

Red Man's America: A History of Indians in the United States. By RUTH MURRAY UNDERHILL. (Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, 1953. x, 400 p. Illustrations. \$5.50.)

Reviewed by Stanley Vestal

THIS BOOK is a comprehensive study and interpretation of American Indian societies from the time of the first stone-age hunters to present-day American citizens of Indian blood. It also gives glimpses of southern cultures such as the Maya and Inca whose influence was felt by their northern neighbors. It is not an account of migrations, treaties, wars, and historical events. Its fourteen chapters discuss the first comers to our hemisphere, the earliest corn growers, the Five Civilized Tribes, which were moved from their ancient homes over the "Trail of Tears" to Oklahoma, the Algonquian tribes of the Atlantic seaboard, the League of the Iroquois, the tribes of the Great Lakes and upper Mississippi, the buffalo hunters on the Great Plains, the southwestern farmers, the Navajo and Apache, and the tribes of the Great Basin, of California, and of the Pacific Northwest. A final chapter is devoted to a discussion of measures taken by our government in behalf of the Indian.

The author was, until recently, professor of anthropology at the University of Denver, and for thirteen years she was in the government Indian service—a tour of duty which included visits to nearly every reservation in our country. She is thus no mere book historian. She has also read widely and discussed her materials with experts in the various fields of Indian ethnology, prehistory, and culture. No publications issued since September of 1951, however, are included in her list of sources.

STANLEY VESTAL is the pen name of Professor W. S. Campbell of the school of journalism in the University of Oklahoma at Norman. He is the author of numerous books on the American Indians, particularly those of the Plains.

Of course, to write a history of the American Indians in one volume—even one of four hundred pages—would be, as the author admits, "a project so vast as to be almost comic." She offers apologies to specialists who may be disappointed by the omission of matters which bulk large in their particular fields. For this book, like any other by a single author trying to cover so much ground, inevitably contains some half truths and sweeping generalities. And if one may judge by the treatment of the Plains tribes, which this reviewer knows best, there are many inaccurate and mistaken details. For example, the story attempting to account for the origin of Sitting Bull's name is quite incorrect.

The chapter on the "People of the Calumet" (those living on the upper Mississippi and around the Great Lakes) is more satisfactory, perhaps because the author seems to have a more enthusiastic interest in them. She classifies these as the "Lakes Tribes," including the Ojibway or Chippewa, the Ottawa, and the Menominee; the "Intermediate" tribe, or Potawatomi; and the "Prairie Tribes," including the Mascouten, the Winnebago, the Sac and Fox, the Kickapoo, the Illinois, and the Miami. The author also here discusses neighboring tribes, such as the Shawnee and Santee Dakota. In this chapter there is a considerable intermixture of military and political history.

We learn also of the clans, totems, phratries, and subtribes. All these Indians held the sacred pipe, or calumet, most holy—an object so potent that Father Marquette declared, "The sceptres of our kings are not so much respected." Among these people, we have an excellent opportunity to study the diffusion of cultural traits. And their repeated attempts at unification under Pontiac and Tecumseh make them politically most interesting.

This book is a useful, interesting, and entertaining one for the general reader. The author writes in a lively, easy style and her organization is natural and sound. The book contains numerous maps and charts and is lavishly

illustrated by Marianne Stoller. There are also copious notes, an ample bibliography, and an index. The author is to be congratulated upon the success of her heroic undertaking. Such a book has long been needed, and it will no doubt find a permanent place on the reference shelf of every good library.

EXPLORING WITH CASS

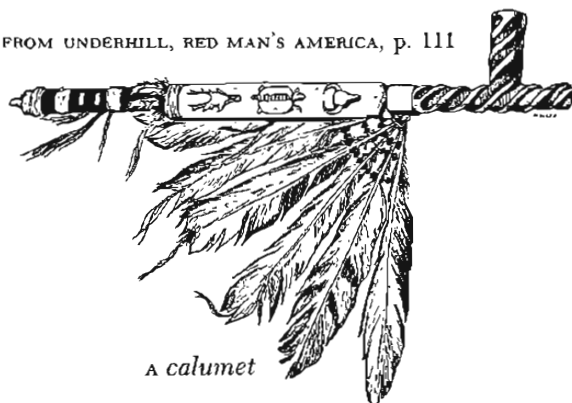
Narrative Journal of Travels through the Northwestern Regions of the United States Extending from Detroit through the Great Chain of American Lakes to the Sources of the Mississippi River in the Year 1820. By HENRY R. SCHOOLCRAFT. Edited by MENTOR L. WILLIAMS. (East Lansing, The Michigan State College Press, 1953. xii, 520 p. Map. \$7.50.)

Reviewed by Harold T. Hagg

WHEN John C. Calhoun gave Henry R. Schoolcraft a place as geologist and mineralogist with the Cass expedition of 1820, it was probably with the thought that the expedition would gain some publicity as a result of the appointment. This hope was not disappointed, for Schoolcraft, with his ready pen, lost no time in preparing an account of the expedition. His *Narrative Journal of Travels* appeared in May, 1821, and attracted many readers. In preparing Schoolcraft's work for modern publication, the editor has followed the original text, but has omitted many of the original footnotes and added others of his own. He has also deleted the meteorological tables and corrected a few obvious errors of the printer. Schoolcraft's original map is reproduced.

The editor's scholarly introduction provides a setting for the expedition. There is a discussion of the problems of frontier security and development and the origins and preparations of the expedition. The achievements of the exploring party are evaluated, and the major participants are identified. While recognizing Schoolcraft's limitations, Mr. Williams' appraisal of the man and his journal is not unfavorable. Schoolcraft's style, to be sure, is heavy and

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A calumet

diffuse, he lacked humor and imagination, and he made pretensions to learning he did not possess. Yet he was a good observer consumed with an insatiable curiosity, and he assembled a mass of information about the region traversed by the exploring party. "What most impresses is his capacity to make us feel the tremendous force of science in the dynamic period of American scientific achievement," writes Mr. Williams. Thus he amplifies and confirms the generally accepted view that Schoolcraft was essentially the indefatigable collector and compiler of information rather than a scientific investigator.

