



Oral Traditions

Ruth Finnegan



Oral Traditions:

Oral Tradition as History Jan M. Vansina, 1985-09-06 Jan Vansina's 1961 book *Oral Tradition* was hailed internationally as a pioneering work in the field of ethno history. Originally published in French, it was translated into English, Spanish, Italian, Arabic, and Hungarian. Reviewers were unanimous in their praise of Vansina's success in subjecting oral traditions to intense functional analysis. Now Vansina, with the benefit of two decades of additional thought and research, has revised his original work substantially, completely rewriting some sections and adding much new material. The result is an essentially new work indispensable to all students and scholars of history, anthropology, folklore, and ethno history who are concerned with the transmission and potential uses of oral material. Those embarking on the challenging adventure of historical fieldwork with an oral community will find the book a valuable companion filled with good practical advice. Those who already have collected bodies of oral material or who strive to interpret and analyze that collected by others will be forced to subject their own methodological approaches to a critical reexamination in the light of Vansina's thoughtful and provocative insights. For the second time in a quarter of a century, we are profoundly in the debt of Jan Vansina. *Research in African Literatures* Oral Traditions as History is an essential addition to the basic literature of African history. *American Historical Review* The Palgrave Handbook of African Oral Traditions and Folklore Akintunde Akinyemi, Toyin Falola, 2021-03-05 This handbook offers the most comprehensive analytic and multidisciplinary study of oral traditions and folklore in Africa and the African Diaspora to date. Preeminent scholars Akintunde Akinyemi and Toyin Falola assemble a team of leading and rising stars across African Studies research to retrieve and renew the scholarship of oral traditions and folklore in Africa and the Diaspora just as critical concerns about their survival are pushed to the forefront of the field. With five sections on the central themes within orality and folklore, including engagement ranging from popular culture to technology, methods to pedagogy, this handbook is an indispensable resource to scholars, students, and practitioners of oral traditions and folklore preservation alike. This definitive reference is the first to provide detailed systematic discussion and up-to-date analysis of African oral traditions and folklore. **Oral Tradition** Jan Vansina, Oral Traditions and the Verbal Arts Ruth H. Finnegan, 1992

Storytelling around the World Jelena Cvorovic, Kathryn Coe, 2022-03-29 Explore storytelling as an art form that has existed for centuries, from the first spoken and sung stories to those that are drawn and performed today. This book serves as an indispensable resource for students and scholars interested in storytelling and in multicultural approaches to the arts. By taking an evolutionary approach, it begins with a discussion of origin stories and continues through history to stories of the 21st century. The text not only engages the stories themselves, it also explains how individuals from all disciplines, from doctors and lawyers to priests and journalists, use stories to focus their readers' and listeners' attention and influence them.

"That's What They Used to Say" Donald L. Fixico, 2017-10-12 As a child growing up in rural Oklahoma, Donald Fixico often heard his grandparents say what they used to say, a phrase Muskogean and Seminoles use to end stories. In his latest work

Fixico who is Shawnee Sac and Fox Mvskoke as Muskogee is spelled in the Mvskoke language and Seminole invites readers into his own oral tradition to learn how storytelling legends and prophecies and oral histories and creation myths knit together to explain the Indian world Interweaving the storytelling and traditions of his ancestors Fixico conveys the richness and importance of oral culture in Native communities and demonstrates the power of the spoken word to bring past and present together creating a shared reality both immediate and historical for Native peoples Fixico's stories conjure war heroes and ghosts inspire fear and laughter explain the past and foresee the future and through them he skillfully connects personal familial tribal and Native history Oral tradition Fixico affirms at once reflects and creates the unique internal reality of each Native community Stories possess spiritual energy and by summoning this energy storytellers bring their communities together Sharing these stories and the larger story of where they come from and how they work That's What They Used to Say offers readers rare insight into the oral traditions at the very heart of Native cultures in all of their rich and infinitely complex permutations Teaching Oral Traditions John Miles Foley, 1998 Contains articles by a variety of teacher scholars in which they discuss the nature and scope of oral traditions in literature examine methods for studying oral traditions present tutorials on commonly taught works and areas and review pedagogical examples and audiovisual resources

