

## Press Release



### **A New Edition of an 1899 Novel by a Complex and Talented Writer**

[East Lansing, MI] – [March 18, 2011] A new edition of Simon Pokagon’s novel *Ogimawke Mitigwaki (Queen of the Woods)*, is to be released by Michigan State University Press on April 1, 2011. The book is available for sale through their website; [www.msupress.msu.edu](http://www.msupress.msu.edu) and at fine bookstores.

In 1899, shortly after his death, Pokagon’s novel *Ogimawke Mitigwaki (Queen of the Woods)* — only the second ever published by an American Indian — appeared. It was intended to be a testimonial to the traditions, stability, and continuity of the Potawatomi in a rapidly changing world. Read today, *Queen of the Woods* is evidence of the author’s desire to mark the cultural, political, and social landscapes with a memorial to the past and a monument to a future that included the Pokagon Potawatomi as distinct and honored peoples. This new edition offers a reprint of the original 1899 novel with the author’s introduction to the language and culture of his people. In addition, new accompanying materials add context through a cultural biography, literary historical analysis, and linguistic considerations of this unusual text.

#### **About *Queen of the Woods*:**

More than a century after its initial publication, *Queen of the Woods* has finally received the attention it deserves. Masterfully analyzed and edited here, Simon Pokagon’s unique, bilingual, cross-cultural text can now be read and discussed by a broad audience of students and admirers. We can now appreciate both his unique moment in history and his remarkable achievement as never before.

—Frederick E. Hoxie, Swanlund Professor, University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign

Simon Pokagon’s *Queen of the Woods* is a treasure of Indigenous intellectual and literary history, so kudos to the editors for giving it new life. As the insightful accompanying essays here make clear, Pokagon was a quirky figure whose work needs careful contextualization, but his work also comes across in these intriguing, imaginative, and insightful pages as a significant contribution to a heritage of writing with which we are only now becoming familiar.

—Robert Allen Warrior, author of *Tribal Secrets: Recovering American Indian Intellectual Traditions*

#### **About the Editors:**

**Philip J. Deloria** is Carroll Smith-Rosenberg Collegiate Professor in the Department of History and the Program in American Culture at the University of Michigan. **John N. Low** (*Pokagon Band Potawatomi*) is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Michigan. **Margaret Noori** is Director of the Comprehensive Studies Program and teaches the Anishinaabe Language and American Indian Literature at the University of Michigan. **Kiara M. Vigil** is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Michigan.

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**Editors:** Philip J. Deloria, John N. Low, Margaret Noori, Kiara M. Vigil

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