In addition to Schoolcraft's *Narrative Journal*, the volume contains, in appendixes, a wealth of other material relating to the expedition: letters and documents on the problems of the frontier; correspondence initiating the expedition; the reports and letters of Lewis Cass, Schoolcraft, and David B. Douglass; the journals of Douglass, James D. Doty, and Charles C. Trowbridge; and other pertinent documents. It is the editor's hope that in "this one book the complete story of an important incident in American history and culture has been told and its significance made evident."

In preparing the volume the editor has traveled widely and tapped the resources of many libraries. There is a preface to each appendix describing the papers and documents from which selections were made. Mr. Williams had access to the Douglass Papers, which are privately owned and have not been previously exploited in any study of the Cass expedition. He comments that the Douglass Journal has a liveliness the other journals lack, and the extracts published bear out this opinion. Doty's

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journal and that of Trowbridge have been published before. The former is reprinted from volume 13 of the *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, with the addition of some passages not previously published. Trowbridge's journal, edited by Ralph H. Brown, appeared in *Minnesota History* in 1942.

In publishing his journal of the expedition, Schoolcraft apparently broke an agreement with Douglass that they would work together in preparing an account of the exploring journey. Some of the reactions of other members of the party are reflected in their correspondence. In a letter to Calhoun, Douglass alluded to the many errors in Schoolcraft's map. Doty wrote Douglass that Schoolcraft "has committed many errors." What the editor calls a "series of cutting articles on the inaccuracies and inadequacies of the *Narrative Journal*" appeared in the *Albany Daily Advertiser* in August and September, 1821. One wishes the editor had included selections from these reviews.

A bibliography listing the more important printed and manuscript sources and an adequate index are provided. This comprehensive collection of records of the Cass expedition of 1820 is not likely to be superseded. But it is regrettable that a book on which so much labor and care have been lavished could not appear in a more sprightly dress. The somber format offers little temptation to the lay reader to explore vicariously the Old Northwest of 1820.

MEMOIRS OF REVOLUTION

America Rebels: Narratives of the Patriots.

Edited, with an introduction, by RICHARD M. DORSON. (New York, Pantheon Books Inc., 1953. xi, 347 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by F. Sanford Cutler

UNLIKE MORE RECENT conflicts, the American Revolution produced few volumes of memoirs written by generals or political leaders. Instead, the bulk of the literature consists of crudely written accounts by obscure individuals, set down many years after the events recounted had taken place. Most of these narratives have long ago been out of print, or can be found only in the back issues of historical

magazines. From about four hundred such accounts, Professor Dorson has selected fourteen, and has provided an excellent introduction to the literature as well as explanatory notes with each selection.

Midwestern readers will be interested in the narrative of George Rogers Clark, and will find many striking resemblances between the experiences of prisoners of war and Indian captivity accounts found in the Minnesota Historical Society's collections. John Slover's account of his capture, torture, and escape from the Shawnees affords, of course, an even closer parallel.

The concluding section consists of the story of Israel Potter, who spent forty years trying to find a way to return to America after his imprisonment in England. His difficulties point up the fact that the peace of Paris of 1783 could not and did not end the Revolution, because it failed to provide a settlement for the most important issue remaining between England and its former colonies — the future of the West.

WAR-TIME LEADERS

The Statesmanship of the Civil War. By ALLAN NEVINS. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1953. 82 p. \$2.25.)

Reviewed by Kenneth Carley

IN THIS LITTLE book, Professor Allan Nevins of Columbia University gets added mileage out of three lectures he first delivered at the University of Virginia. The essays are a thought-provoking analysis of Civil War leadership and give advance notice of some of the conclusions Mr. Nevins will draw in two forthcoming volumes of his monumental series called *Ordeal of the Union*.

In the first essay Mr. Nevins sets down the conditions of statesmanship. He holds that a leader, among other things, "needs an instinctive understanding of the masses" and, in addition to ability and character, "some kind of passion." In the second, the writer measures Confederate statesmanship against these and other criteria and finds it wanting. Jefferson Davis and his associates failed in their main task of creating a Southern nation because of personal shortcomings and because the South-

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ern republic was shackled with two seeds of death — states rights and slavery. Davis was a man of integrity and deep convictions, but he rubbed people the wrong way and lacked the "passion" necessary in a statesman. Southern leaders, says Mr. Nevins, "succeeded as workers but failed as inspirers."

On the other hand, the author points out in his third essay, Abraham Lincoln was the only statesman of the Civil War era to deserve rank with such giants of the Revolutionary War period as Washington, Franklin, John Adams, and Hamilton. To his task of preserving the nation Lincoln brought such qualities as realism, a sense of timing, and "a passion for democracy as an example to the whole wide world." Although he made errors, Lincoln was an inspirer who kept in mind not only the internal harmony of the North, but also "the future harmony of the whole nation."

AN AGE THAT IS PAST

The Golden Age of Homespun. By JARED VAN WAGENEN, JR. (Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 1953. xviii, 280 p. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

Reviewed by Paul F. Sharp

THIS NOSTALGIC BOOK, like a favorite pipe or a well-worn pair of slippers, creates an atmosphere of security and well-being. Its theme is as simple as the age of handicrafts it describes and its attractions are as compelling as the old family album in the front parlor.

Mr. Van Wagenen's "golden age" extends in point of time from the first settlements in the back country until the Civil War, when mechanization transformed self-sufficiency into dependence, and universality into specialization. By 1845 these sweeping changes were well and truly under way, but the golden age lasted long enough to develop "a culture which was almost independent of the outside world."

