

I began this bibliography on Al Young, the newly announced poet laureate of California, yet soon realized that though Young gained much publicity in his newfound fame, critical articles of his works were scarce. After two weeks of research, and only thirty-some-odd citations, exhausting most of the electronic resources, I gave in and switched to Sterling Allen Brown. Before this, I had very little knowledge of Brown, but given the lack of resources on Young, I thought it best to choose someone who, marked by an asterisk on our list of authors, would supply me with, if anything, an overabundance of resources.

Difficulties, however, remained. Besides the repetition of citations in varying electronic resources and the normal mistakes in pagination and dates (which I have indicated with a +), articles in books represented a difficult task. When confirming the few articles in books that showed up on the electronic databases, I scoured many of the adjacent books, finding a plethora of citations which seem to have eluded our good friends at the MLA and other databases. To a point, scanning through the nearby books yielded useful articles I wouldn't have found otherwise, but as one can imagine, pulling down every book in a section and scanning through any chapter that sounds remotely relevant (since, apparently, many of these publishers, have never heard of such a thing as an index) can be a bit time consuming. I found, much to my chagrin, that oftentimes an author will analyze one of Brown's works to further his or her own thesis, never again returning to Brown. Where possible, I have cited the exact pages of citation for easy reference. There are, however, instances where citations occur interspersed randomly throughout a chapter. In these instances, I have not used the term "passim," but rather

given the pagination of the entire chapter since all the citations occur within that chapter, and not through the entire book.

This brings us to a very special book, the Black History Museum Committee's Sterling A. Brown: A UMUM Tribute. Attaining the book was itself a major difficulty. Although available at UC Davis, it was part of the university's special collection. As far as I can tell, all that means is that security-guard-like special collection employees tackle you at the door, strip you of everything but some paper and a wooden pencil (because, Lord forbid, a mechanical pencil should come near the books) and inform you that these books are *special* and cannot leave the library. Being a studious graduate student, my weekdays filled with classes, readings, homework and research, I reserved the weekend to drop by Davis for the first time. As the fates are always against studious graduate students, the special collections department keeps its doors open only Monday through Friday, 10am to 5pm. So, a few cut classes later, not only did I have an extra entry under book length studies, but numerous articles to place under articles and chapters in books. Though there are roughly three times as many articles in the Tribute as I've listed, I've included ones with the most critical relevance. Some of these are fairly short, such as Leopold Sedar Senghor's "An African Perspective on Sterling Brown." Though only a single page, this short statement from the then president of Senegal not only shows Brown's affective influence, but adds an African perspective to a mainly African-American discourse.

The UMUM Tribute seemed a great resource, providing not only articles, but also a bibliography of essays and reviews. Since Brown's major works occurred mostly in the 30's and 40's, reviews were scarce on the electronic databases and having found a list of

reviews in the Tribute, I thanked my lucky stars. This list however, proved more of a curse than a blessing. Imagine if you will, a list of thirty-plus reviews, with obscure journal and newspaper names, volume numbers, and dates, but no pagination, author or title. So instead of madly spinning those microfilm reels to exact pages for confirmation, I slowly scanned the review dates in question looking for the reviews with no title or author as reference. Ultimately, larger newspapers had their own book review section, and though taking more time than would be needed otherwise, I found various review from the New York Times Book Review and the New York Herald Tribune. The other reviews however, were a nightmare. Many of the smaller journals and newspapers were understandably absent from Davis, yet as I soon learned, call numbers were not a guarantee of the actual existence of the microfilms. The Boston Chronicle, Washington Tribune, American Mercury, and many others, apparently chose to disappear and baffle both me and the Shields Library staff. In one instance, I actually found a few undated reels of The New Yorker on microfilm. My hopes were dashed however, when finally finding the reel that chronologically should contain the date in question, the New Yorker abruptly stops, and in its place, the Philadelphia Tribune begins (not containing the date of a review I had on the Tribune either I might add). Under the reviews section, I've prefaced reviews that just did not show up at either Sac State's media center or Davis's microfilm center with a ! (expletive deleted). For those reviews which should have been there in theory, yet apparently don't believe in such abstract things as theories, I've added a ~ in front to show that they supposedly existed and that I did indeed search for them, but they apparently decided not to cooperate.

This frustration brings me to my next infuriating thing. Excluding interviews published in journals, it seems that critics of Sterling Brown like to keep interviews among themselves. They apparently like to tantalize us by always citing in their works cited list an interview or two, but give only the name of the interviewer and a date. This is all fine and dandy to know, but it leaves us wanting the actual interview. I tracked down two interviews, both held exclusively at Howard University, Brown's alma mater; others however, remain elusive. My best guess on the matter is that all these interviews were personal interviews these critics did with Brown for articles or books and, after their work was complete, burned the transcripts cackling mischievously, "now they'll have to buy my book."

