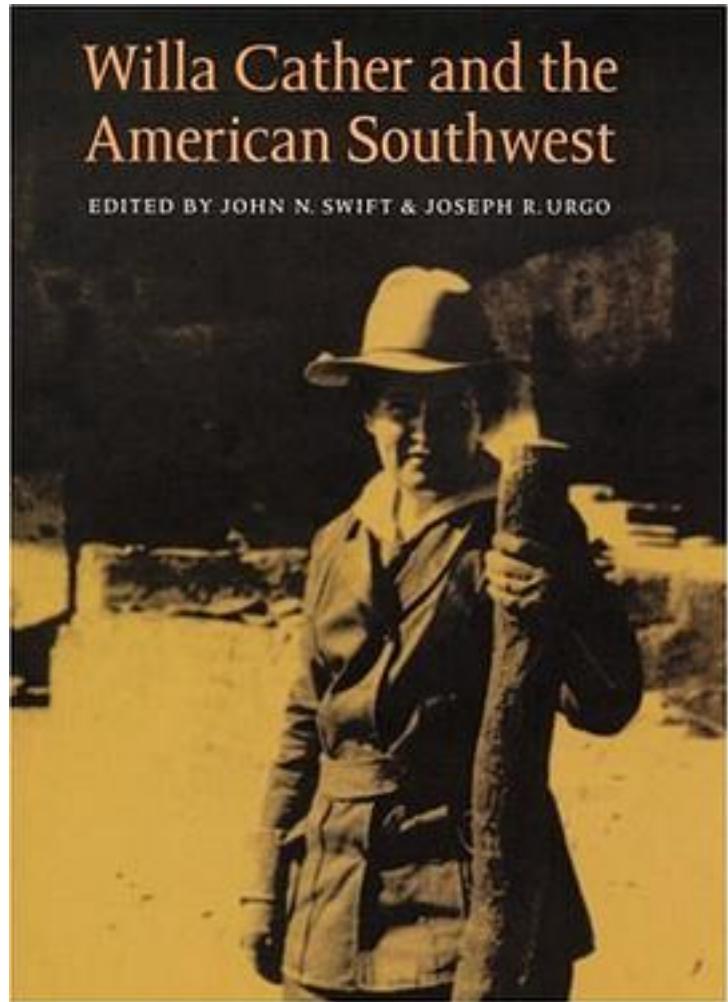


Willa Cather and the American Southwest



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The American Southwest was arguably as formative a landscape for Willa Cather's

aesthetic vision as was her beloved Nebraska. Both landscapes elicited in her a sense of raw incompleteness. They seemed not so much finished places as things unassembled, more like countries "still waiting to be made into [a] landscape." Cather's fascination with the Southwest led to its presence as a significant setting in three of her most ambitious novels: *The Song of the Lark*, *The Professor's House*, and *Death Comes for the Archbishop*. This volume focuses a sharp eye on how the landscape of the American Southwest served Cather creatively and the ways it shaped her research and productivity. No single scholarly methodology prevails in the essays gathered here, giving the volume rare depth and complexity. John N. Swift is a professor of English and comparative literary studies at Occidental College. He is the past president of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation. Joseph R. Urgo is a professor in and the chair of the Department of English at the University of Mississippi. He is the author of *In the Age of Distraction* and *Willa Cather and the Myth of American Migration*.

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