

Some New Books in Review

James Isham's Observations on Hudsons Bay, 1743, and Notes and Observations on a Book Entitled A Voyage to Hudsons Bay in the Dobbs Galley, 1749 (Hudson's Bay Record Society, *Publications*, no. 12). Edited by E. E. RICH, assisted by A. M. JOHNSON. (Published by the Champlain Society for the Hudson's Bay Record Society, 1949. cv, 352 p.)

James Isham went to York Factory on Hudson Bay in 1832 as "a writer and to be instructed in keeping the accounts" of the Hudson's Bay Company post on the Hayes River. There and at Churchill he wrote his "Observations" and "Notes," his journals and his Indian vocabularies. These writings reveal a personality extraordinarily deferential to the orders of the company ("a clerkly man who would not depart from written instructions"), but one of unquestioned loyalty to its interests and activities also, whether they pertained to the search for the Northwest Passage or the growing of peas at the fur-trading posts. He made it his "Business to gaine the names of all the Different sorts . . . of fowl's in these parts" and brought at least "thirty different Species of Birds" to the attention of eighteenth-century naturalists. According to James Baille, Jr., Isham was first to describe eight new birds, among them the blue goose and the purple marten, all of which were "quite new to the scientific world." Yet he also wrote, and apparently believed, that bears live "all the winter by Sucking their paw's" and that beaver carry on their tails "trees of great bigness."

The value of his Indian vocabularies is a matter for experts. I was interested, however, to find his "*whit te co*," "*ke me wan*," "*es tum*," and other expressions were like those I heard and had explained to me by the two Cree Indians from Norway House and Oxford House who guided me this past summer on a canoe trip down the Hayes River and back. Nevertheless, one wonders whether Isham's early York letters and his Churchill journal, as yet unpublished, would not reveal more about life at the trading posts than the vocabulary lists.

Isham's account of York Fort itself is meager. A contemporary, Joseph Robson, wrote in greater detail. But neither probably guessed that the fort of 1745, moved half a mile upstream, would become the main depot of the company in the 1830's and 1840's, the York Factory of Sir George Simpson's day with its guesthouse and clerks' house and Indian trading shop. Today it has practically vanished. Of that richly historic place, there remain only a warehouse, an outbuilding, the square main building with the bell tower and the open court in the center, the outlines of foundations sinking under the grass. Letitia Hargrave, first lady of the post in the 1840's, might recognize the place from the RCAF pictures which accompany the Douglas-Wallace 1926

translation of Jeremie's *Narrative*. She wouldn't if she climbed the bank from the landing (the pier is gone) and walked across the grounds.

Without Professor Rich's informative introduction to Isham's writings, most readers would flounder in the complexities of the company's policies and activities. This is the last volume of the Hudson's Bay series brought out under the auspices of the Champlain Society. Hereafter the Hudson's Bay Record Society will publish its materials independently.

HERBERT KRAUSE

"Catholic Pioneering in the Northwest." By JOHN PERRY PRITCHETT. (United States Catholic Historical Society, *Historical Records and Studies*, vol. 38, p. 23-96. New York, 1950. 123 p.)

The author of this study of Catholic missionary endeavor in the Northwest, Professor John Perry Pritchett of Queens College, Flushing, New York, is not unknown to local historians and to readers of *Minnesota History*. In 1924 he presented an analysis of "Some Red River Fur-Trade Activities" in the quarterly of the Minnesota Historical Society, and in 1942 he published a regional study of the *Red River Valley, 1811-1849*. His present work was prepared for the third annual series of Meehan Lectures, which he delivered in the spring of 1949 before members of the United States Catholic Historical Society in New York City.

Professor Pritchett has examined missionary activity in the Northwest not as an isolated movement, but in a setting which reveals the impact of political, economic, and social forces upon the work of the pioneer French "Black Robe." Yet he makes it evident that he considers religious and patriotic motives as more important than the pursuit of gain in explaining the development of the French empire in North America. He views the fur trade as the chief agency for paying the way of the missionary, the explorer, and the colonizer.

Missionary pioneering is studied in three distinct periods, which the author discusses under the titles "Black Robe and Buckskin: The Era of Exploration," "Pack and Paddle: The Era of Exploitation," and "Métis and Missions: The Era of Consolidation."

In the first period Professor Pritchett assigns a predominant role to Samuel de Champlain. He credits this early leader with having "laid the political and geographical foundations for future French trade, exploration, empire and missionary expansion in North America." In this formative era the pattern for a humane Indian policy also appeared. The author believes that the French adopted the practice of treating the American aborigines tactfully and made them feel they were men of importance and the real owners of the country.

During the second period, which followed the collapse of French power in America, pack and paddle were the instruments used to promote business

enterprise and politics. Exploration and religious enthusiasm diminished. French personnel, however, continued to carry forward under British supervision the historic fur frontier.

The third era of Catholic pioneering in the Northwest took place after the War of 1812. French Canadians again fostered missionary activity. The Earl of Selkirk encouraged the church authorities in Quebec to establish a mission among the métis of the Red River country, where he was interested in promoting settlement and the ascendancy of the Hudson's Bay Company. Eventually in that area St. Boniface and Pembina developed into flourishing mission centers. As American settlement advanced up the Mississippi, the latter station became a vital link in the evolution of the Red River trade and joined the area commercially with Mendota and St. Paul. Religiously, also, Pembina came in contact with the United States when Father George A. Belcourt, after a dispute with Governor George Simpson and the Hudson's Bay Company, began to work under the auspices of Bishop Loras of Dubuque.

