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GREAT PLAINS QUARTERLY

WINTER 2013

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UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

GREAT PLAINS QUARTERLY

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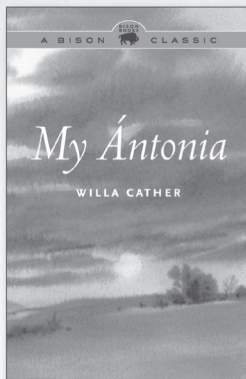


The Center for Great Plains Studies
is pleased to announce the formation
of a
new partnership with the
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for the publication of
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and
Great Plains Research

The Center will continue to provide full editorial direction for both journals, while the Press will be responsible for the publishing and marketing of the journals.

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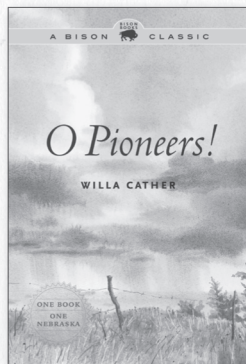
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Hailed by reviewers and readers for its originality, vitality, and truth, this novel secured Willa Cather a place in the first rank of American writers. Cather drew deeply on her childhood days in frontier Nebraska for her fourth novel, published in 1918.

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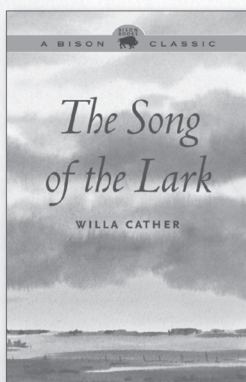
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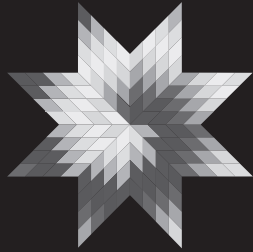
2014 GREAT PLAINS SYMPOSIUM

The Center for Great Plains Studies announces that its 2014 annual symposium will address the issue of *Drought in the Great Plains*. The symposium is a collaboration with the National Drought Mitigation Center and the Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute, both at the University of Nebraska; it is scheduled for Spring 2014. During 2011 and 2012 we witnessed two of the worst Great Plains droughts in recent memory, a tragic counterpoint to the damaging floods of 2011 and a return to the stressful times of 1998–2006. Drought is a recurring pattern in this semiarid region, with severe droughts in the 1890s, 1930s, 1950s, and 1980s. Indeed, using tree-ring, lake-sediment, and dune records, scientists have documented the periodic return of severe droughts; for example, during a period labeled the “sixteenth-century megadrought,” severe drought persisted for up to twenty years. On the basis of such evidence, some scientists have observed that *drought was the dominant feature of climate rather than the exception*. Drought has been and will continue to be a normal part of the climate of the Great Plains. Drought or the ever-present threat of it has had a pervasive effect on the region and its people. It has molded the region’s settlement patterns, agriculture, and commerce; stimulated innovation and new technologies; aroused conflict between agriculturalists and environmentalists; and fueled litigation between states in the region. Drought has shaped how the people of the Great Plains think of themselves and their region and influenced the culture, literature, and art they have created. Thus, there is increasing concern about whether the region will have sufficient water for its future, both for planned development and for sustaining the ecological services

the region provides. Scholars from across the full spectrum of disciplines are invited to share their expertise and perspectives as the symposium explores all aspects, causes, impacts, projections, social and cultural consequences, and ramifications of drought.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The forty-eighth annual Western Literature Association conference will be held October 9–12, 2013, in Berkeley, California. The conference theme is *Califia: The West Calling the World*. The name of California derives from the legend of Califia, the queen of an island inhabited by dark-skinned Amazons in a 1521 novel, *Las Sergas de Esplandian*, by Garcia Ordóñez de Montalvo. The “island” kingdom of California has been calling to the world ever since, a land of promise, myth, and dream, often a land of harsh reality. In addition to proposals on any aspect of western literature and culture, the WLA invites proposals on the West in general. Proposals may be for individual papers, panels, or roundtable discussions. Suggested topics may include but are not limited to the following: West Coast/Left Coast; California writers; Mark Twain; diversity and ethnicity in the West Gold Rush imagination; food and urban farming; San Francisco literary renaissance(s); Queer West. Submissions must include a 250-word abstract, name, affiliation, contact information, and audiovisual requests. Proposals for panels and roundtable discussions should include an abstract for each paper or presentation. Deadline is June 15, 2013. Submit abstracts or questions to Richard Hutson at WLAConference@gmail.com.



American Indian Quarterly

Edited by
Amanda J. Cobb-Greetham

Individual subscriptions to the electronic version of this journal are now available and offer a cost-saving alternative to print. Visit the UNP web site to subscribe.

A special issue available online or as a print back issue: "American Indian Studies Today" (Volume 35, Number 3, 2011), Guest Edited by Jace Weaver.

Coming in 2013: A special joint issue with *Studies in American Indian Literatures* related to the recent symposium marking the centennial of the formation of the Society of American Indians.



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Western prairie fringed orchid. Photo by F. Adnan Akyüz.

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Established in 1991, GREAT PLAINS RESEARCH is a biannual multidisciplinary international journal that publishes peer-reviewed articles on the natural and social sciences of the Great Plains. The journal also publishes book reviews on topics related to the Great Plains. Cash awards are given annually for the best natural science article and the best social science article in a volume year. ISSN 1052-5165.

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