest has been indigenous since 16th century and feel it is their homeland.

An indictment against U.S. policy makers with which some will agree and others will not.

The cultural heritage in Mexico and the United States, the changing role, the images of women in literature and Chicana feminism.

Rodriguez looks at Mexico and California, reflecting both the "dark Latin skepticism" of his Catholic, Mexican father and the "naive cherry tree of Protestant imagining" from his mother.

Short stories. Publisher is not in BOOKS IN PRINT.

A novel which draws on the author's personal experience of rural life in northern New Mexico, this is the story of a Mexican American boy growing to adulthood under the tuition of a wise faith healer. This novel is said to "match" POCHO by Villareal, and LORD OF THE DAWN: THE LEGEND OF QUETZALCOATL (University of New Mexico Press, 1987) are also in print.

This year Grandpa cannot light the big bonfire the shepherds always choose for the performance of their Christmas play, so Luz has to improvise. An explanation of how luminarias might have begun.

Frequently labeled as social protest, this novel tells of the terrible results when rural Chicanos migrate to the big city. Less polished than BLESS ME, ULTIMA.

Short novel on a famous figure from folklore. I BURIED BILLY (Creative Texas, 1991), ALBUQUERQUE (U. of N. Mex. Native American Studies, 1992); and CHICANO IN CHINA (U. of N. Mex. Pr., 1986) are more recent titles.


Short stories by an accomplished novelist. Three of the stories are from novels. The collection presents a variety. In the title story a man loses his wife in childbirth and retreats into silence until the child, a girl, is raped sixteen years later. He and the child begin life again. Two stories tell of events in the lives of Mexican boys.


A sixteen-year-old paralyzed boy in a body cast is the Tortuga or Turtle of the title. This is a first-person narration of his recovery from a serious accident. Rich in imagery, symbolism and magical characters.


"A true story of courage and survival."


The author uses fantasy and reality to present insights about death, life and contemporary society. The central character is a terminally ill book collector and dealer. This book was nominated for the National Book Award.


Mexican American family forced to live the life of migrant workers in California. Inner torment of wife is especially poignant.


Alfredo Flores is orphaned and made wealthy by the same airplane accident. Heir to his family's travel insurance, he must learn to figure out who he is in his new environment. Betancourt, who also writes under the name Tom Paisley, is of Puerto Rican heritage. Bethancourt in BOOKS IN PRINT.

The three divisions represent 1883, 1942 and 1970. The 1883 segment is about 6 Anglo settlers who take Mexican lands in Texas. Part two covers World War II and the zoot-suit clad Chicanos and the tension between races as Mexican landowners are reduced to field hands. The 1970 section features a prominent character who comes back to his father's funeral and decides to stay and try to help his people.


The protagonist searches for personal identity by traveling to Mexico and Spain futilely searching for family origins. His son grows up in California and marries an Anglo. This is the first book of a trilogy. The second book, NOT BY THE SWORD (Bilingual Pr., 1982), covers the Mexican American War, 1846-1848, and the Rafa family's absorption by the Yankees. Carlos Rafa is killed, and his brother leaves the priesthood to marry and carry on the family name. In INHERITANCE OF STRANGERS (Bilingual Pr., 1985) former priest Jose Rafa III tries to infuse the heritage and oral tradition of New Mexico and the Rafa family including crazy Uncle Pedro whose family lost everything in California. Near the end of the story the eldest grandson dies, threatening family continuity but Jose Rafa turns to the next grandson, "Once upon a time... there was a land called New Mexico."


The reader is offered three patterns for reading this novel made up of forty letters by Teresa, a poet, to Alicia, her artist friend. The "conformist" is charged to read 29 of the letters, the "cynic", 32, and the "quixotic", 34. A captivating book revealing much about relationships in Mexico and the United States between men and women and women's efforts to change her role in male-dominated societies. SAPOGONIA (Bilingual Rev. Pr., 1990) is another recent title.


Fourteen stories about New Mexico from colonial days through mid 20th century. About the Indo-Hispano people of New Mexico's small towns. One story, "A Romeo and Juliet Story In Early New Mexico," is like its namesake without the carnage. FROM AN ALTAR SCREEN, EL RETALBLO: TALES FROM NEW MEXICO is available in a facsimile of the 1957 edition from Ayer.

Semi-autobiographical short stories about growing up Hispanic and female in New Mexico in the 50s. Nostalgic, ironic humor. Also in print, FACE OF AN ANGEL (Arte Publico, 1991).