The United States Catholic Historical Society is to be commended for having made this engaging analysis by Professor Pritchett available in printed form.

VINCENT TEGEDER, O.S.B.

The Territorial Papers of the United States. Compiled and edited by CLARENCE E. CARTER. Volumes 16 and 17: *The Territory of Illinois, 1809-1814* and *1814-1818.* (Washington, United States Government Printing Office, 1948, 1950. xi, 506, v, 750 p. \$3.25, \$4.00.)

The infinitesimal share of the taxpayer's money that goes toward publishing the *Territorial Papers of the United States* is well spent. Here, indeed, is a priceless record for the American people. True, these documents are of special concern to the historian, but they are raw materials for history that will reach a wider public, and even as they stand they will instruct and entertain anyone with the least curiosity about the nation's past.

The two latest volumes of the series include about a thousand items, less than a dozen of which have been published before. These thousand comprise a very significant, if rather small, part of the total mass of official papers dealing with the Territory of Illinois, now to be found mostly in the National Archives at Washington. In the selection of papers, priority has been given to those which have some bearing on the administration of the territory, including documents on public lands, Indian affairs, defense, and other matters that illustrate administrative problems. Thus the *Territorial Papers* possess the greatest value for students of territorial government and politics, and among the most important in the Illinois volumes are those relating to the Fort Dearborn massacre and to the attainment of Congressional representation for the territory.

Yet the *Territorial Papers* also contain an amazing amount of information for anyone interested in social and economic history, since many phases of territorial life are reflected in administrative affairs. The role of salt in early Illinois, the sutler as the frontier soldier's "PX," the reality of the Indian terror before and during the War of 1812—these are only a few of the various themes illustrated. And for someone seeking biographical data there is illumination as well as recreation in human interest stories told without self-consciousness. The trials and tribulations of Territorial Secretary Nathaniel Pope, for example, are both comic and tragic. One smiles at his correspondence with the secretary of the treasury in which he haggles over office rent due him from the government for rooms in his own house. One reads and smiles, then suddenly comes upon a letter to the secretary of state, in which Pope apologizes for delaying a report and explains: "My domestic Misfortunes consisting of the deaths of my children and the ill health of Mrs Pope have caused this delay." With judicious skipping, even the casual reader can enjoy a few hours with these volumes.

Of special interest to Minnesotans is volume 17, which covers the period from 1814 to 1818 when the part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi was included in Illinois Territory. One letter, disputing Jonathan Carver's claim to land about the Falls of St. Anthony and Lake Pepin, is particularly relevant to Minnesota's history.

Dr. Carter's editing is excellent, as always, and the index is marvelously complete and almost foolproof.

RICHARD N. CURRENT

Thomas Francis Meagher: An Irish Revolutionary in America (University of Colorado Studies, *Series in History*, No. 1). By ROBERT G. ATHEARN. (Boulder, University of Colorado Press, 1949. 182 p. Illustrations. \$2.00.)

Son of a wealthy member of Parliament, Meagher (pronounced *Maher* or *Mar*), after an English education, returned to the Emerald Isle in 1843 to become one of the radical leaders of the Irish Confederation. In 1848 he was condemned to death for treason, but the sentence was commuted to banishment for life to the prison colony in Tasmania. After some three years of comfortable, though lonely, exile, he escaped and arrived in New York in May, 1852, at the age of twenty-nine. Essentially an orator, he was lionized by his compatriots in the United States and became for a time an exceedingly popular speaker from New England to California. As public interest in the Irish question waned, he dabbled in the law, journalism, politics, and diplomacy without notable achievement in any of them.

Having married into a prominent New York family in 1855 and become a citizen in 1857, Meagher expected and did not hesitate to demand government employment, but he received no political favors until the outbreak of the Civil War. After serving reasonably well as the commanding general of

the Irish Brigade with the Army of the Potomac during the first two years of that struggle, he resigned his commission in 1863 in the hope of bettering his lot and then, in typical fashion, clamored to get back in the Army. Re-commissioned the next year, he was finally given a noncombat command from which he was relieved by Grant for incompetency early in 1865. Upon Lincoln's death, Meagher began without delay to seek office from President Johnson, who, after trying unsuccessfully to get others to take the position, appointed Meagher secretary of Montana Territory in August, 1865. During most of the following two years, until his enigmatic drowning in July, 1867, he was acting governor of the territory, a colorful and controversial figure to the end.

Dr. Athearn has told the Meagher story succinctly, for the most part letting his sources speak for themselves. If one were to offer suggestion, it would be to urge more critical analysis of sources and firmer expressions of judgment. Humor is sometimes a little forced, and the repeated use of Meagher's full name becomes irksome. Errors of fact and typographical slips are minimal, though use of the redundant "Bull Run Creek" (p. 96) should be noted. As a first book based on an academic dissertation, however, the study not only adequately covers Meagher's rather shabby career but gives promise of more mature work from the author.

JESSE S. DOUGLAS

The Forty-eighters: Political Refugees of the German Revolution of 1848.

Edited by A. E. ZUCKER. (New York, Columbia University Press, 1950. xviii, 379 p. Illustrations. \$4.50.)

Nine scholars in addition to Professor Zucker have collaborated in preparing this sympathetic study of those political refugees of the German Revolution of 1848 who found new homes in the United States. The book is a worthy memorial to the Forty-eighters, and an aid to our understanding of the men, their contribution to American life, and the influence of American life upon them.

