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Literary journalism across the globe: journalistic traditions and transnational influences, ed. by John S. Bak and Bill Reynolds. Massachusetts, 2011. 306p index afp ISBN 9781558498761, \$80.00; ISBN 9781558498778 pbk, \$28.95

The first thing--perhaps the most important thing--one needs to know about this book is that it is not brimming with examples of literary journalism. Instead it is a thoughtful, scholarly examination of the genre that includes essays by some of the US's leading lights in the field. Literary journalism aficionados will recognize some of the stars who have made the genre's galaxy shine. Two examples suffice: John Hartsock, who has written on the history of long-form narrative journalism; and Norman Sims, who has coedited (with Mark Kramer) anthologies of remarkable literary journalistic pieces (e.g., *Literary Journalism*, 1995). But what makes this collection unique is that it looks at the wider aspects of literary journalism in essays that examine theory, history, and the influences and/or uniqueness of the form across the globe. For example, China, which has been criticized for limiting the digital accessibility of scholars and citizens, is represented by Peiqin Cheng in a chapter titled "Social Movements and Chinese Literary Reportage." Her essay reminds one that in China, as perhaps in many other places around the world, literary journalistic pieces are valued because they deal with gritty reality rather than the nuances of fictive characters in comic opera scenes.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and above. -- J. Marren, *Buffalo State College*