Across the pages of this book move the men and women who made the golden age an age of homespun. Here the pioneer movement is

described in glowing terms of individual experience, personal hopes, and single achievements. This atomistic approach brings to life the people who comprised the surging waves of settlement which conquered the forests and tilled the farms of upstate New York, and it invests this book with a value and charm of its own. While historians have mostly written of this period as one dominated by an irresistible army of land-seekers on the march, Mr. Van Wagenen rescues the individual from nameless obscurity. Here the farmers, blacksmiths, cabinetmakers, shoemakers, carpenters, sawyers, millers, tanners, masons, shingle-makers, and leather workers appear as individual craftsmen who endured hardships in creating our modern rural society that were as real as their more familiar successes.

If this was a golden age of handicrafts, it was also an age of wood in which the products of the forest dominated rural living. Trees were first a major barrier to cultivating the soil; then they comprised the chief raw material from which farmers created their material culture. Much of this book is devoted, therefore, to descriptions in great detail of the crafts and their products as well as the craftsmen and their lives.

To give "down to earth" reality to his story, the author combines historical research with personal reminiscence and family tradition. Thus the census of 1845 provides the statistical data, Cattaraugus County in New York the chief setting, and the Van Wagenen family farm a particular case study. This three-dimensional approach creates a picture of great depth and convincing warmth, though one of relentless toil on the land, in the shop, and in the home. Life was not dull or colorless, however, but possessed pleasures and charms satisfying to the generation which enjoyed them.

Many of the author's judgments are misty with the bright haze of happy nostalgia and rosy with idealized romanticism. Some of them, such as his contrast of the ineffectiveness of modern education with the successes of the one-room school, are full of prejudice. But his story is always a tribute to a way of life containing much of security, sense of achievement, and social stability — qualities at a premium in the mid-twentieth century.

There is little here that is new to students of American rural life, but the author's easy style,

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his convincing manner, and his obvious devotion to the spirit of the golden age recommend this book as a delightful experience to those who share his sympathies.

NORTHWEST PHILOSOPHER

Thorstein Veblen: A Critical Interpretation. By DAVID RIESMAN. (New York and London, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1953. xv, 221 p. \$3.00.)

Reviewed by David W. Noble

THIS INTERPRETATION of Thorstein Veblen by David Riesman is the latest addition to the *Twentieth Century Library*, a series of books intended "to give the intelligent layman a basic understanding of those thinkers of the last hundred years who have most influenced the intellectual currents of our time."

To accomplish this task in dealing with Veblen, Mr. Riesman has had the problem of synthesizing a large body of highly technical philosophical, sociological, and economic studies of Veblen's writings into a meaningful whole, and of blending this bundle of abstractions with the life and personality of his subject.

By presenting vividly Veblen's home environment in its relations with American society, by digging deeply into the psychology of Veblen's relations with his parents and this environment, Mr. Riesman creates the basis for an understanding of Veblen's personal and intellectual history. He thus has succeeded in making Veblen come alive, not only as a man, but as a thinker. The vague, subtle, and ironic writings of this Norwegian-American take on a crystal-like clarity. Mr. Riesman believes that the contradictions and the overcomplexity of Veblen's theories are reflections of the young second-generation American's isolation from his home community and American society as a whole, and of his ambivalent attitude toward his father.

Being a social outcast with no firm loyalties to his contemporary world, however, was the source of Veblen's strength, Mr. Riesman insists. For actually Veblen's positive contribution to economic and philosophic theory was not as sophisticated as he believed, but was

marred by very serious contradictions. Rather, his contribution to American thought was negative—it was based on his ability, as a rootless man, to see through the shams and artificialities of American life and to demolish the pretenses on which they were based. Mr. Riesman believes that Veblen's negative criticism has been extremely influential in shaping American thought in a positive way, as is fitting for a man who loved irony.

The one weakness of the book is the overemphasis on Veblen as a solitary thinker. Veblen's thought has more parallels with that of his contemporaries than the author suggests.

EDITORS FROM NORWAY

The Immigrant Takes His Stand: The Norwegian-American Press and Public Affairs, 1847-72. By ARLOW WILLIAM ANDERSEN. (Northfield, Minnesota, Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1953. vii, 176 p. \$3.50.)

Reviewed by Richard Eide

THIS BOOK is a study of opinions expressed by editors of twenty-one Norwegian-American newspapers published in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois in the first twenty-five years of the Norwegian-American press.

In its eight chapters, *The Immigrant Takes His Stand* deals with the problems faced by Norwegian newcomers in their adopted land, their ventures into politics, and their opinions on such topics as slavery, Lincoln and the Union, Grant, Johnson, reconstruction, education, social reform, expansion, and foreign politics.

Editors of these first Norwegian-American newspapers preferred Democratic to Whig party principles, but after 1860 practically all of them adopted Republican party principles. They brought with them from the Old World a tradition of freedom, and they found the press an effective medium through which they could express their opinions on the bitter controversies of the period. On the whole, they agreed in opinion with the majority of American news-

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papers, and they expressed their stands with a moderation that was rare in the party press of that day.

Readers of this book will be interested in the influence of such a newspaper as *Skandinaven*, with which Victor F. Lawson of the *Chicago Daily News* was associated, but they will find equally interesting opinions expressed in the score of less familiar Norwegian-American newspapers interpreted in this study. They will find discussions of economic, social, political, and educational problems that are still with us. But most of all they will realize that Norsemen, too, must be included in the list of foreign-born editors who, with sterling character and fluent pen, worked for the improvement of their adopted land and defended its freedoms.

The book answers well the question: What stand did the editors of these first Norwegian-American newspapers take on the crucial national problems of their day? Pictures of editors and their newspapers and more quotations from leading editorials would have added to the interest of the book.

As one of a series published by the Norwegian-American Historical Association, this study reflects the influence of such a thoughtful leader of research on Norwegians in America as Dean Theodore C. Blegen of the graduate school at the University of Minnesota.

BILINGUAL AMERICANS

The Norwegian Language in America: A Study in Bilingual Behavior. In two volumes. Volume 1: *The Bilingual Community*; volume 2: *The American Dialects of Norwegian*. By EINAR HAUGEN. (Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1953. xiv, vi, 695 p. Maps, tables. \$8.00.)