Carl J. Friedrich's analysis of the European background emphasizes the ideological aspects of the revolutionary movement. He and his associates make it clear that the Forty-eighters generally were at once cosmopolitans and nationalists, believers in constitutional democracy, haters of slavery, and freethinkers in whose European experience organized Christianity and political reaction were too often linked. In their frank hostility to traditional religion lay a major basis for the reservations with which many Americans and many of their churchgoing fellow countrymen viewed them. Their leadership in the Turner societies, and the intellectual implications and influence of the Turner movement are discussed effectively by Augustus J. Prah. Eitel W. Dobert contributes a chapter, entitled "The Radicals," on what he terms the lunatic fringe of a group whose members all were radical by any contemporary test.

Oscar Handlin offers an admirable brief sketch of the America to which

the Forty-eighters came. His statement that "Newcomers were universally welcomed as valuable additions to the forces that would help build up the country," is difficult to reconcile, however, with the voluminous literature of contemporary nativism or even with Handlin's own gloss on the Know-Nothing movement.

Minnesota readers will appreciate Hildegard Binder Johnson's thoughtful chapter on the immigrant's adjustment to the American scene, and particularly the four pages which she gives to William Pfaender, founder of New Ulm, and to the vicissitudes and early tone of that Minnesota community. In treating the Forty-eighters in politics, Lawrence S. Thompson and Frank X. Braun demonstrate their acquaintance with the relevant literature. Though the Forty-eighters generally became ardent Republicans, some of them winning places in the inner councils of the party, Thompson and Braun show clearly that this "was by no means equivalent to a general exodus from the Democratic party on the part of the bulk of German voters."

Much of the detail in Ella Lonn's chapter on the Forty-eighters in the Civil War might have been reserved for the editor's biographical dictionary, which gives the basic data concerning something over three hundred out of an estimated four thousand Forty-eighters.

FRANK H. HECK

And the War Came: The North and the Secession Crisis, 1860-1861. By KENNETH M. STAMPP. (Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1950. viii, 331 p. Illustrations. \$4.50.)

The Civil War theme continues to intrigue and attract historians. Its varied topics and theses have been constantly revised and expanded. In this volume, Professor Stamppp examines in microscopic detail the back-stage pressures in that four-month period culminating in Fort Sumter's surrender. He traces the development of Northern opinion and its crystallization in behalf of coercion.

Eight years ago David M. Potter treated the same period in *Lincoln and His Party in the Secession Crisis* (1942). Mr. Potter contended that Lincoln was not the master of his party's policy and that war was "the result of Republican misconceptions" — failure to understand the nature and strength of the Union movement in the South and failure to appreciate the explosiveness of the Fort Sumter situation.

And the War Came aptly repudiates Mr. Potter's theses. By digging deeper into the primary sources and examining closer the views of those influencing policy, Mr. Stamppp found a different and more logical answer. Three forces — partyism, economics, and idealism — with deep historical roots shaped the North's answer to secession and forced Lincoln to coerce rather than appease the South. Partyism was prominent — "Republicans fully understood that the Union must be saved to make their future secure" (p. 206). Economic forces were dominant — business considerations and bourgeois philosophy shaped sentiment in behalf of "the use of force." And idealism, expressed in nation-

alism, manifest destiny, and antislavery, "invited a great crusade." By April, Northerners had rationalized war as necessary, had interpreted "enforcement of the laws" unlike "coercion," and were ready to view any incident as defensive in nature.

Minnesotans may be disappointed that neither Governor Alexander Ramsey nor Senator Morton S. Wilkinson, both coercionists, received mention in the text. They may complain that Stampf by-passed their state historical library and its manuscripts and newspaper resources. They may justly protest that their state and its spokesmen should not have been entirely ignored.

New England historians who like their history in shades of black and white, and nationalist historians unfamiliar with the social scientist's approach to the problem will raise a chorus of criticism; they have already wailed disconsolately because of the revisionists' contributions to historical scholarship. A few others may notice that the volume ignores the views and manuscripts of those, like Horatio Seymour and Samuel Medary, who later joined the Copperhead ranks. But scholars generally will realize that this volume provides the best analysis of the period treated. They will recognize that the marshaling of public opinion preceded the marshaling of the hosts, and that Stampf has untangled the complicated web which held the Northern mind captive and which finally determined the course of action. Some will recognize the author's neo-Beardian interpretation, many will appreciate the book's breadth and depth, and all will enjoy the controversies it will stimulate.

The index is adequate, the bibliography impressive, the documentation extensive, the organization excellent, and the thesis intriguing. It is historians' history, but it will appeal to laymen, and it will please most readers.

FRANK L. KLEMENT

They Came in Chains: Americans from Africa. By J. SAUNDERS REDDING, (Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1950. 320 p. \$3.50.)

The eighth title in the *Peoples of America Series* concerns the contributions and the struggles of the American Negro from the origin of slavery to the present agitation about the FEPC. Perhaps the most interesting thing about the book is its point of view, for the author is a member of the race whose history in the United States he proposes to chronicle. Mr. Redding, who is now teaching at Hampton Institute, treats his subject with both perspective and style, and evaluates such leaders as Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois, their mistakes and accomplishments, in readable fashion.

In writing this book, Mr. Redding has drawn upon such sources as "a set of more than one hundred bound volumes of newspaper clippings" from 1890 to 1925, and his research gives his work dramatic value, an element of suspense, and a sense of immediacy. All too often, however, provocative quotes appear with no hint of their source. It is understandable that the author wished to avoid footnotes, but it is annoying that he did not work into his

text more specific information on the sources for some of his highly interesting remarks.

