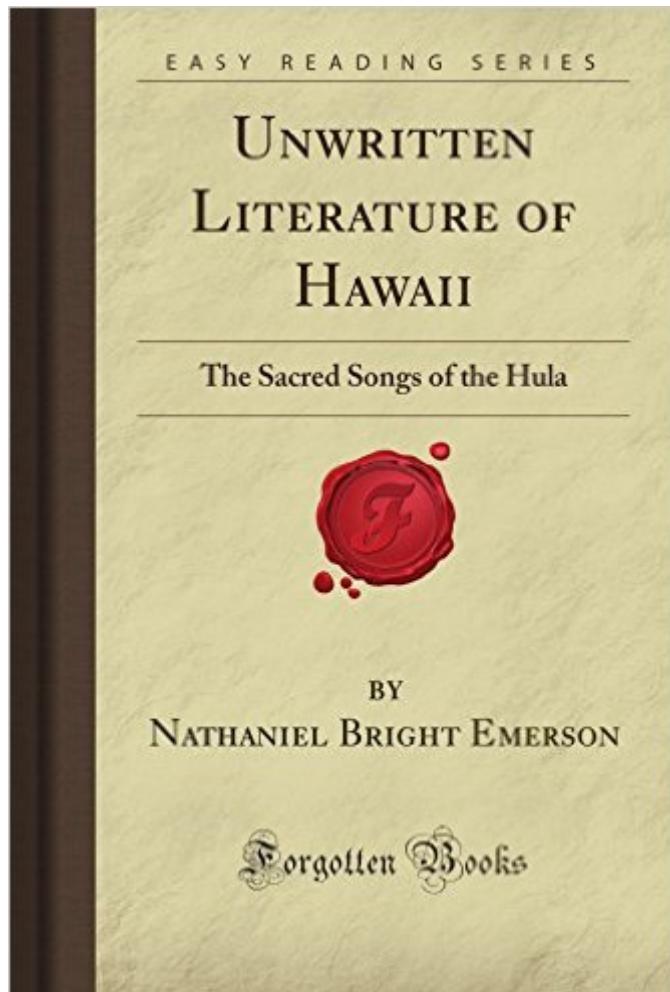


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# Unwritten Literature Of Hawaii: The Sacred Songs Of The Hula (Forgotten Books)



## Synopsis

As in many other traditional cultures, Hawaiian art, dance, music and poetry were highly integrated into every aspect of life, to a degree far beyond that of industrial society. The poetry at the core of the Hula is extremely sophisticated. Typically a Hula song has several dimensions: mythological aspects, cultural implications, an ecological setting, and in many cases, (although Emerson is reluctant to acknowledge this) frank erotic imagery. The extensive footnotes and background information allow us an unprecedented look into these deeper layers. While Emerson's translations are not great poetry, they do serve as a literal English guide to the amazing Hawaiian lyrics. (Quote from sacred-texts.com)

**About the Author**

Nathaniel Bright Emerson (1839 - 1915)

Nathaniel Bright Emerson (born July 1, 1839 Waialua, Oahu, died July 16, 1915, at sea) was a medical physician and author of Hawaiian mythology. He attended Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts and served in the First Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War, during which he was wounded three times. After graduating from Williams in 1865, he studied at Harvard and the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, from which he graduated in 1869. This was followed by work at Bellevue Hospital in New York City. In New York Dr. Emerson was associated with Dr. Willard Parker, the eminent surgeon, as student and assistant. For several years he was also clinical assistant to Dr. Seguin, professor of nervous diseases at the College of Physicians and Surgeons. He served as a doctor in New York until 1878, after which he relocated to Hawaii. Dr. Emerson was an able historian and writer of Hawaiian mythology. One of his notable efforts was

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is an amazing history written as it was about to be lost forever, (Due to the shortsightedness of the missionaries to recognise the chants as the essence of the Hawai'ian people), at the turn of the century. Thanks to the insight of this son of a missionary in chronicling what he was able to find himself privy to, this vital information will live on. For anyone who is now or in the future involved in hula, this is an incredible resource of knowledge of the Hawai'ian chants, legend, and the essence of the beautiful Hawai'ian people. Another valuable resource is: Myths and Legends of Hawaii also written around the turn of the century and is also a first hand account of history.

Emerson was the son of missionaries, and was raised among Hawaiians, becoming fluent in the language of the culture he loved. We are so fortunate to have access to these works written side by side, in English and Hawaiian, a treasure for capturing the poetry, abundant with 'kauna', or hidden meaning as imagery of nature effortlessly moves between person and place, or beautiful flower. His other book, Pele and Hiiaka, is also a beautiful read-- compared by others as profound a classic as beautiful as Homer's epic poems.

I'm greatly enjoying the history of hula and Hawaii through this volume. It is a well written treasure, and is kept closely by the Bishop Museum Foundation in Hawaii, the keepers of authentic documents and items of Hawaii. Since the Hawaiians had no written language, they retold stories and sustained their history through the hula dances. The Native American Indians often kept their histories within dances as well. Only after we Americans conquered their lovely Hawaiian islands and made them a part of our vast history, did we begin to exploit their culture and riches they held dear. Then, as we still do in large part, ignore their history and turned their hula into a means of entertainment and lust. Oh, we Europeans often miss so much in our arrogance. Spending many years on Oahu as children, my sister and I were fortunate to became expert hula dancers. We immersed ourselves in the colorful culture and aloha, as it was freely shared with us. What a extremely wonderful book.

Kindle provides me the best...I am a Hawaiian Studies student and had this book in hard copy... Needed a Kindle copy to carry around because this is not a book to read cover to cover... There were actually two revised editions on Kindle and I wanted to be sure not to miss anything I might need to know... So I purchased both... The quality and delivery of Kindle products is always excellent and this time was no exception...

This is an excellent book for any serious hula student. It is well written and full of interesting and seldom heard meles. Recommended reading by my hula kumo and I strongly recommended as well.

This book is an important reference for students of hawaiian culture. It will give the student insight into the customs, taboos and history of Hawaiian culture dating back over 100 years.

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