



Becoming Cajun, Becoming American: The Acadian in American Literature from Longfellow to James Lee Burke (Hardback)

By Maria Hebert-Leiter

Louisiana State University Press, United States, 2009. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. From antebellum times, Louisiana s unique multipartite society included a legal and social space for intermediary racial groups such as Acadians, Creoles, and Creoles of Color. In *Becoming Cajun, Becoming American*, Maria Hebert-Leiter explores how American writers have portrayed Acadian culture over the past 150 years. Combining a study of Acadian literary history with an examination of Acadian ethnic history in light of recent social theories, she offers insight into the Americanization process experienced by Acadians -- who over time came to be known as Cajuns -- during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Hebert-Leiter examines the entire history of the Acadian, or Cajun, in American literature, beginning with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow s poem *Evangeline* and the writings of George Washington Cable, including his novel *Bonaventure*. The cultural complexity of Acadian and Creole identities led many writers to rely on stereotypes in Acadian characters, but as Hebert-Leiter shows, the ambiguity of Louisiana s class and racial divisions also allowed writers to address complex and controversial -- and sometimes taboo -- subjects. She emphasizes the fiction of Kate Chopin, whose short stories contain Acadian characters accepted...



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