They Came in Chains is useless for ready reference, but it may whet the appetite and encourage one to dig deeper into the subject. But those seeking an objective, documented, and thorough treatment will still use E. Franklin Frazier's valuable volume, *The Negro in the United States*.

JUNE DRENNING HOLMQUIST

The H. W. Wilson Company: Half a Century of Bibliographic Publishing.

By JOHN LAWLER. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1950. 207 p. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

The H. W. Wilson Company is close to the hearts of librarians everywhere. And H. W. himself, amazingly active in his eighty-third year, is undoubtedly the most beloved non-librarian (and perhaps even librarian) in the entire field. Lucille Gottry of the Rochester Public Library has told him that "Minnesota librarians have been and are proud of your work and like to claim you as one of us." York Staters say the same, as undoubtedly do the Vermonters. Fortunately for the reviewer, who is a librarian, this is an excellent book which is unhesitatingly recommended.

In 1889 Vermont-born Halsey W. Wilson started with two hundred borrowed dollars as a book dealer for some three hundred students then enrolled in the University of Minnesota. Nine years later he and his wife brought out alone the first issue of their important *Cumulative Book Index*. From 1898 until 1913 the company remained in Minneapolis. The history of its half century of bibliographic publishing is one of our great Minnesota success stories.

After the firm's modest beginnings came the 1905 building on the corner of University Avenue opposite the campus gateway in Minneapolis; its 1913-17 home in White Plains, New York; and, finally, the present towering quarters on the western edge of the Bronx in New York City. Of the original Minnesota group, in addition to Mr. Wilson, two former University of Minnesota students still are connected with the company — Marion E. Potter and Edith M. Phelps.

Mr. Lawler's training as a journalist and researcher has enabled him to make this history of a business firm both readable and accurate. Dividing the story into two parts, he has devoted the first half of the book to the company's past, with most of the space devoted to the formative Minneapolis years. The second half, entitled "The Present," takes up the methods used in compiling such great library aids as the *Cumulative Book Index*, the *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*, the *Agricultural Index*, the *Book Review Digest*, etc.

The volume is well indexed, and it includes as appendixes a selected list of the Wilson indexes and services, as well as a chronological list of the company's

general publications. Dr. E. W. McDiarmid, librarian of the University of Minnesota, has written an introduction in which he calls this book "the story of an idea, a service, a contribution to librarianship and scholarship." As such it will be enjoyed by serious library patrons; and, of course, it should be made required reading for all librarians, *in esse, in posse*.

JAMES TAYLOR DUNN

This Is Duluth. By DORA MARY MACDONALD. (Duluth, Duluth Board of Education, 1950. 236 p. \$1.50.)

Mrs. Macdonald's *This Is Duluth* is just what the title indicates — a book packed full of data about Duluth. Furthermore, it is by one who has lived there — a teacher in the city schools who has made local history a study.

The book opens with the French and English regimes and then traces the earliest beginning of Duluth and the Fond du Lac country. The introductory note on the geology of the Duluth area is of particular interest to the general reader. The author tells her story well, making it clear that the early history of Duluth and its sister city, Superior, Wisconsin, are much the same. The book is full of historical data about the fur-trading period and the era of actual settlement, including many amusing anecdotes about the settlers themselves. The gradual development of the city is traced through the various periods up to modern times.

The book contains an amazing amount of factual information that could be made more useful for reference purposes if an index were provided. It is small wonder that a few errors have crept into the text when the mass of detail that has been assembled is considered. But the mistakes are not important enough to destroy the historical value of the book, and they can be corrected easily in a new edition.

For students of Minnesota history and for general readers, this small book contains much of interest. *This Is Duluth* is a real addition to the historical literature of Minnesota and its people.

RICHARD BARDON, M.D.

A Stretch on the River. By RICHARD BISSELL. (Boston, Atlantic Monthly Press, Little, Brown and Company, 1950. 242 p. \$2.75.)

The Mississippi River of Mark Twain's piloting days is not quite the same kind of river that coal barges and towboats ply in modern times from St. Louis to St. Paul. Human ingenuity has tamed some of its savage force by an intricate system of locks, wing dams, and artificially deepened channels. Human industry, using fluvial force to generate hydroelectric power, has muddied the water and blackened the sky. Passenger steamboats are today uncommon on the upper river, but commerce thrives and the total tonnage dwarfs that of the time when Sam Clemens was a cub pilot learning the river under the tutelage of Horace Bixby.

Yet the romance of the river remains. To the authentic barge captains and deck hands, Chicago is a monolithic blur on the eastern horizon, South Dakota is an uninteresting place some miles west of Minneiska, and Lake Superior is an inferior watery deposit of some kind lying in a rather northerly direction. But St. Louis, Quincy, Davenport, Rock Island, La Crosse, Winona, and Red Wing are not only towns, they are *river towns*, and the difference is vast as the Mississippi itself. They are the periphery and horizon of the riverman's life, just as steamboating is his incurable disease. And if the river means toil and fatigue and stench, it also spells freedom and excitement and existence. Some of the men in Richard Bissell's *A Stretch on the River* sought jobs as deck hands to avoid being drafted; others remained there because they knew no other life. But continually they came, from farm and small inland town, and they rarely went back.

The crew of the fictitious barge "Inland Coal" in Bissell's narrative are reminiscent of the sailors on the famous cargo ship in *Mister Roberts*. Their life pivots on work, drink, and sex, and in their off hours they concentrate on the last two. Indeed the sprees and love affairs of the deck hands in Alton and St. Paul are rather stereotyped and occupy a disproportionate share of the book. But when Mr. Bissell pictures the actual barge life, going into the Keokuk lock, for example, on a dark, rainy night, or cutting a new jack staff in the morning hours near La Crosse, he writes with wonderful vividness and power. Here sordidness and romance are interwoven as they are in actuality, and the barge worker emerges as a character in his own right.