Reviewed by Henriette C. K. Naeseth

AS DR. HAUGEN points out, his is a belated study, for scholars have only gradually come to recognize the significance of bilingualism in American life, just as they have been slow to realize the importance of other phases of immi-

grant life. His two volumes on the Norwegian language in America represent the work of many years, and, impressive as they are in their research and inclusiveness, he does not claim to have exhausted the topic.

To permit achievement of a dual purpose, the author has followed a wise plan, devoting one volume to language as a social phenomenon and a second volume to "the more purely linguistic aspects." In the first volume, Dr. Haugen has managed not only to relate Norwegian-American bilingualism to bilingualism in America in general, but to survey in a particularly succinct and valuable way many phases of Norwegian and Norwegian-American life and history. Thus there are chapters on Norwegian migration to America and on the great vocabulary shift and the tradition of writing that involve social, cultural, and educational developments in both countries. A chapter on the writing of dialect and New Norse gives a splendid summary of the often confusing language movements in Norway and the ways in which they were reflected in the United States. In the three chapters that conclude the first volume, the writer deals with names in a new world, the struggle over Norwegian, and the triumph of English, at the same time presenting from his special point of view much of the social, religious, and educational history of Norwegians in America.

There is excellent background material on dialects in Norway in volume 2. Even in its most technical portions, this volume constantly reveals the living processes of language, and succeeds in removing the subject from any dry-as-dust philological tradition. It provides, in fact, a very understandable introduction to the nature of language and language changes, and it also throws light on the procedures of the scholar in the field of modern linguistics—a field that is gaining increased importance through co-operative enterprises like the linguistic atlas and studies such as this.

Tables and maps support the findings in the text. Two chapters and three appendixes in volume 2 are devoted to specimens of the Norwegian-American dialect, and to materials illustrative of the research procedures employed. Wisconsin, where Dr. Haugen heads the outstanding department of Norwegian at the state university, offered an excellent field for his investigation, and it is not surprising nor open

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to criticism that Wisconsin informants have been heavily relied upon. Much of his illustrative material, it may be added, is entertaining as well as informative. He has been remarkably successful in making a complex and technical subject meaningful and interesting to the general reader and the linguist, to those with and without Scandinavian backgrounds. The *Norwegian Language in America* is a unique contribution in its double field of social history and linguistics. It should encourage others to prepare valuable parallel studies.

DONNELLY IN FICTION

North Star Sage: The Story of Ignatius Donnelly. By OSCAR M. SULLIVAN. (New York, Vantage Press, Inc., 1953. 197 p. \$3.50.)

Reviewed by Martin Ridge

MR. SULLIVAN has written a novel of social significance, using Hastings as its locale. His aim was to portray the social and political forces at work in Minnesota during the decade of the 1880s. In part he has been successful. A discerning reader will quickly discover that the intermingling of politics and romance serves merely as a medium to present a criticism of religious prejudice, nativism, and class antagonism. He will also learn that the author finds in Minnesota's development a compromise between conservatism and reform which has made for slow rather than radical change.

Just why the author entitled the book *North Star Sage* is a mystery, because Ignatius Donnelly is neither the hero nor a primary character. He drifts in and out of the narrative, a few of his books are mentioned in passing, and he seems to have been used only to give continuity to the story. This is somewhat disappointing because Donnelly, like Ramsey and Sibley, would make excellent material for creative writing. The hero of the book is a young newspaperman who, although a political liberal, eventually wins the hand and fortune of a socially prominent and wealthy Hastings belle.

As a piece of fiction, this story is light,

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pleasant reading, reminiscent of the genteel novels of the last century. Many people who are interested in the state's history or who wish to relax with inoffensive fiction will enjoy the story. It should make a satisfactory gift book not only for young people, but for Minnesota's old-timers, who will recall, with Mr. Sullivan, some of the spirit of the state before the turn of the century.

TERRITORIAL TRAVELER

LETTERS written by Christopher C. Andrews while traveling in Minnesota Territory in 1856 are among the narratives reprinted in *A Mirror for Americans: Life and Manners in the United States, 1790-1870, as Recorded by American Travelers*. Compiled and edited by Warren S. Tryon and published by the University of Chicago Press, the work consists of three volumes (793 p. \$5.00 each). The Andrews letters, originally printed in the *Boston Post* and in 1857 published in book form under the title *Minnesota and Dacotah*, are a feature of the third volume. In them, a pioneer Minnesotan who later attained prominence as soldier, diplomat, and forester, describes a trip by rail from Chicago to Dunleith, by steamboat upstream to St. Paul, and thence by stagecoach to Crow Wing. Among other sources reprinted in the same volume, which bears the subtitle *The Frontier Moves West*, are some of George Catlin's descriptions and pictures of American Indian life, an account of conditions at an American Fur Company post on the upper Missouri, and John L. Peyton's description of the old Northwest in 1848. Reproductions of contemporary illustrations add much to the interest and value of this work.

THE PEOPLE'S HEALTH

ALTHOUGH the Minnesota Historical Society's latest book, Dr. Philip D. Jordan's history of public health in Minnesota, was officially published on October 1, it proved impossible to include a review of this readable and often dramatic work in this issue of *Minnesota History*. It will be reviewed in the spring number of the quarterly by Professor R. Carlyle Buley of the University of Indiana. As the author of a book on *The Midwest Pioneer: His Ills, Cures, and Doctors* (1947), he is well qualified to comment on Dr. Jordan's book.

. . . on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

"LOUIS PRANG, a refugee of 1848, introduced the commercial Christmas card to the American public," according to Carl Wittke, who touches upon the subject in his book on *Refugees of Revolution* (Philadelphia, 1952). "Although such cards were prepared for sale probably as early as the 1840's," Mr. Wittke continues, "it was not until about 1862 that the custom of sending them to friends and relatives became common. Louis Prang promoted the greeting card movement in America in 1856 and produced cards at his lithograph shop in Boston every year after that date."

