

Richard W. Etulain
Professor Emeritus of History
University of New Mexico

Richard W. Etulain specializes in the history and culture of the American West, the modern US, and Abraham Lincoln. His PhD is from the University of Oregon (1966). He taught at Idaho State University (1970-79) and at the University of New Mexico (1979-2001). He has also lectured in several countries including, most recently (2004), as a Fulbright Lecturer in the Ukraine, and in Spain. Etulain is author or editor of more than 50 books and pamphlets, including:

Owen Wister (Western Writers Series, 1973)
A Bibliographical Guide to the Study of Western American Literature New Mexico, 1982, 1995)
Conversations: Wallace Stegner on History and Literature 2d ed. (Nevada, 1983, 1990, 1996) Ernest Haycox (Western Writers Series, 1988)
The Twentieth-Century West: Historical Interpretations (coeditor, New Mexico, 1989)
The American West: A Twentieth-Century History (coauthor, Nebraska, 1989)
Writing Western History: Essays on Major Western Historians (editor, New Mexico, 1991)
Contemporary New Mexico (editor, New Mexico, 1994)
The American West in the Twentieth Century: A Bibliography (coeditor, Oklahoma, 1995)
Re-imagining the Modern American West: A Century of Fiction, History, and Art (Arizona, 1996)
Researching Western History: The Twentieth Century (coeditor, New Mexico, 1997)
Religion in Modern New Mexico (coeditor, New Mexico, 1997)
By Grit and Grace: Eleven Women Who Shaped the American West (coeditor, Fulcrum, 1997) Does the Frontier Experience Make America Exceptional? (editor, Bedford Books, 1999)
Portraits of Basques in the New World (coeditor, Nevada, 1999)
With Badges and Bullets: Lawmen and Outlaws in the Old West (coeditor, Fulcrum 1999)
Telling Western Stories: From Buffalo Bill to Larry McMurtry (New Mexico, 1999)
The Hollywood West (coeditor, Fulcrum, 2001)
New Mexican Lives: Portraits and Historical Stories (editor, New Mexico, 2002)
César Chávez: A Brief Biography with Documents (editor, Bedford Books, 2002)
Wild Women of the Old West (coeditor, Fulcrum, 2003)
The American West in 2000: Essays in Honor of Gerald D. Nash (coeditor, New Mexico, 2003)
Chiefs and Generals (coeditor, Fulcrum, 2004)
Western Lives: A Biographical History of the American West (editor, New Mexico, 2004)
Beyond the Missouri: The Story of the American West (New Mexico, 2006)
Lincoln Looks West: From the Mississippi to the Pacific, (Southern Illinois, 2010)
Seeking First the Kingdom: Northwest Nazarene University, A Centennial History (2012) Lincoln and Oregon Country Politics in the Civil War Era (2013)
The Life and Legends of Calamity Jane (2014)
Calamity Jane: A Reader's Guide (2015)
Ernest Haycox and the Western (Oklahoma, 2017)
Presidents Who Shaped the American West (coauthor, 2018)
Thunder in the West: The Life and Legends of Billy the Kid (2020)
Billy the Kid: A Reader's Guide (2020)
Abraham Lincoln: A Western Legacy (2020)
William S. U'Ren: Oregon Father of the Initiative, Referendum, and Recall (2020)
Mark O. Hatfield: Oregon Statesman (2021)
The American West and Its Interpreters: Essays on Literary History and Historiography (2023)
Illuminative Moments in Pacific Northwest Prose: 1800 to the Present (forthcoming in 2024)

Etulain's "The American Literary West and Its Interpreters," was selected as the best essay in western history for 1976; The American West: A Twentieth-Century History (with Michael P. Malone), a Main Selection of the History Book Club; Re-imagining the Modern American West, the Western Heritage Award and the Caughey Award for the best nonfiction book on the American West in 1996; and Telling Western Stories, the Gaspar Pérez de Villagr a Award (2000) as an outstanding book in

western history. Professor Etulain also edits three series of books, including coediting the Concise Lincoln Library and others on western history and biography.

Etulain was President of the Western Literature Association (1978-79) and the Western History Association (1998-99). At his retirement in 2001, the University of New Mexico honored him by establishing the annual Richard W. Etulain Lecture in Regional Culture.

Professor Etulain has been thoroughly involved in public humanities and historical programs for nearly 40 years. Besides giving lectures and leading discussions in his college-level classes since the mid-1960s, he has presented more than 200 talks and led numerous discussions as a public humanities scholar in Idaho, New Mexico, and Oregon. Most of these were sponsored by the state-based programs in those three states. He's also led discussions overseas since the late 1970s in Mexico (twice), India (twice), Germany, the Philippines, Norway, Poland, Morocco, Algeria, Ukraine, and Spain.

In addition he's been extensively involved in Teaching American History grants, seminars for high school and college teachers, and programs to advance the teaching of American history in numerous locations. He has been a featured speaker in a national oral history conference for high school history teachers, presented at programs for teachers for state humanities groups in Idaho, New Mexico, Texas, Nevada, and Oregon. Most recently he has been involved in several TAH conferences in Oregon and Washington. In addition, he evaluated TAH grants in Washington, DC, two years. Finally, he has been on NEH panels to evaluate state-based humanities programs (three times), media programs, and individual research grants.

Etulain began his career as a high school instructor of social studies and English. After completing his doctorate in American history and literature in the University Oregon in 1966, he began teaching at the college level, spending more than 35 years as a classroom instructor in history, English, and American Studies Departments at Northwest Nazarene College (now University), Idaho State University, and the University of New Mexico.

Throughout his career he has kept up an extensive schedule of presentations to academic and general audience groups. He has served on state humanities boards in Idaho and New Mexico, and in the latter state received its annual Outstanding Humanist Award. In these two states as well as in Oregon, he has been an active member of the state-based Speakers Bureau or Chautauqua programs, making presentations to adult, teacher, and student groups.

In 2011-12 he presented at a western history and music festival (March, Arkansas), talked on western history at the University of New Mexico (March, Albuquerque), spoke to a writers group on combining history and fiction (April, Oregon), presented on Abraham Lincoln and the American West (April, Nebraska), delivered the featured address on the Civil War in the American West (Montana, September), and delivered a paper on western biographies (California, October). He also made presentations on César Chávez, the Basques (his ethnic group), and the western writer Wallace Stegner in 2011. In 2012, he was honored as the Ericksen Lecturer at Linfield College and led a five-part series on the Civil War in Portland.

Etulain is busy at work on several projects. Besides his book titled "Abraham Lincoln and Oregon Country Politics in the Civil War Era," he's published three recent essays on these subjects: "Abraham Lincoln Looks West," *Wild West* 21 (April 2009): 26-35, and "Abraham Lincoln: Political Founding Father of the American West," *Montana* 59 (summer 2009): 3-22; "Lincoln and the Oregon Country," *Lincoln Lore* 1899 (spring 2012): 12-20.

Professor Etulain is coauthoring (with Glenda Riley) a book on the US presidents and the American West. He continues his long-range work on Abraham Lincoln and the American West.