

TWENTY THOUSAND MORNINGS

An Autobiography

By John Joseph Mathews

Edited and with an introduction by Susan Kalter

Foreword by Charles H. Red Corn

 UNIVERSITY OF
OKLAHOMA PRESS

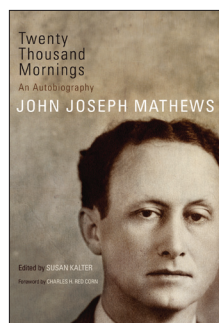
APRIL 2012

\$29.95 CLOTH 978-0-8061-4253-1

352 PAGES, 6 × 9

10 B&W ILLUS.

AMERICAN INDIAN/
AUTOBIOGRAPHY



A recently discovered work by the celebrated observer of Osage life and author of *Sundown*

When John Joseph Mathews (1894–1979) began his career as a writer in the 1930s, he was one of only a small number of Native American authors writing for a national audience. Today he is widely recognized as a founder and shaper of twentieth-century Native American literature. *Twenty Thousand Mornings* is Mathews's intimate chronicle of his formative years. Written in 1965–67 but only recently discovered, this work captures Osage life in pre-statehood Oklahoma and recounts many remarkable events in early-twentieth-century history.

Born in Pawhuska, Osage Nation, Mathews was the only surviving son of a mixed-blood Osage father and a French-American mother. Within these pages he lovingly depicts his close relationships with family members and friends. Yet always drawn to solitude and the natural world, he wanders the Osage Hills in search of tranquil swimming holes—and new adventures.

Overtaking misguided critical attempts to confine Mathews to either Indian or white identity, *Twenty Thousand Mornings* shows him as a young man of his time. He goes to dances and movies, attends the brand-new University of Oklahoma, and joins the Air Service as a flight instructor during World War I—spawning a lifelong fascination with aviation. His accounts of wartime experiences include unforgettable descriptions of his first solo flight and growing skill in night-flying. Eventually Mathews gives up piloting to become a student again, this time at Oxford University, where he begins to mature as an intellectual.

In her insightful introduction and explanatory notes, Susan Kalter places Mathews's work in the context of his life and career as a novelist, historian, naturalist, and scholar. Kalter draws on his unpublished diaries, revealing aspects of his personal life that have previously been misunderstood. In addressing the significance of this posthumous work, she posits that *Twenty Thousand Mornings* will “challenge, defy, and perhaps redefine studies of American Indian autobiography.”

John Joseph Mathews is the author of *Wah'Kon-Tah*; *Sundown*; *Talking to the Moon*; *Life and Death of an Oilman*; and *The Osages: Children of the Middle Waters*, among other works. **Susan Kalter** is Associate Professor of American Literature and Native American Studies at Illinois State University. **Charles H. Red Corn**, a member of the Tzishuwastahgi Clan (Peace Clan) of the Osage Nation, is the author of *A Pipe for February*.

VOLUME 57 IN THE AMERICAN INDIAN LITERATURE AND CRITICAL STUDIES SERIES

ORDER			UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS • 2800 VENTURE DRIVE • NORMAN, OK 73069-8216 OR CALL: (800) 627-7377 OR (405) 325-2000 • FAX: (800) 735-0476 OR (405) 364-5798 • ORDER ONLINE AT OUPRESS.COM	
TWENTY THOUSAND MORNINGS An Autobiography By John Joseph Mathews			NAME _____	ENCLOSED IS MY
			ADDRESS _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MONEY ORDER <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK (TO OU PRESS)
			CITY _____	PLEASE CHARGE MY
			STATE _____ ZIP _____	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> AMERICAN EXPRESS <input type="checkbox"/> DISCOVER
			DAYTIME PHONE _____	CARD NO. _____
				EXPIRATION DATE _____
				SIGNATURE _____

QTY	PRICE EACH	SUBTOTAL
	\$29.95	
SHIPPING & HANDLING*		
TAX		
TOTAL		

*PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDERS FROM INDIVIDUALS. FOR DOMESTIC ORDERS, PLEASE ADD \$5.00 USPS SHIPPING FOR THE FIRST BOOK AND \$1.50 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL BOOK. FOR UPS/PRIORITY SHIPPING, ADD \$8.00 FOR THE FIRST BOOK, AND \$2.00 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL BOOK. INTERNATIONAL ORDERS, INCLUDING CANADA, ADD \$15.00 USPS SHIPPING FOR THE FIRST BOOK, AND \$10.00 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL BOOK. RESIDENTS OF OKLAHOMA MUST INCLUDE 8.25% SALES TAX. CANADIAN ORDERS ADD 5% GST. WE ACCEPT CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS, VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, AND AMERICAN EXPRESS. PRICES AND AVAILABILITY SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.