

Selections from "Minnesota History": A Fiftieth Anniversary Anthology. Edited by RHODA R. GILMAN and JUNE DRENNING HOLMQUIST. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1965. x, 369 p. \$6.95.)

Reviewed by James C. Olson

THIS ANTHOLOGY is a fitting commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of *Minnesota History*, long recognized as one of the nation's leading state historical quarterlies.

The twenty-six articles selected for inclusion in the volume as outstanding representatives of those that have appeared in the journal during the past fifty years were chosen on the basis of the importance of their subject, the breadth and depth of their treatment, their continuing interest, and their readability. All meet the criteria established, but even a cursory check of the thirty-eight volumes of the magazine which have appeared since 1915 reveals that many equally meritorious articles were not included. One can sympathize with the editors' statement that the work of selection from among the more than five hundred articles which have appeared in the quarterly was a "frustrating task." Nevertheless, the result of their effort is satisfyingly representative—even though, as the editors recognize, certain important aspects of Minnesota's history treated in the journal (notably Indian affairs, art, and the activities of many important persons) are not included.

The anthology covers a time span from early Indian activities in the Pipestone Quarry to the politics of 1948 and the Minnesota background of Sinclair Lewis' fiction. There is considerable emphasis on politics, but more on the social, cultural, and economic aspects of the state's history.

In "The Literature of the Pioneer West," re-

printed from the December, 1927, issue, Henry Steele Commager states that "the writers of the middle border were overwhelmingly concerned with the physical and material aspects of life." Reading this anthology leads one to conclude that the same could be said, to a degree at least, of those who have written about Minnesota's history—as indeed it can of historians of other states, particularly in the Middle West. This preoccupation has given a significant dimension to American history, but it has tended to overemphasize the physical and material aspects of state and local history.

The present anthology will be of interest to American historians in all parts of the country and will serve to call attention to the important work being done by the state historical journals. For the people of Minnesota it should further support the justifiable pride they can have in the Minnesota Historical Society.

NATION OUTSIDE HISTORY

Historians against History: The Frontier Thesis and the National Covenant in American Historical Writing since 1830. By DAVID W. NOBLE. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1965. 197 p. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by Charles G. Cleaver

THE TITLE of this new book by David Noble, professor of history at the University of Minnesota, is astonishing enough. What is more astonishing is that he makes it stick. Six of America's most important historians of the last century and this one—George Bancroft, Frederick J. Turner, Charles A. Beard, Carl L. Becker, Vernon L. Parrington, and Daniel J. Boorstin—do in fact furnish him with evidence that proves his thesis. All except Becker devoted most of their careers to supporting a very persistent popular tradition: "The American people believe that their historical experience has been uniquely timeless and harmonious because they are the descendants

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of Puritans who, in rejecting the traditions and institutions of the Old World, promised never to establish traditions and institutions in the New World. If history is the record of changing institutions and traditions, then by definition there can be no history in a nation which by puritanical resolve refuses to create complexity."

Making the facts of history fit the framework of this belief has often been for these historians a painfully difficult task. As Professor Noble portrays their work, we see them as men, members of society, struggling in all honesty for formulas which serve this conviction. History itself has made their job more difficult. It was one thing when Bancroft, the Jacksonian Democrat, characterized his fellow citizens of the 1840s as men beyond history in their natural innocence. But Daniel Boorstin, as the author explains him, seems quixotic or worse when in the 1950s he tries by historical sermon to coax Americans back to the Eden of their past.

The "hero" of the book is Carl Becker. Mr. Noble presents Becker's growing dissatisfaction with his own earlier historical theories, which were orthodox in the tradition the book discusses; his struggle during the late 1930s and early 1940s to find a theory which would fit the facts of urban and industrial America; and his final acceptance of planning for equality as a necessary modification of absolute freedom, given the complexity of modern society.

In a way Becker was also the hero of Mr. Noble's previous book, *The Paradox of Progressive Thought* (1958). That work and this are companions: the former explores the tension between static and dynamic elements in the thought of the intellectual leaders of the Progressive movement; this one examines through time a closely related paradox. The two books, in other words, provide two views of a dilemma at the very center of American belief. "Belief" is, however, too narrow a word to name what Mr. Noble is examining. In the first book he acknowledges his debt to Becker's method of studying "climate of opinion." In this book his method becomes even broader and subtler, reflecting, as he says, the work of historians who analyze the whole range of the human imagination.

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Professor Noble is modest in the space he allows himself for judgment. Yet, just as one of his achievements is to portray historians as men wrestling to accommodate their scholarship to their citizenship, so we see, through his clear prose, the conscience of another historian working hard to understand the meaning of what he has learned from history. It has led him to ask, with Carl Becker, "Can Americans afford the romantic illusion of a completed destiny in the twentieth century?"