Not many books have dealt adequately with today's traffic on the upper Mississippi. *A Stretch on the River* is vivid, accurate, and highly readable. Impressionistic and slight at times, it nevertheless reveals the imperishable link between the great river and the people of its valley.

JOHN T. FLANAGAN

The Army Air Forces in World War II. Volume 4: The Pacific: Guadalcanal to Saipan, August 1942 to July 1944. Prepared under the editorship of WESLEY FRANK CRAVAN and JAMES LEA CATE. (Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, 1950. xxxii, 825 p. Illustrations, maps. \$6.00.)

The present volume maintains the high level of scholarship and writing established in previous Air Force historical offerings. The editors adhere to old-fashioned standards of honesty. Instead of issuing the volumes under the name of some prominent scholar, they have chosen to credit the authorship of various chapters to the persons who actually did the research and writing. The result is to lend credence to the tale which is told, for the research is too wide and the story too great to be the work of one man.

Air Force activity in the Pacific covered a triangle which stretched from the Aleutians to Australia and then to India. In this area were immense water distances, terrain which varied from rain forests, swamps, and coral islands

to the enormous thrust of the Hump, climate which encompassed capricious Aleutian williwaws and tropical fronts, a number of separate theaters of command, and a diversity of allies with distinctive war aims. The unifying force which held together a variety of allied war effort against the common Japanese enemy was air power. It could be said that the strategy of the Pacific war was the seizure and development of air bases from which Japanese activity could be interdicted in ever-widening areas.

The story is a sobering one. Immense efforts and signal gallantry were expended to put planes into the air and to beat down Japanese resistance. Behind the handful of men who flew the planes was a complex organization of command and supply with lines of communication stretching thousands of miles back to the Arsenal of Democracy. Unforeseen hazards and emergencies in the field posed problems whose solution could not await action in the homeland. The result was field modification centers where ingenuity accomplished miracles as a matter of daily routine.

From the first desperate days over Guadalcanal until the final victory, constant air activity was essential to pin down Japanese air power. There could be no relaxation for air or ground crews who had to carry out a very dangerous, highly skilled, and depressing form of combat under extremely primitive conditions. That our civilization has survived owes much to the exertions of the men whose story appears here. Perhaps our survival of even greater perils will again be in their hands.

RODNEY C. LOEHR

A handsome, illustrated volume, *American Processional*, has been published by the Corcoran Gallery of Art in collaboration with the National Capital Sesquicentennial Commission (Washington, 1950. 270 p.). The work serves as a catalogue for the gallery's current loan exhibition, arranged to mark the sesquicentennial of the nation's capital city. The text, by Elizabeth McCausland, outlines the story of the United States from 1492 to 1900 and reveals how its main events were pictured by contemporary artists. The narrative is divided into six chronological sections, each of which is elaborately illustrated with reproductions of pictures from the display. It includes a useful index of artists and titles. Since the pictures displayed were drawn from galleries throughout the United States and Canada, the permanent value of the work as a guide to pictorial material on American history is obvious. The book may be purchased from the Corcoran Gallery for \$3.25.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Corcoran Gallery arranged a symposium on "The Artist in American History" held on October 27 and 28. A showing of John Stevens' panorama of the Sioux War, which was loaned by the Minnesota Historical Society for the display, was a feature of the event. With it the original text was read.

The Historical Scene

"PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS should take local history more seriously, should contribute to and be better informed about it, and should provide such guidance to amateur students or writers in this field as their specialized training may make possible." Thus writes Professor Richard H. Shryock of Johns Hopkins University in an article on "Changing Perspectives in Local History" published in *New York History* for July. "Both state and local history should be cultivated by those who see them, as it were, from the inside out," continues the writer. And he makes it clear that "this is not inconsistent with a sophisticated approach—one which will include something of the techniques and perspectives of trained scholars." Professor Shryock's view of the situation is optimistic, for he points out that with growing "popular and professional interest" in local history, as well as the "existence of organizations which can make the most of these interests," the prospects for the future of local history are encouraging.

Much of the July number of the *Magazine Antiques* is devoted to the subject of the restoration and preservation of historic sites and buildings. It opens with a useful and stimulating "Symposium of Principles of Historic Restoration." The problems of the "Independent Architect" are explained by G. Edwin Brumbaugh; the work of the National Park Service is reviewed by Newton B. Drury; S. P. Moorehead contributes comments on "Private Restoration"; and Felicia D. Kingsbury tells of the work of the "Preservation Society" as represented by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. The symposium is followed by a "Portfolio of Restorations," which in words and pictures presents some important examples of the exploitation of historic sites and the preservation of buildings at Newport, Rhode Island, at Tombstone, Arizona, at Deerfield and Sturbridge, Massachusetts, and at New Castle, Delaware. Particularly useful to groups and communities that may be planning to restore a structure is an article on "Restorations in the Making." Among some "Architectural Landmarks" described in another article is the Nelson Dewey House at Cassville, Wisconsin. The September issue of *Antiques* includes an illustrated article by Bertha L. Heilbron on John Stevens' panorama of the Sioux War, which is owned by the Minnesota Historical Society. Reproduced with the narrative are six frames from the panorama, as well as a view of the mechanism.

