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be read by anyone concerned with the future of academic programs for American Indian students.

The *Abstracts of Native Studies* series is a landmark effort both for the introductory status reports and for the major contribution the bibliographic effort makes towards the development of an intellectual foundation for Native studies.

Louis A. Hieb  
University of Arizona

**Fools Crow.** By James Welch. New York: Viking Penguin, Inc., 1986. 391 pages. \$18.95 Cloth. \$7.95 Paper.

James Welch is of Gros Ventre and Blackfeet (Piegan) descent, and he has become one of North America's most important novelists. His earlier works are *Winter In The Blood* (1972) and *The Death Of Jim Loney* (1979), both of which brought him wide acclaim as a writer ranking with Ivan Doig and Wallace Stegner among Western writers.

Welch's Indian heritage makes him special as a writer. He attended schools on the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning, and at Fort Belknap, Montana. His first two novels, somber and bleak, artful and poignant, depict the hopelessness of twentieth century reservation Indian life. But through them, decency, compassion and abiding love among Indian kin and friends transcend the miseries and tragedies.

*Fools Crow* is about the Lone Eaters band of the Blackfeet tribe on the exquisite Two Medicine River in the vicinity of what is now Glacier National Park and which forms part of the Blackfeet Reservation.

Welch brings back Blackfeet life of the late 1800s in vivid detail and with painstaking ethnographic accuracy. Some of the characters and incidents related in the book are based on stories told by living members of the Blackfeet Nation. *Fools Crow*, the protagonist, is one of these characters. His life is followed from youth to manhood, and it is marked by the agonies of watching the old ways die as the Napikwans (whites) homestead Blackfeet lands and send soldiers to punish and control the tribe.

There are many fine biographical works on Plains Indians—

Frank Lindeman's *Plenty Coups* (Crow) and John Neihardt's classic *Black Elk Speaks* (Sioux), being among the best. Although Lindeman and Neihardt's book are biographies and Welch's work is a novelized biography, *Fools Crow* excels the other works in historicity and artistry. Welch is a compelling storyteller and an honest, methodical scholar.

Based on all the reading I have done on Blackfeet life (James Willard Schulze, George Bird Grinnell, Walter McClintock, John Ewers, and others), Welch is the master of Blackfeet history and life.

*Fools Crow* is an excellent choice for anthropology courses on Plains Indian ethnology, culture contact and history; it would be equally important in literature courses on the Western frontier. Readers will enjoy English renderings of Blackfeet terms for animals, human beings, Blackfeet guardian and protector spirits and the United States cavalry. Furthermore, the descriptions and meanings of dreams, the accounts of frequent, suspenseful battles among tribes and the final and crushing Blackfeet accommodations to white military, demographic and technical domination are transporting and tragic.

We are all fortunate that some one of James Welch's immense talent has produced one of the most important works on Plains Indian life.

Lynn A. Robbins

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**The Seminole.** By Merwyn S. Garbarino. New York: Chelsea House Publishers. 112 pages. \$16.95 Cloth.

At the outset let me express my biases. I have long been an appreciative user of professor Garbarino's previous works dealing with the Florida Seminole people. Although she has published relatively little on the Seminoles, her 1972 monograph *Big Cypress: A Changing Seminole Community* was a tightly structured ethnography based on field work conducted on the Big Cypress reservation. It remains one of the best studies of tribal decision making and leadership among the contemporary Florida Indians. Therefore I was eager to review her latest work. Perhaps because I expected too much, I was a bit disappointed.