HISTORIANS REMEMBERED

Keepers of the Past. Edited by CLIFFORD L. LORD. (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1965. 241 p. \$6.00.)

Reviewed by Russell W. Fridley

THIS VOLUME pulls together biographical sketches of eighteen individuals who have made indelible contributions to the historical preservation movement in the United States. A heterogeneous group, they include "writers, pedagogues, housewives, ministers, teachers, capitalists . . . men and women . . . young and old." Their common motivation was an abiding sense of history, their common quality—being "people who got things done." Among them are: Jeremy Belknap, who laid the foundations of the historical society movement by organizing the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1791; Reuben Gold Thwaites, who developed the broadly based and publicly supported "progressive historical society" in Wisconsin; John Franklin Jameson, who more than anyone else promoted the organization and centralization of federal records in the National Archives; Henry Edwards Huntington, whose philanthropy created a renowned library that is a mecca for students of American history and literature; Ann Pamela Cunningham, who salvaged Mount Vernon from the neglect accorded it by George Washington's country and descendants; John D. Rockefeller, Jr., who enriched the legacy of all Americans by restoring Williamsburg and purchasing vast scenic areas that evolved into four major national parks; and a dozen others.

Clifford L. Lord's illuminating introductory essay discusses the dearth of previous writing on the subject and sets the tone for the entire volume in stating that the phalanx of keepers of the past "is one of the fascinating yet strange-

ly neglected sectors of American intellectual history." He also traces the general story of the historical preservation movement through two centuries and charts its responsiveness to main currents in the nation's life—such as nationalism, wars, depressions, the advent of the automobile, and the increasing affluence of American society.

In a book that undertakes to portray some of the major figures who gave momentum to the various areas of historical preservation, at least one major omission is apparent. That is the entry of the National Park Service into the field of safeguarding historic sites after World War I. This development marked a turning point of major proportions and bears the same relationship to the preservation of the nation's historic sites that the establishment of the National Archives bears to the salvage and organization of its written records.

The eighteen personalities portrayed in this book are representative of hundreds more. Their contributions may have been made in zeal, ideas, money, influence, organization, or scholarship. Whatever they gave, a distinct break-through for the cause of history resulted, and those who followed in their footsteps received encouragement.

Long ago, John Dryden complained "that historians, who give immortality to others, are so ill requited by posterity, that their actions . . . are usually forgotten." *Keepers of the Past* makes a significant contribution in relieving that neglect.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

The French in the Mississippi Valley. Edited by JOHN FRANCIS McDERMOTT. (Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1965. ix, 247 p. \$6.75.)

Reviewed by J. Huntley Dupre

THE CHAPTERS in this volume were first read as papers at a two-day conference held in St. Louis, February 13–15, 1964, to celebrate the bicentennial of the founding of that city by Pierre de Laclède. Edited by Professor John

F. McDermott of Southern Illinois University, an authority on Laclède and his times, the book adds important knowledge of the history of the region for both the general reader and the specialist. The contributions are well documented from sources in France, Spain, and New Orleans, and the quality of the papers is generally high, though uneven.

The subjects included in the book are: the houses of French St. Louis; colonial fortifications and military architecture in the Mississippi Valley; families from the French West Indies; an early poet; French engineers in Spanish Louisiana; a missionary "patriot priest" in the Illinois country; the French "Mountain Men"; French naturalists in the valley; the fantastic El Dorado of Mathieu Sagean; reactions in France to the Louisiana revolution of 1763; and papers concerning resources for the history of the period which are in the Seminary of Quebec, in Louisiana, and in the rich and exciting Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library.

Space permits mention of only a few individual pieces. Mr. McDermott's well-written and humorous opening chapter on "Myths and Realities Concerning the Foundation of St. Louis" explodes romantic folk tales current in the nineteenth century and stresses the founding as a "story of commercial enterprise" led by Laclède, an enlightened and farseeing Frenchman. The chapters by Samuel Wilson, Jr., and by Jack D. L. Holmes give valuable sidelights on military defense in the region. Pierre H. Boullé's paper on the Louisiana revolution of 1763 is a readable, scholarly treatment which puts the rebellion that followed the transfer of authority from France to Spain into the context of the power struggle in Europe. The short chapter on French "Mountain Men" by Frederick E. Voelker is vivid and tantalizing, for one wants to know more about these men who left their mark on the West; and Professor Richebourg G. McWilliams' well-told tale of Mathieu Sagean will have to be read to be believed.