"The Kensington Runic Inscription" is the title of the leading article in the July issue of *Speculum: A Journal of Mediaeval Studies*. The author, S. N. Hagen, announces at the outset that he will confine himself "almost entirely to the language of the inscription," presenting "observations on some linguistic

features which," in his opinion, "have not been correctly analyzed either by Holand or by any of his most severe critics." After careful examination of these features, Mr. Hagan reaches the conclusion that the stone found in central Minnesota in 1898 "is a genuine record of a Scandinavian expedition into the very heart of North America in 1362." It is his belief that "a future generation of scholars . . . will find the inscription as genuine" as certain other long accepted runic records, and that they will value it both "as an important Scandinavian and American historical document and as a deeply moving human document."

The "History, Life and Art of the Mississippi-Missouri Valley" are featured in three elaborately illustrated articles appearing in the autumn number of *American Heritage*. The story of the Father of Waters is traced in brief historical outline in an article on "Four Centuries of the Mississippi" by Bertha L. Heilbron, editor of *Minnesota History*. Charles van Ravenswaay, director of the Missouri Historical Society, describes "Old Man River," stressing particularly its "life and character"; and Perry T. Rathbone, director of the City Art Museum of St. Louis, takes as his subject "Mississippi Panorama: The Life and Landscape of the Valley as Seen by Contemporary Artists." The two latter articles are drawn in large part from the extensive and magnificent catalogue issued by the St. Louis museum for its "Mississippi Panorama" exhibition of 1949, and the illustrations accompanying all three articles are taken from this volume. The work, which is briefly reviewed above, p. 55, is now available in a new cloth-bound edition, which has been issued for the museum by the Caledonia Press of St. Louis.

The Association of American Railroads has issued a new and revised edition of its *Bibliography of Railway Literature* (1950. 48 p.), which contains such useful features as the Library of Congress numbers of books listed and the addresses of publishers. In addition to books for juveniles, general works on railroads and their history, and works containing railway statistics, the pamphlet includes lists of railway and travel periodicals and journals issued for railway employees.

Some effects of the activities of men like Eduard Pelz, whose work on behalf of German emigration is described elsewhere in this magazine, are considered by Merle Curti and Kendall Birr in an article on "The Immigrant and the American Image in Europe, 1860-1914," which appears in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for September. Although most of the writers' examples are drawn from Wisconsin, they occasionally refer to Minnesota and its settlers. In this connection, it is of interest to note that they have utilized the reminiscences of a Swedish immigrant who figures also in Mrs. Johnson's narrative — Hans Mattson. After working "for years with Minnesota promotion groups," write Professor Curti and Mr. Birr, Mattson "reported that on visits among western farmers he had seen . . . promotion literature 'standing in the little bookshelf side by side with the Bible.'" The

America that men like Pelz revealed to Europeans, these writers find, "tended to be thought of as a fabulous place of staggering bigness where miracles of wealth-getting were the order of the day."

The first issue of the *Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly*, published by the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society of Chicago, appeared in July. Readers of this magazine will be particularly interested in the contribution made to the new publication by Roy Swanson of St. Paul. Under the heading "Our Predecessors," he reviews the story of the Swedish Historical Society of America, which was active from 1905 to 1934. The years after 1920, Mr. Swanson describes as the "Minnesota Period," and he stresses the fact that in 1921 the organization's important library was placed on permanent deposit with the Minnesota Historical Society.

Interest in the story of General George A. Custer and in the battle that ended his career continues nearly three-quarters of a century after the massacre on the Little Bighorn. One evidence of that interest is a volume entitled *The Custer Story: The Life and Intimate Letters of General George A. Custer and His Wife Elizabeth*, edited for publication by Marguerite Merrington (New York, 1950). Another is a booklet, issued by the National Park Service as number 1 of its *Historical Handbook Series*, describing the *Custer Battlefield National Monument* in Montana. The authors, Edward S. and Evelyn S. Luce, retell in brief the story of the battle and of its chief actor. Numerous photographs and maps of the Little Bighorn Valley and of the battle site illustrate the booklet.

Much of the summer issue of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* is devoted to folklore, chiefly that of the Ozarks and of the state of Arkansas. Included, however, are articles and editorials of interest to folklorists in general, like Vance Randolph's note on "Folklore and Common Sense," and Philip D. Jordan's discussion of "The Scope of Folklore and History." John Gould Fletcher writes of "Some Folk-Ballads and the Background of History," showing how ballads may serve as records of events; Robert L. Morris gives examples of "The Arkansan in American Folklore"; and Mr. Vance records some legends about "Fabulous Monsters of the Ozarks."

Glossy stock, double columns, numerous small illustrations, and two colors are characteristics of the new format of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, which is featured for the first time in the autumn number. New also are the titles of special feature sections, which include "Meet the Authors," "Smoke Rings," "Pandora's Box," and "Readers' Choice." A contribution of general interest in the issue is Fulmer Mood's essay on "Frederick Jackson Turner and the Milwaukee *Sentinel*, 1884," in which the famed Wisconsin historian's brief experience as a newspaperman is reported. Those who are interested in the history of Norwegian settlement and the influence of Scandinavian culture in the Northwest will wish to turn also to Einar Haugen's article on

"Wisconsin Pioneers in Scandinavian Studies." It deals with the contributions of two professors in the University of Wisconsin, Rasmus B. Anderson and Julius E. Olson, who for more than half a century "carried on a tradition of the oldest continuous teaching of Scandinavian in an American institution of higher learning" and produced a "model for other American schools in the Middle and Far West which later introduced similar courses."