Short stories about life in a Mexican American barrio in Chicago with enough unity to pass as a novel. Esperanza Cordero tells of the beauty and desolation of tenement life, of the fetters of gender and class and race. Winner of 1985 Before Columbus American Book Award. Cisneros attended the University of Iowa Writer's Workshop.


A "stunning collection" of stories about eleven-year-olds and witches and others, filled with wisdom and love.


A fast paced novel about a young native of Puerto Rico living in New York. Mature readers will appreciate the passions, tragedies and family love expressed.


Delia searches for meaning first through family, then political militancy, then through a personal relationship. Corpi is an important new Mexican American author. EULOGY FOR A BROWN ANGEL: A MYSTERY NOVEL (Arte Publico, 1992) and VARIACIONES SOBRE UNA TEMPESTAD: VARIATIONS ON A STORM (Third Woman, 1990) are other recent titles. Her book of early poems, PALABRAS DE MEDIA NOON WORDS is out of print.


A spoof written as if by a 60s cult figure. The "author" states that "This book is meant to make people laugh." The protagonist serves an apprenticeship and enjoys adventures with two masons.


Delgado published his first poetry collection in 1969, CHICANO: 25 PIECES OF A CHICANO MIND. None of his poetry is listed in BOOKS IN PRINT, but this novel, which is highly personal, reflects the concerns for social justice present in his poetry.

In the title story, Rosa, a young girl, plays a flute. As she grows up and adjusts to being an adult, she is no longer interested in music. In another story a young man meets a beautiful girl at a dance. He lends her his coat when he walks her home. The next day he goes to pick up his coat and the woman at the house tells him her daughter has been dead for thirty years. To convince him, she takes him to the cemetery, and their hangs his coat on her headstone. Elizondo’s sensitive, almost poetic stories, do still address the socioeconomic realities of the Chicano world.


This is a novel about Cubans in the United States. There is quite a little use of language that will not be understood by Anglos and some which will be found offensive. Another in print title is LA MONASA RUSA (Arte Publico, 1985).


The protagonist is overwhelmed by the social and political problems of the Mexican American and suffers an identity crisis. Large cast of characters, many of whom are members of a Chicano family whose lives reveal the truth about the mythologized history of Texas. Garcia’s first novel, LEAVING HOME, is currently out of print, but HARDSCRUB (Arte Publico, 1990) is in print. The author is a veterinarian.


Two young men become outlaws and then participants in Mexico’s 1910 revolution. One of the young men turns out to be Pancho Villa. Fast paced novel by Mexican American author.


The protagonist is a patriarch of a Mexican American family who sees his values change and disintegrate as family members become involved in illegal activities. Also in print, ONLY SONS (Arte Publico, 1991).

F Griego y Maestas, Jose and Rudolfo A. Anaya (Mexican Americans). CUENTOS: TALES FROM THE HISPANIC SOUTHWEST. Museum of New Mexico Pr., 1981. IL All ages.

Folk tales, adapted in Spanish by Griego y Maestas and retold in English by Anaya.
F Hinojosa-Smith, Rolando R. (Mexican American). KLAIL CITY.  

First Chicano novel to win Premio Casa de las Americas (Havana) award in 1976. BECKY AND HER FRIENDS, Klail City Death Trip Series (Arte Publico, 1990) is also in print. Other titles, currently available, include KOREAN LOVE SONGS: FROM KLAIL CITY DEATH TRIP (Editorial Justa, 1978), CLAROS VARONES DE BELKEN/FAIR GENTLEMEN OF BELKEN COUNTY. (Bilingual Pr., 1986), and THIS MIGRANT EARTH (Arte Publico Pr., 1987).


Departing from usual Mexican American novel, the author creates a mystery, complete with cops, robbers, murder and fast pace.


The decadence of Anglo social elite in South Texas is subject of first novel of a Mexican American author.


Short stories set in a fictional South Texas county in the 1930-1950s reflecting the traditions and values of the Spanish speaking community.


Partially autobiographical novel about growing up on the border between the United States and Mexico. Essentially six stories with one narrator in typical style of magical reality of Latin American literature. MIGRANT SOULS: A NOVEL (Morrow 1990; Avon, 1991) is a more recent publication.


Camilla Draper, whose mother has recently died, is invited to Colombia to a celebration honoring her grandfather, only to begin to question whether he deserved the honor. Sensitive novel about dealing with grief and human imperfection.