THE NEWLY organized Graphic History Society of America issued the first number of its mimeographed bulletin, *Eye to Eye*, in June. The society is made up of "collectors, custodians, historians, and others interested in collecting and publishing prints, paintings, photographs and other pictures from the standpoint of the subjects which they represent." In the first issue of the bulletin, Hermine M. Baumhofer stresses the importance of making available general finding lists of pictures in widely scattered depositories. The society plans to make a "Survey of Picture Collections Relating to Individual States" according to an announcement in the second number of *Eye to Eye*, published in September. Each number of this publication includes appropriate and unusual illustrations; among those in the June number are some showing both interiors and exteriors of Mississippi River steamboats.

THE IMPORTANCE of historical manuscripts and their use in the program of the Detroit Historical Museum are discussed by Henry D. Brown in the spring issue of the *Autograph Collectors' Journal*. "The use of manuscripts in a museum," writes Mr. Brown, "may be likened . . . to an iceberg: only a small portion of the mass appears above the surface, the greater bulk is out of sight, but supports that which is in view." To the same number Signe A. Rooth contributes a brief review of the travels in America of Swedish author Fredrika Bremer, of her meetings with leading Americans of the mid-nineteenth century, and of the book which resulted from her trip.

"A HEBREW-DAKOTA Dictionary" among the Minnesota Historical Society's Pond Papers is the subject of an interesting article con-

tributed by W. Gunther Plaut to the June, 1953, *Publication* of the American Jewish Historical Society. The little manuscript volume, Rabbi Plaut explains, was compiled by Samuel W. Pond in 1842, after the Minnesota missionary "took up the study of Hebrew in order to understand fully the Word which had sent him forth" to the Indian frontier. "In his unbounded enthusiasm," Pond "apparently projected a Bible which would be translated directly from Hebrew into Dakota," writes Rabbi Plaut. He explains many of the linguistic peculiarities that distinguish this unusual manuscript.

"TOBACCO, A Peace-maker," is the title of an article by Marius Barbeau appearing in the *Canadian Geographical Journal* for September. The author cites some of the earliest known records of this "gift of the New World to the Old" which "within three centuries . . . has firmly established itself as a universal necessity." As might be expected, many of Mr. Barbeau's examples are drawn from the narratives of explorers. He notes that for almost three hundred years, the calumet dance "was an essential feature of all diplomatic relations between the Indians and the white people in charge of government and the fur trade."

ROBERT C. Alberts is the author of a detailed and informing study of "Trade Silver and Indian Silver Work in the Great Lakes Region" published in the March issue of the *Wisconsin Archeologist* (122 p.). After sketching the historical background for his subject as it relates to the fur trade, the author turns to records of trade silver gleaned from the narratives of traders, merchants, travelers, and others who had early contacts with the red men. A chapter on the "Makers of Trade Silver and Their Marks" provides a useful tool for all who are interested in identifying Indian ornaments. Types of silver ornaments used in the fur trade, regional variations in their designs, and native silverwork also receive attention. In connection with the latter subject, the author describes in detail a catlinite mold unearthed in St. Paul in 1857.

A STUDY of the *Potawatomi Indians of Wisconsin* by Robert E. Ritzenthaler has been published by the Public Museum of the City of Milwaukee as volume 19, number 3 of its *Bulletins* (75 p.). Included is a historical sketch in

which the movements of these people are traced back to the early seventeenth century. Their social organization, living conditions, religion, ceremonies, games, and culture are both described and pictured. A tribe living on the Pacific Northwest coast, *The Makah Indians*, is the subject of a book by Elizabeth Colson recently published by the University of Minnesota Press (1953. 308 p.).

RECURRING Midwest plagues are noted by John T. Schlebecker in an article on "Grasshoppers in American Agricultural History" which appears in *Agricultural History* for July. It is somewhat surprising to learn that grasshopper "plagues of serious proportions were reported in Minnesota and Missouri in 1818 and 1819." Those of the 1850s and 1870s are well known. Much of the present article is devoted to early methods of combating the pests. For example, the author describes the "hopper-dozer," a device that in 1888 was used with notable success in Minnesota. Mr. Schlebecker suggests the possibility "that the plagues of the 1870s halted westward migration," and that the "grasshopper was certainly a most persistent force in land settlement and in the development of agriculture."

RECORDS OF DISCOVERY

A COLLECTION of rare books relating to the discovery of America is housed in the James Ford Bell Room of the library of the University of Minnesota, which was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on October 30. Since the collection is strong in the fields of exploration in eastern Canada and the Great Lakes area, it has special interest for students of Minnesota history. Those who wish to use it should make arrangements in advance with Mr. John Parker, the curator. The dedication program featured an afternoon symposium on "Book Collecting and Scholarship" and an evening dinner meeting. Mr. Bell, who assembled this distinguished collection and gave it to the university, and Mr. Edward Weeks, editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*, were among the speakers on the dinner program. The addresses that comprised the symposium will appear in book form and will be reviewed in a future issue of this magazine.

TWO RECENTLY found letters, dated June 13 and July 25, 1682, are exploited by Augustin C. Wand in a brief article entitled "Some New Lights on Louis Hennepin, Recollect," appearing in the *Historical Bulletin* of St. Louis University for May. Both were discovered among

the family papers of one Louis Errebault, to whom Hennepin wrote. Their importance, according to Father Wand, stems from the fact that they contain "incidental bits of information which give us a somewhat clearer understanding of the personality, career and fate of the enigmatic author" and explorer. In the first letter, for example, Hennepin reports that "he had been in America eight years," and that while there "he had traveled to a distance of six-hundred leagues southwest of Quebec, had suffered the loss of a companion at the hands of the savages, and had been carried off as a prisoner for another five-hundred leagues" and "kept for nine months before being set free." He also relates that "he has been kept at court [at Versailles] for six months to begin printing his book on his discoveries and to make a map." He expresses surprise over the "decision of the ministers to have . . . the new discoveries published," for he had expected that they would try to withhold the information "from rival nations." Father Wand also presents some valuable genealogical information about the Hennepin family. He reaches the conclusion that the oldest of the five sons of Gaspard Hennepin of Ath, "born 12 May, 1626, and named Antony, was the Recollect Louis." This may, of course, help to explain why Hennepin named as he did the Falls of St. Anthony.