The volume is a handsome production of which the University of Illinois Press may well be proud.

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IROQUOIS RESETTLEMENT

The Valley of the Six Nations: A Collection of Documents on the Indian Lands of the Grand River. Edited by CHARLES M. JOHNSTON. (Toronto, Champlain Society, 1964. xcvi, 344 p. Maps, illustrations. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by A. L. Burt

A LONG INTRODUCTION by the editor of this "representative collection" of documents tells the history of Ontario's Grand River lands in the region north of Lake Erie, where loyalist and neutral Indians settled under British protection at the close of the American Revolution. The documents cover the period from 1627 to 1844.

The main story begins in 1783 when Joseph Brant (Thayendanegea, the Mohawk chief), after reviewing a proposed location at the Bay of Quinte on Lake Ontario, decided it was unsuitable and that the best place for the Indians was on the Grand River. Along with the red men who removed to that area went a number of government agents to assist in the resettlement; and almost immediately other white men followed to acquire land. The documents show the endless disputes which arose, many of them due to changing administrations. These conflicts are very interesting to the historian, but exasperatingly confusing for the general reader.

Brant had from the beginning encouraged white men to settle both "to provide the Indians with informal instruction" and "to construct mills and other facilities." He had even provided many with deeds. Nevertheless, the right to sell by the Indians, as well as the right to purchase by the whites, was under question. In 1798 a board of trustees, empowered to act on behalf of the Six Nations, made a formal transfer of the lands already assigned to several white purchasers. Some blocks of land remained unassigned at the time of Brant's death in 1808, and it was not until 1841 that the last disputed piece was disposed of.

Some of the documents in this volume are so well known that it seems unnecessary to reprint them. One wonders, for example, why the excerpt from the royal proclamation of 1763 is included. The introduction contains lumbering

passages that could be easily avoided. But this reviewer must compliment the editor for the meticulous care shown in preparing the footnotes.

PEACEFUL SOLDIER

General Henry Atkinson: A Western Military Career. By ROGER H. NICHOLS. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1965. xiv, 243 p. Illustrations, maps. \$5.95.)

Reviewed by Merrill J. Mattes

NOW we have a good biography of long-neglected General Henry Atkinson (1782-1842), whose name is inseparable from the history of the upper Mississippi and Missouri frontiers. Atkinson's career was a paradox. Despite his dominant position in the pre-1840 border army, high fame — which has enshrined contemporaries like Zebulon M. Pike, William Clark, and Thomas Hart Benton — eluded him. He was a soldier whose primary mission throughout his career was peace, not war — one who brilliantly managed the balky personnel and sticky logistics of frontier military operations, but was rarely involved in combat. In diametrical contrast to the flamboyant General George A. Custer of a later era, who sought glory in Indian warfare, Atkinson supervised the policing of Indian affairs so well and in such an unspectacular manner that he almost managed to get lost, historically.

Professor Nichols has rescued the general from partial eclipse in a book that is a model of scholarly thoroughness and restraint. In view of Atkinson's historical achievements, it seems that his reputation should now enjoy a brisk revival.

Early in his career, in 1808-15, the erstwhile North Carolina tobacco farmer seemed like a loser, coming out on the short end of a duel with a fellow officer and missing all the significant battles of the War of 1812. But in 1819 he was given command of the Missouri River expedition which led to extension of United States military power up that avenue of the fur trade and to the founding of a post that bore his name located north of present-

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day Omaha. (The Fort Atkinson site is now a Nebraska state park.) In 1825 he shared with Benjamin O'Fallon responsibility for the signal success of another Missouri River expedition — this one to the mouth of the Yellowstone — which led to peace treaties with fifteen Indian tribes.

In 1826 he founded Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, the first infantry school of the army, and headquarters of the Department of the West; in 1827 he prevented an outbreak of the Winnebago in Wisconsin; in 1832 he commanded the army during the Black Hawk War, figuring in the decisive battle of Bad Axe. Later he secured the peaceful removal of the Winnebago and Potawatomi to Iowa, where a second Fort Atkinson was built (now an Iowa state park).

No man was conversant with more Indian tribes, and no man was a greater friend of the Indian than Atkinson. His rare qualities of tact and understanding ironically made the general an antihero to the greedy and unscrupulous white frontiersmen, as well as the roughshod and impatient militia. It is gratifying that the constructive role of this frontier soldier has now been put in perspective.

INDIAN TWILIGHT

Red Cloud and the Sioux Problem. By JAMES C. OLSON. (Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1965. xiii, 375 p. Illustrations, maps. \$5.95.)