Oral Traditions and the Verbal Arts Ruth Finnegan, 2003-09-02 Provides up to date guidance on how to approach the study of oral forms and their performances examining both the practicalities of fieldwork and the methods by which oral texts and performances can be observed collected and analysed Native American Oral Traditions Larry Evers, Barre Toelken, 2001 A collaboration between Native American and non Native American scholars in the study of Native oral traditions Seven sets of intercultural authors present Native American oral texts with commentary exploring dimensions of perspective discovery and meaning that emerge through collaborative translation and interpretation The texts studied all come from the American West but include a rich variety of material since their tribal sources range from the Yupik in the Arctic to the Yaqui in the Sonoran Desert **Oral Traditions and Storytelling** Anita Yasuda, 2017-06 Explores the role of storytelling in Indigenous culture and how they are keeping their oral traditions alive for future generations The Native American Oral Tradition Lois J. Einhorn, 2000-04-30 Einhorn a rhetorical scholar explores the rich history of the Native American oral tradition focusing on stories orations prayers and songs Because American Indians existed without written language for many generations their culture was strongly dependent on an oral tradition for continuity and preservation Not surprisingly they spent many hours perfecting the art of oral communication and learning methods for committing their messages to memory Einhorn thoroughly examines the important aspects of this unique oral tradition from a rhetorical perspective covering individual speakers nations and time periods In the first half of the book the author examines how the Native American oral tradition has affected their cultural assumptions principles values beliefs and experiences These chapters focus primarily on characteristics of the Native American oral tradition that transcend individual nations The second

half of the book includes translated transcripts of representative speeches stories prayers and songs In accessible and compelling prose Einhorn discusses the sanctity of the spoken word to Native Americans concluding that their oral tradition helps to account for the survival of their people and their culture *Trickster and Hero* Harold Scheub,2012 The trickster and the hero found in so many of the world s oral traditions are seemingly opposed but often united in one character Trickster and Hero provides a comparative look at a rich array of world oral traditions folktales mythologies and literatures from The Odyssey The Epic of Gilgamesh and Beowulf to Native American and African tales Award winning folklorist Harold Scheub explores the Trickster moment the moment in the story when the tale the teller and the listener are transformed we are both man and woman god and human hero and villain Scheub delves into the importance of trickster mythologies and the shifting relationships between tricksters and heroes He examines protagonists that figure centrally in a wide range of oral narrative traditions showing that the true hero is always to some extent a trickster as well The trickster and hero Scheub contends are at the core of storytelling and all the possibilities of life are there we are taken apart and rebuilt dismembered and reborn defeated and renewed *Oral Tradition* Robert Loring Allen,2017-09-08 Oral traditions are historical sources of a special nature Their special nature derives from the fact that they are unwritten sources couched in a form suitable for oral transmission and that their preservation depends on the powers of memory of successive generations of human beings In many parts of the world inhabited by peoples without writing oral tradition forms the main available source for a reconstruction of the past Do the special characteristics of oral traditions u unwritten information dependent on the memory of successive generations u invalidate them as sources of historical data If not are there means for testing their reliability Professor Vansina shows in *Oral Tradition* that with knowledge of the language and of the society the anthropologist and historian can extract or deduce the historical content of oral testimonies Based on the author s many years of fieldwork in Africa this definitive work explores the possibility of reconstructing the history of non literate peoples from their oral traditions surveys existing literature offers a typology of oral traditions and evaluates methods of collection and interpretation On first publication Daniel McCall in the *American Anthropologist* called *Oral Tradition* a tour de force Indeed this may well be the most significant work written on the relation of oral tradition to history in thirty years for any field worker who intends to collect oral traditions this work is indispensable **South Pacific Oral Traditions** ,1990