THE FOUNDING of Fort St. Antoine on the Wisconsin shore of Lake Pepin by Nicolas Perrot in 1686 is the subject of a lengthy article written in French by Gérard Machelosse for publication in *Les Cahiers des Dix* (No. 17. Montreal, 1952). It makes available a wealth of information about the exploits in the upper Mississippi Valley of an important French explorer and fur trader. The author supplies a bibliography which includes many Minnesota items.

LETTERS dated at Prairie du Chien and Fort Snelling in September, 1835, are included in a group addressed by "G. W. Featherstonhaugh to Colonel J. J. Abert," published in the Missouri Historical Society's *Bulletin* for April, 1952. Mrs. Dana O. Jensen has edited the letters, which are owned by the Missouri society. They relate to the expedition which Featherstonhaugh described in great detail in his two-volume work entitled *A Canoe Voyage up the Minnay Sotor*. The title refers to the Minnesota River, which Featherstonhaugh followed westward to the Coteau des Prairie. The newly published letters supplement the published narrative with remarks about people and places. For example, the explorer comments on the "sanctified set" led

by Major John Loomis "who make themselves consummately ridiculous" at Fort Snelling. Featherstonhaugh also reports his departure from Fort Snelling by Mississippi steamboat early in November with "a foot of snow on the ground and as blustering and bitter a winter abroad as you would wish to be in."

SOME ANNIVERSARIES

THE FIFTIETH anniversary of the University of Minnesota school of forestry in October was the occasion for the appearance of a number of articles reviewing the history of forestry in the state and the school's contributions to its development. The "Pioneer Magazine" of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 18 featured an illustrated article by Alfred D. Stedman on the "stumps to greenery" transition that has occurred during the fifty years of the school's existence. Photographs accompanying the article illustrate old and new forestry and lumbering techniques. Some of the school's notable achievements that "have done much to change the philosophy of forestry from an industry that once slashed and denuded the land to one that now plants and tends trees" are reviewed in the *Minneapolis Tribune* of October 18.

CHATFIELD'S one-hundredth birthday was marked by a well-planned celebration from July 2 through 5, and by the publication of a souvenir booklet entitled *Our First 100 Years* (53 p.). The pamphlet contains well-illustrated summaries of the town's early days, and of the development of its churches, businesses, schools, clubs, indoor baseball team, and other organizations. As the highlight of its centennial program, the community staged a pageant, "Echoes of the Century," based on material in Margaret Snyder's book on its history, *The Chosen Valley* (1948). Program events and a synopsis of the pageant, together with prize-winning essays and articles of historical interest, are to be found in the centennial edition of the *Chatfield News* for June 25. Even the advertisements in this issue have a pioneer flavor. An article entitled "100 Years of Medical Practice in Chatfield" by Dr. Frederick L. Smith contains excellent biographical sketches of such pioneer physicians as Dr. Refine W. Twitchell, as well as readable background information about the Chatfield in which these men practiced.

"TO GIVE answers to those questions which have come with increasing insistence from townsfolk whose memories do not carry them back to the beginnings," the *Le Sueur News-*

Herald issued a centennial edition on July 22. Included are articles on "the city's advancement from a river settlement to a modern community," on the Dr. William W. Mayo home, and on the canning industry which this year is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary in Le Sueur.

A CENTENNIAL edition of the *Austin Daily Herald*, published on August 8, consists of five sections comprising seventy-six pages. An entire section is devoted to the history of churches in the area; another describes the growth of the city of Austin, its schools, its government, and the worst disaster in its history, a tornado which occurred on August 20, 1928. Among other subjects covered are the development of local air, train, and automobile transportation; the history of sports; the founding and growth of the city's chief industry, the meat-packing business of George A. Hormel and Company, which began operations in a remodeled creamery in 1891; the history of villages in Mower County; local farms and farming methods; and township and county government.

TO COMMEMORATE its seventy-fifth anniversary, the *Grant County Herald* of Elbow Lake issued on July 9 a fifty-four-page edition packed with facts on the development of the area. An entire section is devoted to a history of the *Herald* itself, which was founded by W. C. Whiteman in 1878. Two other sections contain well-written accounts of early settlers and settlements, of county organization, of the establishment and growth of villages, schools, and churches, of the influence of the Red River trails on the history and settlement of the county, and of the origins of some of its pioneer villages.

A FOUR-DAY jubilee from August 13 to 16 marked the sixtieth anniversary of the incorporation of the village of Hibbing. A feature of the event was a celebration commemorating the beginnings of the Greyhound Lines on the Mesabi Range thirty-nine years ago. An article dealing with highlights in Hibbing's colorful history, the development of the Mahoning Mine, and the subsequent moving of the town appears in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of August 9. The origin and growth of the Greyhound Lines also are recalled in a feature article in the *Minneapolis Tribune* of the same date.

HIGHLIGHTS in the growth of a small canning company into a national organization are chronicled in an illustrated *Golden Anniversary Book* recently published by the Green Giant Company of Le Sueur. Operating as the Minnesota Valley

Canning Company, the organization packed 11,750 cases of corn in 1903, the first year of its existence. In 1907 it added peas to its list of products, and in 1925 "Green Giant" peas were first developed and packed by the company. The booklet records that the firm, which took its present name in 1950, has grown to such an extent that it now has eight plants in Minnesota as well as plants in other states and in Canada.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

A DETAILED "Review of the Kensington Stone Research" is contributed to the summer issue of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* by Hjalmar R. Holand, who there "presents his answers to the critics who believe the mysterious inscription to be 'a grand fraud.'" After stating the historical and linguistic objections to authenticity, the author discusses the circumstances under which the stone was found, its weathering, and other Minnesota finds which he believes point to the authenticity of the Kensington inscription. The Minnesota stone is mentioned skeptically by Erik Moltke in an article on the newly discovered "Asmild Rune Stone" appearing in the autumn *American Scandinavian Review*. According to this writer, the Kensington stone "bears the date 1362, though unfortunately the inscription includes characters that can be proved not to have been invented until after 1500."