Reviewed by Roy W. Meyer

THE CONTINUING INTEREST in the course of relations between the government and the Plains Indians in the late nineteenth century has given rise to a spate of books in the past decade by George E. Hyde, Robert M. Utley, Ralph K. Andrist, and others. James C. Olson's *Red Cloud and the Sioux Problem* is the latest and in some respects the best of the lot.

Not a biography in the usual sense — little is known about Red Cloud's early life — Professor Olson's book is rather a history of white relations with the Oglala Sioux from 1866 to 1891. Although the central character remains a somewhat shadowy figure, the milieu in

which he moved emerges clearly, as do the white protagonists — the agents, the military men, the members of Congress and of the Indian Bureau who played significant roles in the history of the Sioux during the late nineteenth century. The reader must make his own moral judgments, based on the increased knowledge he acquires from the book, for the author refrains from assigning blame for the catastrophe that overwhelmed the Sioux.

The only weakness in the book is that Mr. Olson's scrupulous objectivity in letting the records speak for themselves leads him into a dilemma familiar to anyone who tries to write Indian history: since the records were kept by white men, reliance on them tends to produce a rather one-sided story. The materials from which the Indian side can be reconstructed are hard to find and harder to use.

Mr. Olson has anticipated this objection by announcing in his foreword that the point of view will be that of the "white citizens of the United States." An author has a right to impose any limitations on himself that he wishes, and within his self-imposed limitation Mr. Olson has done superlatively well. Still, one wonders if the best Indian history is not that which tries to balance whatever Indian sources are available against the official and semiofficial sources, supplementing the former where necessary by cautious use of the imagination.

Everything considered, however, the merits of the book far outweigh its defects. The scholarship is well-nigh impeccable (though Minnesotans may be surprised to learn that the Lake Traverse [Sisseton] reservation was in their state); the index and bibliography are as complete as one could wish; and the illustrations are appropriate and enlightening. *Red Cloud and the Sioux Problem* is likely to remain for a long time the definitive work on its subject.

IOWA PREHISTORY

Men of Ancient Iowa. By MARSHALL MCKUSICK. (Ames, Iowa State University Press, 1964. xix, 260 p. Illustrations. \$6.50.)

Reviewed by Wilfred D. Logan

THIS BOOK is a popularized presentation of the results of archaeological research performed in Iowa over nearly a century. Two introduc-

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tory chapters summarize the prehistoric record and offer a glimpse of research methods. Succeeding chapters detail major prehistoric developments, and the final one deals with historic tribes. An appendix of radiocarbon dates, a glossary of terms, a bibliography, and an index complete the work.

The book is a preliminary statement. Within a region where archaeological research is still in comparative infancy, Iowa is a locality where such research is little removed from the newborn stage, despite nearly a century of study. Iowa has had three periods of intensive archaeological work: (1) the late nineteenth century, when studies were conducted by the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences and the Smithsonian Institution; (2) the early 1930s, when the State Historical Society of Iowa amassed state-wide collections through the Iowa Archaeological Survey; and, (3) the post-World War II era, when field work has been done by the State University of Iowa and by the National Park Service at Effigy Mounds National Monument. With the exception of reports on recent excavations, studies in the third category analyzed the Iowa Archaeological Survey collections and nineteenth-century data. Dr. McKusick's book is also based on these earlier researches.

To summarize the prehistory of any state is a monumental task. For Iowa at present, one man cannot carry out the task successfully, for at this time no one man has full and authoritative command of the data. This fact no doubt explains the errors of detail from which *Men of Ancient Iowa* suffers. Such errors may seem insignificant individually, but collectively they are a major shortcoming. One or two examples will illustrate: On page 113, Dr. McKusick relates Hopewellian mounds excavated by the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences to the Boone Focus. A trait comparison will show no profound relationship between the southeastern Iowa mounds and the Missouri Boone Focus. The author may have had in mind the Ralls Focus of northeastern Missouri. Again, on page 193, he cites John C. Ives' paper on Mill Creek ceramics as his source for a statement that Oneota sherds appear in Mill Creek sites. Mr.

Ives' discussion says no such thing on the page cited, at least. The sole reference to Oneota on these pages is in the opening paragraph and deals with tribal and linguistic affiliations of Mill Creek and Oneota.

The book will give the casual reader a generalized glimpse of Iowa prehistory. The scholar will have to use it with caution, because of errors in fact, quotation, and citation. There are also others due to inadequate editing and proof-reading. Professor McKusick should not be censured for the latter, but it is hoped that any revision will rectify the errors of both kinds.

