One of the stands offering fresh fish, crabs, clams, squid, and other seafood for sale in the Pike Place Market, Seattle.

Seattle '84

The Pacific Northwest, like all other areas of the United States, has its own regional literature. This literature is widely varied in content and scope, and includes both fiction and non-fiction. The following list is meant to provide an introduction to the Northwest through some of the best writing available. All of the authors listed either lived or are currently living in the Northwest. The list is not intended to be comprehensive, but it should provide instead a sense of the life and the history of the Pacific Northwest for those of you who will be coming here in April 1984.

Non-Fiction


One of the earliest accounts of travel to the Northwest. This one-volume edition condenses the multi-volume journals, but retains the spelling and language of the original.


Doig traces James Gilchrist Swan's travels in the Northwest, adding his own commentary to remarks from Swan's diaries.


Essays about life on Anderson Island in the San Juan Islands of Puget Sound.


A history of the Columbia River from the first exploration to the 1950s.

Holm, Bill, and Bill Reid. Indian Art of the Northwest Coast. Houston: Rice University Institute for the Arts, 1976.

A general introduction to Northwest coast art through a discussion of specific objects. Written in dialogue form.


A basic history of the Pacific Northwest from the first Indian inhabitants to the 20th century.


A history of early Tacoma and southern Puget Sound from early exploration to the beginning of the 1900s.
Coyote Was Going There. Seattle: University of Washington, 1977. Coyote was one of the wiliest of the characters in Northwest Indian legend. This book recounts several Oregon Indian legends.


Fiction

Berry, Don. Trask. New York: Viking, 1960. The story of a white settler on the Northwest coast in the 1840s. Trask undergoes a mystical Indian experience which leads him to a better understanding of the Indian culture and to question his own people's attitude towards the Indians.


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