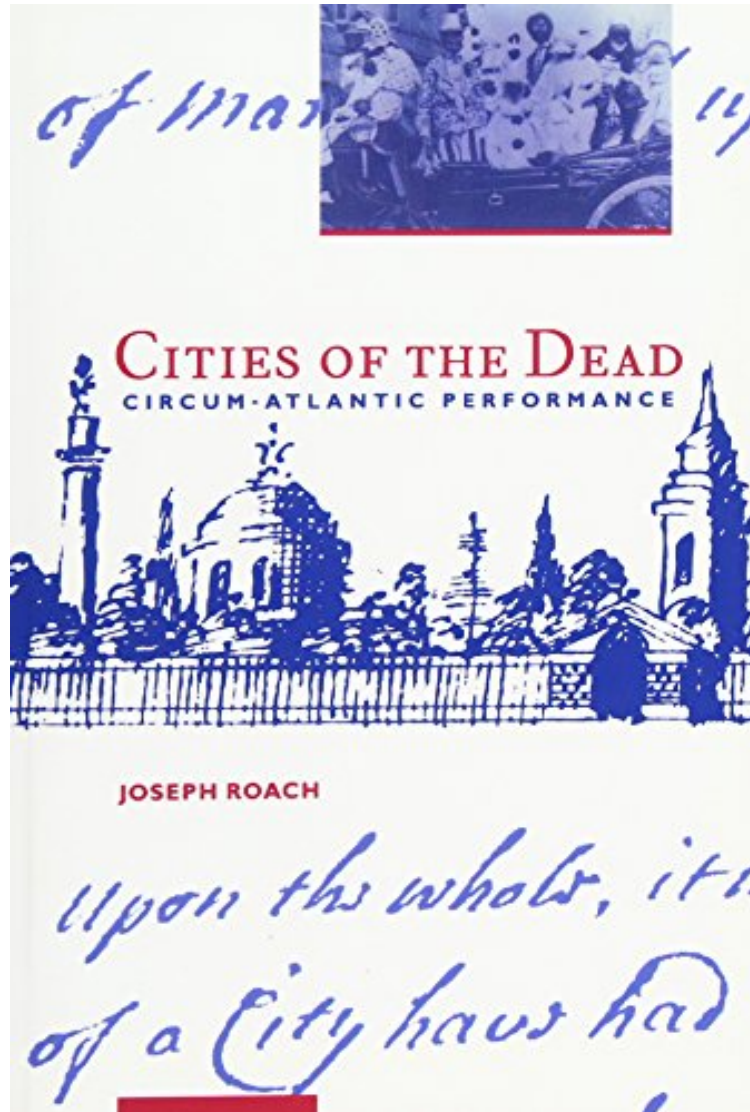


(Read ebook) Cities of the Dead

Cities of the Dead

Joseph Roach

DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



 Download

 Read Online

#177948 in Books Joseph Roach 1996-04-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.98 x .82 x 5.951, 1.02
#File Name: 0231104618320 pages Cities of the Dead Circum Atlantic Performance | File size: 34.Mb

Joseph Roach : Cities of the Dead before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cities of the Dead:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Tabitha Beaconsfield Indispensable. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. beyond the "conflict" vs "hybridity" dualism By Seaboard Lit Prof Roach develops a number of difficult but ultimately rewarding terms ("surrogation," for instance) for thinking about the relations between different populations of the Atlantic world: the British, the native peoples of North America and the Caribbean, white Americans, and black Americans. For the most part, historical accounts of the contact among these

groups have followed one of two models. Either these were self-contained cultures that struggled with one another in coercive power relations, or they were populations that created "hybrid" or syncretic cultures. Roach is able to find a better theoretical model than other of these alternatives. He never ignores the coercive power relations that conditioned the Atlantic world. But he avoids the sloppiness that sometimes mars accounts of "hybridity." Instead, he offers close, painstaking accounts of how particular sites of symbolic contact (diplomatic protocols, theatrical performances, brothel entertainments, New Orleans' funeral processions) allowed people both to forge new social memories--enduring forms recalling historical contact and events--and to forget inconvenient truths that would hinder imperial ambitions. Roach's prose is quite lucid, but his arguments are complex and theoretically sophisticated. It helps if you're familiar with the theoretical materials he is drawing from. But if you aren't, Roach offers enough explication to allow you to grasp these rich yet difficult ideas--but you will have to invest a good deal of time and brain energy. But if you want to absorb new intellectual tools and fascinating new episodes in 18th and 19th C Atlantic encounters, Roach's book more than repays the effort. This is one of those books that made a lasting difference in the way I think about cultural history.

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Strong, informative text, but you'll want a dictionary

By M. The language of this text is highly inaccessible to common readers. The language of this text is somewhat inaccessible for a PhD in English student. While the content of the text is informative, enticing, entertaining, and valuable, having to use a dictionary for nearly every 10th word is a bit excessive, even my tenured well-established professor requires a dictionary to read this book. Readers are more focused on simply understanding the language of this book that they miss out on the content provided during the first reading of the text. I do recommend this book, but it does need a warning label on it. This is not an easy, reading before bed for pleasure, type book. This is a sit in the library with Beethoven playing softly in the background with a dictionary, thesaurus, pencils, highlighters and a very bright lamp type book.

The colorful handmade costumes of beads and feathers swirl frenetically, as the Mardi Gras Indians dance through the streets of New Orleans in remembrance of a widely disputed cultural heritage. Iroquois Indians visit London in the early part of the eighteenth century and give birth to the "feathered people" in the British popular imagination. What do these seemingly disparate strands of culture share over three hundred years and several thousand miles of ocean? Artfully interweaving theatrical, musical, and ritual performance from the eighteenth century to the present in London and New Orleans, *Cities of the Dead* takes a look at a rich continuum of intercultural exchange that reinvents, recreates, and restores history. Complemented with fifty-five illustrations, including spectacular photos of the famed Mardi Gras Indians, this fascinating work employs an entirely unique approach to the study of culture. Rather than focusing on one region, *Cities of the Dead* explores broad cultural connections over place and time, showing through myriad examples how performance can revise the unwritten past.

This . . . exploration of Atlantic rim performance cultures restores the centrality of memory and gesture, profession and surrogation--the invention of a modern world out of the forcible destruction of the old--to the diasporic and genocidal histories of Africa, the Americas, and Europe. . . . Roach pursues a pathbreaking version of cultural history.

About the Author Joseph Roach is professor of English at Tulane University. He is the author of *The Player's Passion: Studies in the Science of Acting*, which won the Barnard Hewitt Award, and coeditor, with Janeelle Reinelt, of *Critical Theory and Performance*.