The dissertations presented another, though less difficult, matter: there were simply too many of them. Although the electronic databases cumulatively cite only about twenty, many other dissertations were frequently cited in journal articles and book-length studies. In winnowing the dissertations, I've included the ones which deal largely with Brown, and kept dissertations from authors who appear elsewhere in the bibliography. I've also included some MA theses which deal heavily with Sterling Brown. Joanne Gabbin's Dissertation, "Sterling A. Brown: Poet and Critic," proved a strange anomaly. Gabbin is one of the leading scholars on Brown's works, producing the one of two single author book-length studies of Brown, yet her Dissertation doesn't seem to exist in DAI; Proquest has the source of her dissertation from ADD. Having found no other electronic resource that would give me a DAI record on Gabbin, I turned to the DAI itself, looking for it in the DAIs roughly around the date she completed her dissertation; the search proved fruitless.

Internet sources via search engines proved a bit friendlier. I've included a section on Internet sources, though only citing eight all together, instead of lumping them under miscellaneous. The internet sources I've provided seemed much more pertinent than one would expect from anything online, and because of this I've placed them after Interviews, but before Reviews, in the order I've deemed more critically relevant. Among these sources, I've placed a # in front of one of the WebPages. This symbol corresponds with a few journal articles, also prefaced by the # symbol. Any article with a # is electronically accessible by going to this webpage (a main page will link you to these various articles). This is perhaps my special, and I think less cumbersome, way of cross-referencing webpages with no editor. It also ultimately saved space for more material since I did not have to Rpt. the articles again.

Also, one might notice the @ floating around a few articles. The @ symbol denotes that it is part of a "special section" of a journal. This ultimately means that in a single issue, a part of the issue was devoted to Sterling Brown. How big a part, varies from journal to journal. These are NOT special issues, nor are they special half issues. The issue itself deals with various authors and themes, but the special section is implanted within it. These three issues are Callaloo 5, Black American Literature Forum 23 and African American Review 31. The asterisks, as usual, represent items which I was not physically able to confirm. For some of these, both the online electronic editions and the physical journals shelved in the stacks exist, yet the dates of subscription do not go back that far. As I've already mentioned, Sterling Brown did much of his work in the 1930's and 1940's. Even The Last Ride of Wild Bill and Eleven other Narrative Poems,

though published much later, was completed in the 40's only to be rejected by Brown's publisher and kept shelved for decades.

In other minute details, many sources, though for some strange reason the electronic ones don't even register it, the date of publication for the Black History Museum Committee's Sterling A. Brown: A UMUM Tribute is 1976. Upon physical confirmation however, the Tribute shows only one date, 1982. Strangely enough however, some of these sources which site the Tribute date back before 1982, some even so far back as 1978. I've placed a + in front of the Tribute, although it doesn't appear in any electronic databases, its publication information is still a bit ambiguous. In authorial ambivalence, there are two Stephen Henderson's, one with middle initial A. the other E. Stephen E. Henderson is an avid Brown scholar, publishing perhaps more than a dozen articles on Brown and the late Harlem Renaissance. Stephen A. Henderson however, seems to have only one article under his name, in an unconfirmed journal called Black World. I know of one book, Mark A. Sander's Afro-Modernist Aesthetics and the Poetry of Sterling A. Brown, which attributes the article in Black World to Stephen E. Henderson. Henderson seems to cause quite a bit of trouble, since he is sometimes credited for writing "Sterling Brown: A Living Legend" in New Directions, the Howard University magazine. Many others however, attribute the article to one Genevieve Ekaete; they are never given co-authorship. I have place a ^ symbol in front of both articles to draw attention to them. Again, this problem would be easily solved if confirmation was possible, but the magazine in question is a student magazine at Howard University and is not a nationally published journal.

Ultimately, the bibliography runs a bit over the 25 pages desired, due largely in part to the long list of unconfirmed reviews. I've kept them in to show the influence of Sterling Allen Brown during his fresh publishing career as a poet, and also to show the neglect he's suffered in mainstream literary thought. In trying to accommodate the page limitations, I've exclude many of the citations filed under "other." Obituaries and newspaper articles, many dealing with biographical material and not criticisms were cut, as were a few articles and chapters in books which cited Brown as an authoritative critic yet gave no critical attention to Brown himself. An interview of Michael S. Harper dealing with a recitation of Brown's works as well as a question and answer segment was also cut. For the most part, I've tried to be as comprehensive as possible, to give a variety of sources so that future researchers my find a range of materials to chose from.

A Summary of Symbols:

- * Unconfirmed
- + Correction
- # Cross-referenced, can be found online at the website baring the same symbol
- @ Part of a special section in a journal
- ! Unconfirmed book reviews from Sterling A. Brown: A UMUM Tribute.
- ~ Had call numbers, but couldn't be found where they were supposed to be.
- ^ This article was exclusively attributed to both Stephen E. Henderson and Genevieve Ekaete.