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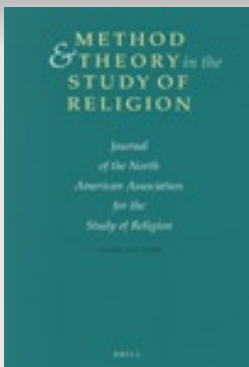
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## Two Ways of Articulating Outsider's Knowledge of Polynesian Culture and Religion: Melville's *Typee* and *Mardi*



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Two of Melville's early works are contrasting attempts to report on what he saw and experienced during his stay in the Pacific. *Typee* is presented as a sober, philosophical account of mores and religion, thus in keeping with the more sober travelers's reports. *Mardi* is an avowed work of fiction. While cannibalism serves to focus interest in the first, humor in the second. Melville could find previous authors to support his approach in the first book but, even though he studied mythologies, found no scholarship to help with the second issue. It is argued that the second work, albeit a fiction, advances and helps discern the perils scholars had to face in the colonialist era.



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