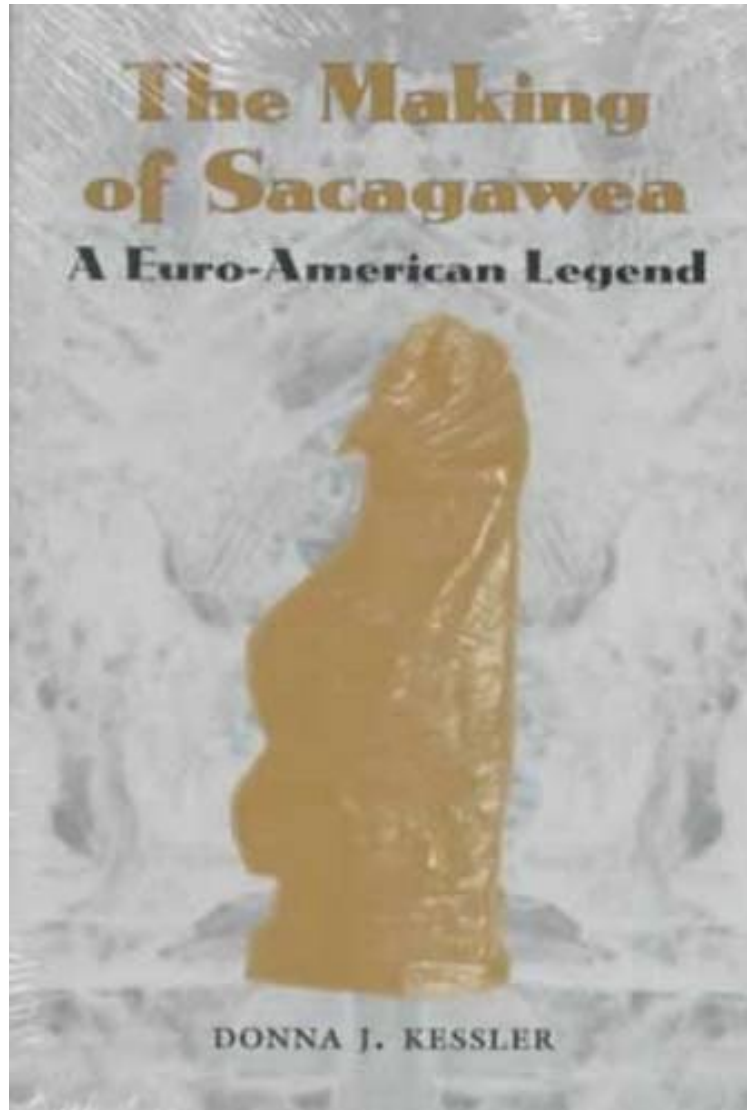


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## The Making of Sacagawea: A Euro-American Legend

*Donna J Kessler*

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**Donna J Kessler : The Making of Sacagawea: A Euro-American Legend** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Making of Sacagawea: A Euro-American Legend:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. surely a worthBy L. JouI hate some books which offer good ideas but never will they be well-organized; however, this book is not the case at all. Kessler has her own brilliant ideas and has organized them excellently. She divides the different time periods with more than enough supporting materials and yet she never forgets her key-position. The perspectives are convincing, the bibliography is reachable and useful (I have found a few more applicable materials through the very bibliography); the only tiny problem is the pictures

offered. There are many monuments or coins or even statues on Sacajawea. Amazingly, Kessler offers only one in page 182. However, this problem can be covered due to Kessler's encyclopedic and also provocative writing. (Sandie Y.R.Lo, Taiwan)0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read for a classBy KraftieoneNeeded for a class - like to know where the facts came from. Different than what I learned in class6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Scholarly Debunking of a Classic American MythBy Lester H. HollansAs a student of Colonial history and a professor of economics, I have often been amazed at the historical errors and myths one finds in Early American literature. Donna J. Kessler has taken on one such myth that will amaze you in its depth. She reveals how some infrequent references by Lewis and Clark to the Indian woman's helpfulness are embellished and just plain ignored by novelists and other writers during the past two centuries. These writers have turned a simple woman into a princess, an early American feminist and maybe a suffragette. I plan to use this material when teaching courses in "Critical Thinking" to illustrate how easily we can be misled by zealous misrepresentations from the past. Ms Kessler's definitive work is very difficult to read. I suspect it was her dissertation for a Ph. D. Nonetheless let me heartily recommend it to you as a classic example of fine scholarship. It is one that any truth seeker can learn from. Just don't plan to speak on it at a feminist convention.

Sacagawea is one of the most renowned figures of the American West. This exploration of her story examines representative texts, and charts the evolution of the legend over two centuries, demonstrating why it has persisted, and reviewing other frontier myths.

"Unquestionably, Kessler raises important questions about the relationship of Euro-American ideology to Euro-American perceptions of marginalized people. In particular, this book provides an excellent starting point for historians who plan to explore cultural representations of Native Americans. Kessler illustrates especially well the intersection of concerns about race/ethnicity and gender in her analysis of the double otherness of native women. Most important, Kessler offers a much-needed challenge when she asks us to reinvent ourselves as a nation by rewriting our mythic narratives."