THE PROCESSING of wild rice, a delicacy for which Minnesota is noted, is described by Arthur W. King in the *Duluth News-Tribune* of October 11. Photographs taken in the Ben Hoffman plant at Kinmount illustrate the processes by which wild rice is prepared for market. A recipe for cooking the grain is included.

ACCORDING to a newly published book on the *Mammals of Minnesota* by Harvey L. Gunderson and James R. Beer (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1953. 190 p.), Minnesota's wild life has been important to its people since the days of the fur trader and the settler. "The early interest," say the authors, "was in the harvesting of the vast supply of furs to be found in the fastness of its wilderness and in those species that were usable as food and clothing." Readers will be interested to learn that authentic records of both the mountain lion and the grizzly bear exist for the state. Although these animals are not regular inhabitants, both are included in the authors' list of eighty-one mammals that have at one time or another been identified within Minnesota's borders. The

book contains descriptions and photographs of Minnesota mammals, maps indicating the distribution of each animal, and some historical data. For the many Minnesotans who have a lively interest in their state's wild life, this little book will fill a long-felt need. For those seeking additional information, there is a selected list of references following each entry as well as a general bibliography. J.D.H.

A CONTRIBUTION to the state's social and religious history is Ada L. Forster's *History of the Christian Church and Church of Christ in Minnesota* (St. Louis, 1953. 136 p.). In addition to histories of hundreds of individual churches in communities large and small, this volume contains sketches of church leaders, accounts of church organizations, notes on various newspapers issued in the state by this denomination, a sketch of Tipi Wakan on Lake Minnetonka, where conferences and conventions are held, and a history of the Minnesota Bible College.

TO MARK the centennial of Hamline University and to commemorate the contributions to its progress made by her parents, George Henry and Mary Elliott Bridgman, Dorothy Bridgman Rood has erected on the campus of the St. Paul school an imposing memorial known as Bridgman Court. The work of the famed Minneapolis sculptor, John Rood, the wall of the court displays a text reviewing Hamline's history illustrated by appropriate carvings. Both are reproduced in an attractive booklet, which also includes a brief introduction by Mrs. Rood, a note by the sculptor on the designing and significance of the project, and "An Appreciation" by Dean Theodore C. Blegen of Dr. Bridgman, who served as president of Hamline from 1883 to 1912. Bridgman Court, writes Dean Blegen, symbolizes the "gateway to the future" to which Dr. Bridgman devoted his life. The memorial was presented to the university with appropriate ceremonies on October 9 on the occasion of the inauguration of Dr. Paul H. Giddens as the school's eleventh president.

SKETCHED against a general review of upper Minnesota Valley backgrounds is Mildred B. Lee's "Medical History of the County of Yellow Medicine," the first installment of which appears in *Minnesota Medicine* for June. In the July and August issues Mrs. Lee outlines the story of settlement and shows how the first physicians were attracted to the new area. The writer draws much of the material for this section of her narrative from newspaper files, quoting colorful passages that illuminate her subject. Following

her general discussion, Mrs. Lee provides notes on such topics as medical practice and nursing, early dentists, druggists, opticians, and coroners. A substantial study of *Medicine and Its Practitioners in Olmsted County Prior to 1900* (213 p.) by Nora H. Guthrey is a reprint of a series of articles published in *Minnesota Medicine* from July, 1949, to September, 1951.

IN A recently published bulletin on *Minnesota's Interstate Trade*, Edwin H. Lewis makes "a pioneer attempt to analyze freight movements into and out of the state" (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1953. 37 p.). The author estimates that there is "a steady flow of trade across the borders of the state which approximates 135 million tons annually." According to Mr. Lewis, "three fourths of this traffic is outbound and one fourth is inbound." He includes useful analyses in both text and tables for the state's manufacturers by industrial groups, for freight traffic, and for freight movement by type of carrier. Most of the statistics are for the year 1950.

MUCH VALUABLE information about an important Minnesota industry on the threshold of a new era is to be found in "Iron for Tomorrow," a sixty-four-page section of the *Duluth News-Tribune* for August 16. Though it contains thirty-one useful articles on many aspects of iron mining past and present, in a sense, the first two articles set the theme for all that follow. The first, "Golden Era on Horizon for Ranges" by E. W. Davis, points up the importance of the present taconite development in northern Minnesota for the region, the state, and the nation. The second article, "Iron Men, Iron Ranges" by Grace Lee Nute, sketches the history of Minnesota's Vermilion and Mesabi ranges—the background against which today's taconite revolution must be placed. Miss Nute brings together much material that has heretofore been scattered and difficult to obtain about the discovery and development of the state's iron region. She describes the opening of the Vermilion Range in 1884, stressing the importance of Charlemagne Tower, who was so largely responsible for the construction of its first railroad, the platting of its early towns, and the building of the first ore docks at Two Harbors. Turning to the Mesabi, Miss Nute deals with exploration and settlement, covers the story of the Merritt brothers and their financial difficulties, surveys the growth of modern towns and immigration, and touches on such topics as taxation and education. Other authors contribute illuminating discussions of various facets of the taconite industry

and evaluate its importance for Minnesota. Projects completed, in progress, or proposed at Babbitt, Beaver Bay, Aurora, Mountain Iron, and Virginia are described and often pictured.