An attractive booklet published by the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society serves as an illustrated guide to *The Hayes Memorial* library and museum and to the Hayes estate, Spiegel Grove, at Fremont, Ohio (1950. 40 p.). The author, Watt P. Marchman, points out that here are preserved the "personal collections of President and Mrs. Hayes, including mementoes associated with their personal and public life and their diaries, correspondence, scrapbooks, papers, pictures, photographs, and library." As a "research center for the study of American history for the period between the Civil War and the beginning of the twentieth century," the library is becoming widely known.

TELLING THE MINNESOTA STORY

ONE OF THE RECENT BOOKLETS issued by the Newcomen Society has for its subject *The Pioneering Pillsburys* and their contributions to the flour milling industry in Minneapolis and America (1950. 28 p.). The author, Philip W. Pillsbury, presented the narrative as an address before a meeting of the Newcomen Society in Minneapolis on May 16, 1950, in commemoration of the "80th Year of the Pillsburys in flour milling." He stresses particularly the career of John S. Pillsbury, who arrived at the Falls of St. Anthony in 1853—the first of his family "to venture to the new West." He was followed in 1869 by his nephew, Charles Alfred Pillsbury, and together, the writer relates, "they put in \$10,000 for a one-third interest in a broken-down 250 barrel Minneapolis flour mill." The development of a great industry from these beginnings is traced in brief outline in the present booklet.

The reminiscences of Philander Prescott, pioneer Minnesota trader who went to the upper Mississippi shortly after Fort Snelling was founded, have been used by Professor Donald D. Parker of the South Dakota State College at Brookings in the preparation of an informing series of articles published in installments in the *Daily Argus-Leader* of Sioux Falls for October 1, 8, 15, and 22. The original manuscript, which was prepared by Prescott for Governor Ramsey, is owned by the Minnesota Historical Society; no part of it has been previously published. Dr. Parker quotes numerous passages from Prescott's narrative, selecting especially those telling of a journey to the Big Sioux River and the site of Sioux Falls in 1831. In the course of this trip, the trader stopped at the famous Pipestone Quarry in what is now western Minnesota—a visit that is described also in the present issue of this magazine (p. 196, 208). Although he did not write his narrative until many years

after 1831, Prescott records what is the earliest known visit to the quarry by a white man. Dr. Parker supplies a connecting narrative for the excerpts from Prescott's recollections, as well as useful annotations explaining obscure points.

Based upon the "journal of Henry Lueg, a German immigrant, who in 1867 came from Minnesota with a party bound for the Montana mines" is an article on "The Northern Overland Route in 1867" which C. S. Kingston contributes to the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* for July. After living in St. Paul for a time, in the summer of 1867 Lueg joined an overland expedition led by Captain Peter B. Davy. The party left St. Cloud on June 25, with seventy-seven passengers in ox-drawn wagons, according to Mr. Kingston. "The one to which Lueg was assigned carried eight men and two women." His journal, which is in German, tells of the country west of St. Cloud, of a meeting with a Red River cart train, of settlements established by his countrymen in the Sauk Valley, and of Fort Abercrombie on the Red River. It was there that the expedition was "joined by a number of German families who were going to Oregon, and Lueg decided to accompany them to the Pacific Northwest." When the enlarged party left the post, a hundred soldiers went along to escort it through the Indian country. Comments on the earlier expeditions of Captain James L. Fisk, descriptions of frontier military posts, and a report of a meeting with a party of Red River half-breeds who had been hunting in Montana are among other features of Lueg's journal. Mr. Kingston believes that this German immigrant's day-by-day account of an overland journey from Minnesota to Oregon is one of the few complete records of such a trip to be preserved.

An artist whose "first important out-of-town assignment with Harper's came in the fall of 1878 when he was sent 'to cover' the visit of President Hayes to the Minnesota State Fair at St. Paul" is the subject of an interesting sketch by Robert Taft published in the *Kansas Historical Quarterly* for August. The traveling artist is William Allen Rogers, and Professor Taft's account of his career appears as part of the writer's informing "Pictorial Record of the Old West." From St. Paul, Rogers went on to Fargo and Fort Garry—a journey that resulted in such pictures as his view of "Traders at Fort Garry" and of the "Head of Steamboat Navigation on the Red River" at Fargo. Both pictures, incidentally, are reproduced with Professor Taft's article. Of Northwest interest also is Rogers' picture of "Harvest Hands on Their Way to the Wheat Fields," published in 1890 as a record of a visit to the bonanza farms of the Red River Valley.

Some interesting bits of information about Minnesota communities is included by E. Gustav Johnson in an article on "Place Names and Swedish Pioneers" appearing in the September *Bulletin* of the American Swedish Institute. Among the Minnesota names explained are Blomkest and Mamre in Kandiyohi County, Stark in Chisago County, Braham in Isanti County, and Rosing in Morrison County.

The index for volume 30 of *Minnesota History*, published in 1949, is now ready for distribution. It will be sent free of charge upon request to any member of the society or subscriber to its publications. A limited number of bound copies of volume 30 are available at \$3.75 each. Unfortunately, because of the greatly increased cost of printing and binding, it is no longer possible to sell bound volumes at a reduced price to those who return single issues, though for members the price is \$2.75.

THE 1950 MAGAZINE SHOW

MINNESOTA HISTORY is one of the seventy-one magazines selected from 562 entries for the first Magazine Show of the American Institute of Graphic Arts—a national exhibition “directed toward raising the professional standards of editorial design and production in magazines.” Like the Fifty Books of the Year and the Printing for Commerce exhibitions held under the auspices of the same organization, the Magazine Show will be an annual event.