A complex political situation in a South American city results in house arrest for a family because of the father's political activities. An absorbing story which offers an exploration of principled response to repression. Novelist grew up in Colombia and now lives in the U. S. Winner of Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction.


Keller uses El Huitlachoche as a pseudonym. His short stories are told by this person. In one of his stories a Mexican American invents the automatic jumping bean, but his idea is swiped by Anglos and he gets no money for it. In another a divorced father and his son who is called Mocha because of his mixed blood and skin color, spend an illegal night in Disneyland talking about the boy's heritage. Keller uses a comic, burlesque style to point out human absurdity. ZAPATA ROSE IN NINETEEN NINETY-TWO AND OTHER TALES (Bilingual Rev. Pr., 1985, 1992) is a newer collection.


Known as poet, playwright and children's author.


F Martinez, Max (Mexican American). THE ADVENTURES OF THE CHICANO KID AND OTHER STORIES. Arte Publico, 1989. IL ?


In frank and strong language, as if told by a adolescent boy, the author tells of the daily life of a Mexican American family in Texas in the 1950s. Deeply felt, complex novel.


Using poetic language, the author creates moving characters and scenes among the Mexican population and the Yaqui Indians along the Sonora-Arizona border. PEREGRINOS DE AZTLAN. (Editorial Justa, 1978; Bilingual Rev. Pr., 1991) or PILGRIMS OF AZTLAN is set in Tijuana in a stream of consciousness style with mix of English, Spanish and Calo, the street language of urban Chicanos.

Short stories about miserable conditions of Mexicans and Yaqui Indians along the border. Another group of stories is CUENTOS PARA NIÑOS TRAVIESOS (Editorial Justa, 1979).


Felita, a Puerto Rican growing up in New York, experiences racism and prejudice. Her resilient spirit and her special relationship with her grandmother sustain her.


In a sequel to FELITA the girl goes back to Puerto Rico with an uncle only to discover that she doesn't fit there either. See also NILDA by Mohr (Harper Collins, 1973; Art Publico, 1986. IL Grades 5-up).


Bitter conflict between wealthy Anglo family and Mexican family brought to California as "bricks" to build the state. Also in print THE RAG DOLL PLAGUES (Arte Publico, 1992) and DEATH OF AN ANGLO (Bilingual Rev. Pr., 1988).


Novel which tells of people trying to leave Cuba and their memories of their native land. THE GREAT PERFORMANCE (Arte Publico, 1991) is also in print.


Short Stories (or novel) showing compassion, comedy, irony and tragedy. Also wrote poetry MEXICAN SILHOUETTES and plays.

F Otero, Nina, 1882-1965 (Mexican American). Old Spain in Our Southwest. IL Adult. Not in BOOKS IN PRINT.

Short stories by a Mexican American woman who was superintendent of schools in Santa Fe County and education director of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration in Puerto Rico.

Short stories by the first major female Chicano prose writer to publish her work. Her writings are critical of American society and Chicano traditions and social structures that discriminate against women. The title story tells of a Vietnam veteral named Fito who tries to get townspeople to resist mine owners who oppress both people and ecology. After a catastrophic flood which devastates the town and unearths a nest of scorpions, the man and a woman called Lupe, like Noah and his wife, begin life anew.


Trini, one of many illegal Mexican immigrants suffers as do others, but triumphs in the end.


The protagonist leaves El Paso and travels to several major U.S. cities experiencing the dark side of homosexuality. Rechy's works may relate to the Chicano experience but they also address homosexuality. Other titles in print include THE FOURTH ANGEL (Grove Pr., 1983), BODIES AND SOULS, and MARILYN'S DAUGHTER (Carroll and Graf, 1983 and 1989), THE MIRACULOUS DAY OF AMALIA GOMEZ (Arcade, 1991), and NUMBERS and THE SEXUAL OUTLAW: A DOCUMENTARY (both Grove Pr., 1990).


Also available in Spanish as HAY ROCA EN TU COCA.


Other in print titles include, ASINANO (Veracruz Pubs., 1990), SCHOOL ADVENTURES: AVENTURAS ESCOLARES. (Veracruz Pubs., 1989), and A SOUND MIND IN A SOUND BODY (Veracruz Pubs., 1990).


