

"KABOJOLISM"

A curious term surfaced during my recent research into the oral traditions of frontiersman Jim Bridger. J. Cecil Alter in James Bridger (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1962, p. 381) borrows the word "kabojolism," coined by one Elbert Hubbard, to describe the process of crediting a story to a person not responsible for it. The term makes an important distinction between the repertoire of the storyteller himself and the repertoire that is attributed to him as others tell "kabojolized" tales. In principle then, although Bridger's own tall tales undergo countless metamorphoses at the hands of other eager storytellers until they assume a form and content totally foreign to Bridger's repertoire, these "kabojolized" tales are nonetheless still tagged by their tellers with Bridger's name, as having been told by him, or, in some instances, as having been his personal exploits.

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