The 1950 Magazine Show opened on October 16 in New York, where it was on view at the Architectural League until October 28. It now is traveling, and eventually it will be seen in all the principal centers of America and Europe. The show will come to Minnesota next spring, when the Minnesota Historical Society plans to display it in its picture gallery.

The winning entries were chosen by a jury of six nationally famed experts in the field of magazine publication and design, with Souren Ermoyan, art director of *Town and Country*, as chairman. They were instructed to survey the vast number of publications submitted, and “to consider how well each magazine meets its self-imposed obligations, from the point of view not of editorial content but of design and production.” Keeping this in mind, they were asked to select for display “examples of various types of magazines that show commendable excellence or noteworthy merit,” choosing only periodicals that are “as a whole remarkably well designed and well printed.” In the words of the chairman, the jury aimed “to select those magazines which faithfully—and consistently—reflected the highest standards of graphic interpretation.” One critic who viewed the resulting show expressed the opinion that “Judged from the view point of design and production in relation to editorial content, the winning entries present a cross-section of the finest contemporary typographic craftsmanship in periodicals from all over the nation.”

Although “circulation figures were disregarded in the judging,” the jurors announced that “some of the best exhibits in the current show are magazines of small circulation.” The society’s quarterly, with a circulation of 2,800, appears in the display with the *Reader’s Digest*, which sells more than 9,000,000 copies each month, and *Life*, which has a weekly distribution figure of 5,200,000. The show seems to prove, according to one reviewer, that budget bears “only a minor relationship to typographic excellence.” The price per issue of the magazines selected ranges all the way from five cents to five dollars; they were produced by thirty-six printers located in twelve states and

Magazine
show
1950

Certificate of Excellence

awarded by

The American Institute of Graphic Arts

to

Minnesota Historical Society

for publishing an outstanding magazine

Minnesota History

THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GRAPHIC ARTS

Walter Dill Scott

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, MAGAZINE SHOW 1950

Ernest Reich

the District of Columbia. For judging purposes, *Minnesota History* probably was grouped with the scholarly and intellectual journals; of these, thirty-one were submitted and six received awards. "A number of these publications have done an outstanding job, notably *Minnesota History*," writes Catherine Royer in the *American Printer* for October. She particularly commends publications in this class for "good taste and demand for craftsmanship in production" exemplified by a "simple, uncluttered page design appropriate to the subject matter." It is of interest to note that aside from *Minnesota History*, only three historical quarterlies are represented in the 1950 Magazine Show — *American Heritage*, the *Pacific Historical Review*, and the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*.

Since for this competition magazines issued in 1949 only were eligible, the society submitted its issue for June, 1949, which was considered typical of the numbers published before the format was altered in the interest of economy. For display, as well as for reproduction in the handsome catalogue of the show, the jury chose a two-page spread which well illustrates the type design (p. 110-111). The American Institute of Graphic Arts awarded the "Certificate of Excellence" reproduced herewith to the society for publishing *Minnesota History*, and it honored with three similar certificates the editor for designing and publishing the quarterly and the Lund Press of Minneapolis for printing it.

WHO'S WHO IN THIS ISSUE

DR. THEODORE L. NYDAHL is chairman of the division of social studies in the Mankato State Teachers College. He has long been interested in Minnesota history, engaging in research on such subjects as the career of Ignatius Donnelly and Norwegian settlement in Goodhue County, and he has contributed numerous book reviews to this magazine.

PROFESSOR JOHN FRANCIS McDERMOTT of the English faculty in Washington University, St. Louis, is a prolific writer whose published works relate in large measure to Mississippi Valley and western history. He is the author of a *Glossary of Mississippi Valley French* (1941); he edited for publication the *Western Journals of Washington Irving* (1944); and he has written numerous articles for the *Bulletin* of the Missouri Historical Society, the *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly*, the *Magazine Antiques*, and other periodicals. He is represented in earlier issues of *Minnesota History* by several book reviews and by a documentary article published in March, 1941.

DR. HILDEGARD BINDER JOHNSON is a member of the geography faculty in Macalester College, St. Paul. Her detailed studies of German settlement in Minnesota have appeared in numerous magazines, including *Agricultural History*, the *American Journal of Sociology*, and *Minnesota History*.

In his present account of the McKinstry Mounds near the international border, DR. LLOYD A. WILFORD continues in the current issue his studies of "The Prehistoric Indians of Minnesota." This is his fifth article on the subject to appear in *Minnesota History*. Dr. Wilford is associate professor of anthropology in the University of Minnesota.

The eleven writers who contribute book reviews to the present issue are connected with colleges, universities, and historical organizations located all the way from New York state to the Pacific coast. They include DR. RICHARD BARDON of Duluth, president of the St. Louis County Historical Society; PROFESSOR RICHARD N. CURRENT of the history faculty in the University of Illinois, Urbana; DR. JOHN T. FLANAGAN, professor of American literature in the same university; JESSE S. DOUGLAS, research associate in the department of history at the University of Washington, Seattle; JAMES TAYLOR DUNN, librarian of the New York State Historical Association at Cooperstown; DR. FRANK H. HECK of the history faculty in Centre College, Danville, Kentucky; JUNE D. HOLMQUIST, editorial assistant on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society; PROFESSOR FRANK L. KLEMENT of the history department in Marquette University, Milwaukee; HERBERT KRAUSE, novelist and member of the English faculty at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; DR. RODNEY C. LOEHR of the department of history in the University of Minnesota; and Father VINCENT TEGEDER, professor of history at St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota.



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