Border crossings, adapting to a new culture and bewilderment of new immigrants are reflected in these short stories. The title story is about a boy who kills iguanas - a local food staple, sees his first snow on a visit to grandmother's and makes a crib from a giant sea turtle for the mother of a newborn. In "The Child, two women on a bus trip discover a dead child. The father had told them he was en route to the United States to see a specialist for the child. In the conclusion the reader discovers that the boy was long dead, his intestines removed and his body used to smuggle opium. In most cases, however, the author accentuates positive aspects of Chicano or Mexican life.

In this 1971 award-winning book, Rivera chooses as a central character, a young boy who experiences the abrupt changes that migrant agricultural workers face. In English and Spanish. THE MIGRANT EARTH (Arte Publico, 1986) is another English-Spanish title available.


Written as if an autobiography of Mateo Romero, the book shifts from childhood to adulthood to youth with no pattern. Focuses on Mateo's love for a gypsy woman whom he gives up because he would have had to leave his home and land.


Hailed as an outstanding first novel, this book tells of a fifteen year old gang member sent to a brutal prison where he is forced to murder to survive. BUFFALO NICKEL (Arte Publico, 1992) is also available.


This short story is his only fiction work. Not published as a separate work.


Stories of cats, graduate students, children, friendship, love, and politics in California towns. Some are nostalgic with a mixture of sadness or bitterness. One tells of a divorced mother who must send her uncontrollable daughter to a juvenile home.


Eleven short stories about contemporary youth such as Michael and Jesse who try out for Little League for the third year in a row and Lupe Medrano with a sharp mind and the will to be a champion. Soto's first collection of short stories for young people won the 1990 Beatty Award, and PARENTING magazine's Reading Magic Award.


Better known as a poet, Soto presents eloquent stories giving a wide range of experiences of growing up a male Mexican American living in a barrio. Other in print titles include SUMMER LIFE (University Press of New England, 1990; Dell, 1991); BASEBALL IN APRIL AND OTHER STORIES (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. Grades 7-up).

Short stories set in a Mexican American neighborhood of a boy whose older brother teases him with a picture taken of him in the shower, a girl who wants to be an outstanding racquetball player and of nearly a dozen other youthful protagonists encountering the joys and sorrows of young life.


Novel for middle grades. Lincoln and Tony take up kempo (a martial art) and are selected to go to Japan as exchange students. By the time the boys are ready to return home they have learned that people everywhere are a lot like the ones back home.

F Soto, Gary (Mexican American). SMALL FACES. Arte Publico, University of Houston, 1986. IL Grades 9-12.

Brief reminiscences on family, friends, Mexicans, Okies and poverty.


Novel for middle grades. Lincoln Mendoza is fourteen when he and his mother move to the suburbs in San Francisco where he is considered star basketball material, but he has to choose between loyalty to old friends and team and to this new school.


Bilingual collection of fifteen stories using the oral tradition of Spanish writer Juan Manuel (EL CONDE LUCANOR). Themes are bilingualism, death, war, music and play.


A racist, fundamentalist preacher marries a Chicana, he insists on calling Marie. He is frustrated emotionally, spiritually, culturally and sexually until he becomes unbalanced enough to kill his wife. Presents a perverted picture of an Anglo paradise which sacrifices all who do not conform. Outside the general realm of Chicano literature.


Folkloric tales in both Spanish and English, well told. Also in print are the short story collections GOBERNADOR GLU GLU Y OTROS CUENTOS - GOVERNOR GLU GLU AND OTHER STORIES (Bilingual Review : ress, 1988); and MI ABUELA FUMABA PUROS - MY GRANDMA SMOKED CIGARS (T Q S Pubns, 1978).
F Ulibarri, Sabine Reyes, 1919- (Mexican American). PRIMEROS ENCUENTROS/FIRST ENCOUNTERS. BILINGUAL PR., 1982. IL ADULT.

*Tells of the first encounter between a gentle, generous "Gringo" and Ulibarri's home town. Evokes the spirit and vitality of old, but changing, way of life.*


*Short Stories by an author born Julio G. Arce in Guadalajara who came to San Francisco in 1915. His sketches were biting and witty. Some of the play on words is lost in translation.*


*This novel addresses the changes - social and psychological - a Mexican immigrant family faces learning to survive in an alien culture, losing too many of their own cultural values.*


*These short stories offer a feminist perspective of women in Mexican American culture.*


E Delacre, Lulu (Puerto Rican American). VEJIGANTES MASQUERADE. Scholastic, 1993


*Juan Bobo takes care of the pig by dressing it in mamacita's best dress and jewels and sending it off to church.*