



Some Good Reads for Border-Crossing Writers

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photo: Petén, Guatemala, 2002

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abani, Chris. *Hands Washing Water*. Copper Canyon Press (2006)

Alexie, Sherman. *The Business of Fancydancing: Stories and Poems*, Hanging Loose Press (1992) • I love that Alexie doesn't categorize his work – and leaves anthologists wondering forever. At least one of his pieces, "Captivity" (from another collection), has been republished as a poem, a short story, and an essay.

Anzaldúa, Gloria. *Borderlands / La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, spinters / aunt lute (1987) • Brilliant meditation / rant on the borders within our national borders.

Byrd, Bobby, and Susannah Mississippi Byrd. *The Late, Great Mexican Border*, Cinco Puntos Press (1996) • Single best book on the US-Mexico borderlands.

Castillo, Ana. *The Mixquiabuala Letters*, Anchor (1992) • One beauty of this book is her sense of chronology. It's a novel-in-letters. The letters are numbered. Three sequences are suggested: "for the conformist," "for the cynic" and "for the quixotic." None go from beginning to end in order.

Chiawei O'Hearn, Claudine. *Half and Half: Writers on Growing Up Biracial + Bicultural*, Pantheon (1998) • Excellent compendium of reflections on borders within our families and intimate relationships.

Crosthwaite, Luis Humberto, John William Byrd & Bobby Byrd, editors. *Puro Border: Dispatches, Snapshots and Graffiti from la Frontera* Cinco Puntos Press (2003) • The follow-up to *Late Great...*, listed above. Not as good. Still excellent.

Corey, Stephen. *All These Lands You Call One Country*, University of Missouri Press (1992)

Gómez-Peña, Guillermo, Enrique Chagoya & Felicia Rice. *Codex Espangliensis*, City Lights Books and Moving Parts Press (2000) • This lovely book began as a handbound artist's edition, reprinted by the venerable SF publisher. The first page summarizes the book's central question: "What is the difference between fee-trade art and a free art agreement?"

Gómez-Peña, Guillermo. *The New World Border: Prophecies, Poems & Loqueras for the End of the Century*, City Lights Books (1996)

James, Sibyl. *China Beats*. Egress Studio Press, Bellingham, WA (2005)

Martínez, Rubén. *The Other Side: Notes from the New LA, Mexico City, and Beyond*, Vintage (1992) • All three of his books are excellent. Start here.

Miller, Tom, editor. *Writing on the Edge: a borderlands reader*, University of Arizona Press (2003) • The selections are extremely short, but think of it as a catalogue of options for further reading.

Rich, Adrienne. *What is Found There: Notebooks on Poetry and Politics*, Norton (1993) • A cleaned-up-for-publication journal – an artful and engrossing one – about Rich's own border crossings.

Schnee, Samantha, Alane Salierno Mason, and Dedi Felman, editors. *Words Without Borders: The World Through the Eyes of Writers*, Anchor (2007) • Three great editors bring us a world's worth of great writers.

Spahr, Juliana. *Fuck-You-Aloha-I Love You*, Wesleyan University Press (2001)

Stavans, Ilan, editor. *Mutual Impressions: Writers from the Americas Reading One Another*, Duke University Press (1999) Amazing how much better read book-readers from the rest of the Americas are in our lit than we are in theirs.

Urrea, Luis Alberto. *Devil's Highway: A True Story*, Little, Brown (2004) • This summer I'm reading everything Urrea has ever written. I highly recommend this activity.

Yamashita, Karen Tei. *Circle K Cycles*, Coffee House Press (2001) This book is visually and textually intriguing. Yamashita is a brilliant border-crosser.

WEBLIOGRAPHY

www.centerforliterarytranslation.org/TranslationReport.PDF

“To Be Translated or Not to Be,” a fascinating/terrifying report on the state of literary translation around the world.

www.cmmayo.com

Catherine Mayo, a Mexico City based writer and translator, has 365 writing exercises posted at her website.

www.identitytheory.org

A great read brought to you by people who love great reads.

maudnewton.com

Smart woman, great blog: “Maud Newton’s Blog: occasional literary links, amusements, politics and rants.”

www.newpages.com

Looking for a good read? From literary magazines to zines to book reviews, it’s all here.

www.wordswithoutborders.org

“Words Without Borders: An Online Magazine for International Literature” is a truly stunning online magazine. Brought to you by one of the best & smartest editors in New York: Alana Salierno Mason. Website includes a fantastic collection of links on global literature in English.

MAGLIOGRAPHY

Believer • www.believermag.com

Monthly (almost, 10 issues/year). Thick and expensive, beautifully designed, smug and almost too cool, but boy do they publish some interesting stuff about borders and edge zones in our culture.

Books in Canada: The Canadian Review of Books

Nine issues per year. Cross the northern border to discover some great books. The first time I walked into a Canadian bookshop I was shocked: so many authors I’d never encountered. They read us, but do we read them?

Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters • www.callaloo.tamu.edu

Quarterly. Smart, thought-provoking, and elegantly written interviews, reviews, poetry and essay. Edited at Texas A&M University and published by the Johns Hopkins University Press.

Granta: The Magazine of New Writing • www.granta.com

Quarterly. Cross the pond for a British take on things.

Times Literary Supplement • tls.timesonline.co.uk

Weekly. The publication the *New York Review of Books* wishes it were. Ah, the British, they have so much more patience than we do. Their books are longer, their reviews are longer; they can hold a single thought in mind longer.

Transition: An International Review • www.transitionmagazine.com

Quarterly. Wole Soyinka chairs the Editorial Board and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. edits. Published in Cambridge, MA.

Two Lines • www.catranslation.org/Translation/issues.html

Annual. Worth the wait. A gorgeously rendered journal of translation from SF’s Center for the Art of Translation.

WLT: World Literature Today • www.ou.edu/worldlit

Bimonthly. Publishes theme issues on topics in global literature, with book reviews of work recently translated into English. Opens your eyes to just how close the U.S. publishing industry is to being an “English only” venture. Published by the University of Oklahoma.