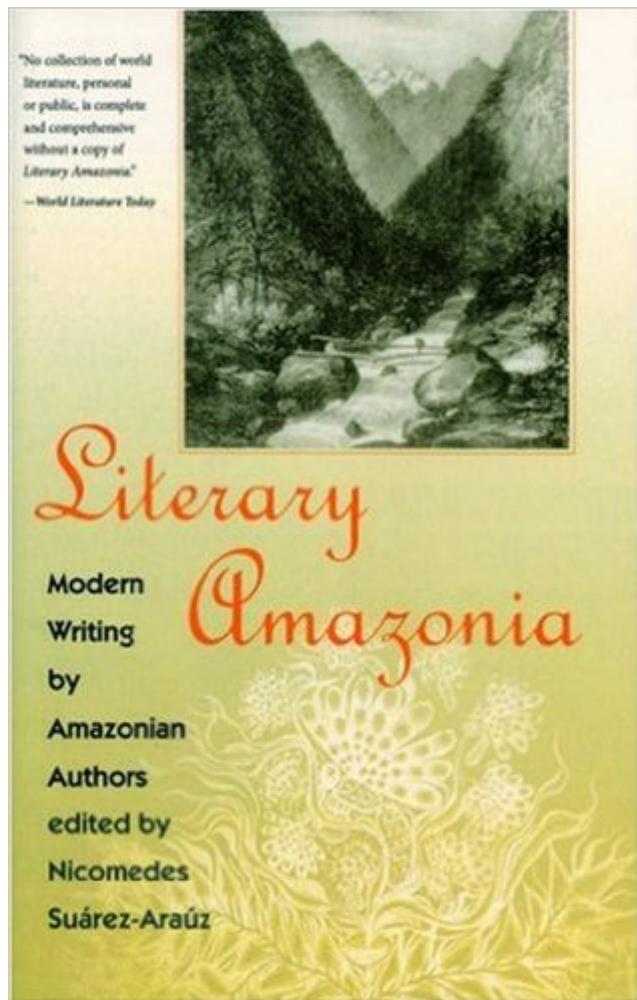


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Literary Ia: Modern Writing By Ian Authors



Synopsis

"This could be one of the most important collections of literature in translation to appear this year."--Choice "A dazzling spectacle of diversity . . . This new, emergent, exciting book is a read worth its price. No collection of world literature, personal or public, is complete and comprehensive without a copy of *Literary ia*."--World Literature Today "Unusual in its enlightened departure from a geopolitical organization of literary production. The quality of the works and their exceptional translations are fitting tributes to a bold new view of an important facet of Latin American literature, by and large unfamiliar to most readers."--Leland Guyer, Macalester College, St. Paul This remarkable selection of 20th-century *ian* literature presents writing from the indigenous and mestizo people of the basin, recovering their forgotten voices for the Latin American literary canon. Most of these pieces--from 24 representative poets and 12 prose writers--are collected and translated into English here for the first time. Reflecting the editor's Pan-*ian* vision, the book's organizational principle embraces the entire 7 million square kilometers of the basin as one imaginary space linked by myth, history, geography, and economy--not divided into arbitrary political regions. Most inhabitants live along the banks of the River or its more than 1,000 tributaries, the widespread water system that unifies the work of these writers. Contributors to this volume also come from *ian* cities such as Iquitos in Peru and Leticia in Colombia as well as from the Andean cities of Quito and La Paz and the English-speaking country of Guyana. These poems, stories, and passages from novels include traditional themes of the indigenous groups, many dealing with their threatened survival and the relationship of humans to nature. They describe colonial and neocolonial exploitation of the land and its inhabitants, recent urbanization and its effects, and the individual concerns of each author, who frequently assumes the role of spokesperson for social justice. Often the writing speaks through myths, such as the tale of the boto, the pink river dolphin capable of metamorphosis into human form, or the story of the beautiful woman who gave birth to the River with her inconsolable and torrential weeping. It includes the *ian* tradition of haiku verse, which attests to the cultural presence for more than a century of a sizable Japanese colony in the region. *ia* typically has been regarded as a jungle environment--a source of folk tales and the concern of anthropologists. This pioneering collection illustrates the extraordinary multiculturalism of the region and its evolving contemporary culture. While turning notions of national literatures upside down, the book will contribute to the construction of a new *ian* identity and will position the region's creative writing firmly inside mainstream Latin American literary history. What's more, it evokes the astonishing and marvelous beauty of one of the world's most important river cultures. Nicomedes Suárez-Araúz is director of the Center for *ian* Literature and Culture at

Smith College.

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Customer Reviews

This is such a wonderful and underrated book. If you are interested in expanding your literature perspective, this book is an excellent way to do so. The diversity of the authors is wide ranging, both male and female authors from the are featured. The genres are diverse as well: poetry, prose, short stories, and longer excerpts are included. Unconventional stories and socially compelling narratives open the reader's eyes to a region and to an excellent group of authors. The editor, Nicomedes Suarez Arauz, did a fantastic job choosing the pieces in this collection.

I found this book after a stay in the Ecuadorian , I find it, to risk sounding redundant, absolutely amazing. It has filled my heart with wonder and awe. It screams YES! this is it! It's words contain the mystical air of the indigenous peoples and the darkness of their past and nightfall under the canopy. Within can be found the inexplicable intricacies in the between man and nature. However, to quote the great healer Ino Moxo, "The miracle is in the eyes that see, not what is seen" and you must read it yourself to discover these things

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