A CULTURE that flourishes among Slovenians "caked with rust dust and tintured with the ebony of modern taconite" on Minnesota's Mesabi Range is described by Philip D. Jordan in an article on "The Folklorist as Social Historian" which appears in *Western Folklore* for July. "The way of life and the psychology of the Slovenians," writes Professor Jordan, have been explored recently by a folklorist who "went among them, lived with them, took down their legends, and then merged their way of life with their political and economic history." In studies such as this, the writer suggests, "the folklorist has contributed material that the historian has consistently overlooked."

A VALUABLE *Bibliography of Minnesota Mining*, compiled by Virginia M. Wilson, has been published by the Mines Experiment Station of the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology as number 14 of its *Bulletins* (1952. 114 p.).

A SURVEY of "The Evolution of Equipment in Minnesota Iron Mining, 1883-1953" is contributed by A. Tancig to *Skilling's Mining Review* for August 8 and 15. The author describes changes in the types of hoists, steam shovels, lights, cages, bailers, pumps, drills, stripping machinery, cranes, tractors, and trucks used on the state's iron ranges. He also deals with power development from the era of hand-operated equipment and mule-drawn vehicles to the present age of electricity. Accompanying the article are pictures of early pieces of machinery used on the Vermilion and Mesabi ranges.

THE "FIRST High Powered Lighthouse on Lake Superior," which was built in 1858 "on the extremely Easterly end of Minnesota Point," is briefly described by the late John A. Bardon in the October issue of *Inspiration*, a news sheet published at Duluth. Mr. Bardon records that "During foggy weather, the Lighthouse keeper blew at intervals a common tin horn, similar to that later used by the cooks in the Lumber Camps in calling their crews to meals." A photograph of the crumbling remnant of this early lighthouse appears on the cover of the magazine. According to information in the April number of this news sheet, Pancake Island, a landmark in Beaver Bay is to be preserved in its natural state by the Reserve Mining Company. Well known to botanists and bird lovers, the island

might have been destroyed during the construction of taconite facilities in the area.

ST. CLOUD is the scene of a recently published novel by Dr. Julius Buscher entitled *The Doctor's Last Message* (New York, 1953. 136 p.). The narrative, which is cast in the form of a letter written by a doctor to his wife and received by her after his death, seems to draw upon the author's own experience, since he has practiced medicine in St. Cloud for more than twenty-five years.

AN AMBITIOUS series of monthly programs has been mapped for the current season by the St. Louis County Historical Society. Featured at the opening meeting in September was a paper on Great Lakes shipping by Dana Thomas Bowen. Plans for later meetings include talks on Knife Portage in the fur trade, on logging railroads, and on Beaver Bay.

ARTICLES based on reminiscences collected and recorded by Dr. Charles Vandersluis for the Beltrami County Historical Society appear in the issues of the *Kelliher Independent* for the spring and summer of 1953. Included are some recollections, published from June 18 to July 9, of John Van House relating to "Early Days in Northern Minnesota." He deals with settlement and logging activities near Fosston, Solway, Turtle River, and Kelliher. Pictures from the files of the local historical society illustrate the articles.

BEYOND STATE BOUNDARIES

THREE ARTICLES on "The Chicago Great Western Railway" by Frank P. Donovan, Jr., appear in the June number of *The Palimpsest*. The opening sketch, entitled "Stickney's Railroad," gives emphasis to the career of Alpheus B. Stickney of St. Paul, who was largely responsible for building the road. In the two remaining articles, the author deals with "The Great Western in Iowa" and "The Chicago Great Western Today." Much useful information on this important Midwest freight line is drawn together by the same writer in the September issue of the *Railroad Magazine*. Mr. Donovan contributes an interesting article on the builder of the Northern Pacific Railroad, Henry Villard, to the *American German Review* for August-September. He tells that Villard entered the field of railroad transportation via journalism, and that the covering of the "constitutional convention in St. Paul, Territory of Minnesota," in 1857 was one of his early assignments.

MUCH NEW information about J. C. Wild, whose picture of Fort Snelling in 1844 was acquired by the Minnesota Historical Society in 1950, is presented by Martin P. Snyder in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* for last January. His article deals with "J. C. Wild and His Philadelphia Views" produced in 1838, and touches only incidentally on the artist's Midwest experiences. Nevertheless, anyone interested in the work of this illusive limner of the American scene will welcome the wealth of biographical information contained in Mr. Snyder's narrative.

THE CAREER of Mathias Loras, "The First Bishop of Iowa," is the subject of one of six articles by M. M. Hoffman on "The Roman Catholic Church in Iowa" published in the August issue of *The Palimpsest*. As originally established, the bishop's diocese embraced not only what is now Iowa, but all of Minnesota and much of the Dakotas. Thus Loras figures in the history of Catholicism in Minnesota from 1837, when he went to Dubuque, until 1851, when the diocese of St. Paul was created. An example is a trip, reported by Father Hoffman, that Loras made to Fort Snelling, where he "baptized fifty-six persons."

A HIGHLY READABLE history of *Grinnell College* by John S. Nollen, its fifth president and one of its leaders for over fifty years, has been published by the State Historical Society of Iowa (1953. 283 p.). Significant events in the history of the college, such as the disastrous cyclone of 1882, are graphically portrayed, and key personalities in its story, like Jesse Macy, are vividly characterized. The early chapters, which deal with the New England heritage of Grinnell, its founding in 1846 by Asa Turner and a group of Congregational ministers, chiefly from Andover Seminary, and its subsequent merger with Grinnell University in 1858, comprise a genuine contribution to an understanding of Iowa's history during its period of settlement. R.F.

THE FIRST of a series of weekly articles on Fort Abercrombie is contributed to the *Fargo Forum* of July 19 by Roy P. Johnson of the paper's staff. He brings together some little-known information, gleaned from manuscripts and newspapers, about the lonely frontier outpost on the west bank of the Red River. The articles relate in large part to the siege of Fort Abercrombie during the Sioux War of 1862, to the settlers who went there for protection, and to members of the Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry who were stationed there.



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