Keepers of the Story Megan McKenna,2005-01-01 More wonderful tales and how to tell them from master storyteller Megan McKenna A coyote a woodcutter a Buddhist Zen master a boy named Samuel a Sufi mystic two men walking to Emmaus all are central characters in stories told by Megan McKenna As we listen to Once upon a time their lives become our lives We learn from their mistakes and profit from their wisdom Megan McKenna s stories are drawn from many religious traditions Hebrew Scriptures Sufi mysticism Native American traditions Eastern religions and the Christian Gospels *Keepers of the Story* also offers readers fascinating and helpful information about storytelling itself In the final chapter McKenna

explores how the storyteller becomes theologian talking and teaching about God the Keeper of the Story of us all

Collecting and Safeguarding the Oral Traditions John McIlwaine, Jean I. Whiffin, 2013-02-07 No detailed description available for Collecting and Safeguarding the Oral Traditions

From Conversation to Oral Tradition Raymond F Person, 2015-11-19 This book argues that many of the most prominent features of oral epic poetry in a number of traditions can best be understood as adaptations or stylizations of conversational language use and advances the claim that if we can understand how conversation is structured it will aid our understanding of oral traditions In this study that carefully compares the special grammar of oral traditions to the grammar of everyday conversation as understood in the field of conversation analysis Raymond Person demonstrates that traditional phraseology including formulaic language is an adaptation of practices in turn construction in conversation such as sound selection of words and prosody and that thematic structures are adaptations of sequence organization in talk in interaction From this he concludes that the special grammar of oral traditions can be understood as an example of institutional talk that exaggerates certain conversational practices for aesthetic purposes and that draws from cognitive resources found in everyday conversation Person's research will be of interest to conversation analysts as well as literary scholars especially those interested in ancient and medieval literature the comparative study of oral traditions and folklore and linguistic approaches to literature This volume lays the groundwork for further interdisciplinary work bridging the fields of literature and linguistics

Memory in Oral Traditions David C.

Rubin, 1995-03-30 Long studied by anthropologists historians and linguists oral traditions have provided a wealth of fascinating insights into unique cultural customs that span the history of humankind In this groundbreaking work cognitive psychologist David C Rubin offers for the first time an accessible comprehensive examination of what such traditions can tell us about the complex inner workings of human memory Focusing in particular on their three major forms of organization theme imagery and sound pattern Rubin proposes a model of recall and uses it to uncover the mechanisms of memory that underlie genres such as counting out rhymes ballads and epics The book concludes with an engaging discussion of how conversions from oral to written communication modes can predict how cutting edge computer technologies will affect the conventions of future transmissions Throughout Rubin presents the results of important original research as well as new perspectives on classical subjects Splendidly written and farsighted *Memory in Oral Traditions* will be eagerly read by students and researchers in areas as diverse as cognitive psychology literary studies classics and cultural anthropology

Oral Traditions in Contemporary China Juwen Zhang, 2021-11-08 In *Oral Traditions in Contemporary China* Healing a Nation Juwen Zhang provides a systematic survey of such oral traditions as folk and fairy tales proverbs ballads and folksongs that are vibrantly practiced today Zhang establishes a theoretical framework for understanding how Chinese culture has continued for thousands of years with vitality and validity core and arbitrary identity markers and folkloric identity This framework which describes a cultural self healing mechanism is equally applicable to the exploration of other

traditions and cultures in the world Through topics from Chinese Cinderella to the Grimms of China from proverbs like older ginger is spicier to the life views held by the Chinese and from mountain songs and ballads to the musical instruments like the clay vessel flute the author weaves these oral traditions across time and space into a mesmerizing intellectual journey Focusing on contemporary practice this book serves as a bridge between Chinese and international folklore scholarship and other related disciplines as well Those interested in Chinese culture in general and Chinese folklore literature and oral tradition in particular will certainly delight in perusing this book

When Our Words Return Phyllis Morrow, William Schneider, 1995-10 The title to this interdisciplinary collection draws on the Yupik Eskimo belief that seals fish and other game are precious gifts that when treated with respect and care will return to be hunted again Just so if oral traditions are told faithfully and respectfully they will return to benefit future generations The contributors to this volume are concerned with the interpretation and representation of oral narrative and how it is shaped by its audience and the time place and cultural context of the narration Thus oral traditions are understood as a series of dialogues between tradition bearers and their listeners including those who record write and interpret

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