RESEARCH TOOL

Archeology and the Historical Society. By J. C. HARRINGTON. (Nashville, Tennessee, American Association for State and Local History, 1965. 48 p. Illustrations. \$1.00.)

Reviewed by Elden Johnson

HISTORIC SITE archaeology can be an important supplement to scholarship. This has been demonstrated many times in the Old World and is now being shown with greater frequency and effectiveness in this country. Archaeology is only a tool which provides data, however, and should not be an end in itself. These are the themes of this well-written and well-illustrated guide booklet. The text is intended to alert historical societies and their members to the value of historic site archaeology as a research tool to augment and corroborate the historical record.

Mr. Harrington, who has had considerable experience in archaeology as it bears on problems of the American colonial period, has written this guide in an attempt to indicate the kinds of situations in which archaeological data may be of value. He suggests that historic site archaeology would be useful for: (1) locating a lost site; (2) identifying a known site; (3) determining the nature and extent of a site; (4) locating a known feature within a site; (5) securing data for restoration or reconstruction; and (6) comprehensive excavation of a site. The challenge of salvaging a site threatened by

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construction or other activity is also discussed. In each case Mr. Harrington examines the role of archaeology in the specific situation and cites examples of what has been done with archaeology under similar circumstances.

The text also presents a brief account of the sequence of procedures to be followed once it has been decided that archaeological research will be used. The author does not, however, intend this to be a guide to the techniques of archaeological excavation and is careful to point out the necessary role of the trained archaeologist in providing the skills and supervision needed for any excavation.

By reading this introduction to the subject and then examining the works listed in the well-chosen bibliography, the reader will gain a clear understanding of the values and limitations of historic site archaeology.

MINNESOTA EMIGRANTS

Klondike Saga: The Chronicle of a Minnesota Gold Mining Company. By CARL L. LOKKE. (Minneapolis, Norwegian American Historical Association, 1965. xiii, 211 p. Illustrations, maps. \$5.50.)

Reviewed by Rhoda R. Gilman

THIS BOOK follows the fortunes of the Monitor Gold Mining and Trading Company, an enterprise formed by sixteen Minnesotans for the purpose of prospecting in the Klondike gold fields during 1898 and 1899. Although it operated on a small scale, the group was tightly organized, adequately financed, and competently led. Its members included ten Norwegians, two Danes, two Swedes, and a pair of Yankees, most of them young, foot-loose, and ready for adventure. During their year and a half of prospecting along the Yukon they met with remarkably good luck in all respects except the essential one: they found no gold.

Mr. Lokke, who was a grandson of the expedition's leader, Lars Gunderson, based his account on a remarkable collection of personal letters and diaries kept by members of the group, as well as upon the reports sent by Gunderson to *Nye Normanden*, a Norwegian lan-

guage paper published in Minneapolis. He has told the story straightforwardly as a tale of adventure, hardship, and persistence in the face of great odds. That it is a story without a climax, ending in neither success nor tragedy, is not the fault of the author. It is rich in detail and gives a vivid firsthand glimpse of one of the final dramatic episodes in the opening of the American frontier.

It also reflects an often neglected chapter in the story of Scandinavian immigration to Minnesota — the history of those for whom the state was a way station. Of the "Monitors," as they called themselves, only five returned to their starting point. An equal number settled in the state of Washington, and the rest scattered among Alaska, California, and Montana. They were typical of many immigrants and children of immigrants who found the Midwest something less than the land of their dreams in the years around the turn of the century and pushed on across the continent. They went not only to seek gold, but to find employment as lumberjacks in the stands of Douglas fir or to join the fishing fleets that sailed out of Hoquiam, Ballard, Ketchikan, and other northern ports. The presence of these Scandinavian midwesterners helped reinforce with enduring ethnic and cultural bonds the steel rails that already bound the Pacific Northwest to the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa.

SWEDISH NOVELIST

VILHELM MOBERG, the Swedish author of a trilogy on emigration (see *Minnesota History*, 32:250; 34:163; 38:38), has written an explanation of "Why I Wrote *The Emigrants*," for *Industria International* (1964). In it he reveals that the "great migration" was an intimate part of his own experience. All his aunts and uncles had emigrated, and "I remember the word *America* as far back as the time when I could understand words at all." Mr. Moberg points out that "migration . . . has cost Sweden more men, women and children than all the wars which the country has fought," but "in the Swedish history text book . . . not one word was mentioned about this movement." After describing his research in Sweden, the author recounts his travels in the United States, dwelling particularly on Minnesota and the St. Croix Valley, which is the setting of his three emigrant novels.

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. . . on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

THE "Vinland Map" belonging to Yale University has already had wide publicity throughout the world as the "earliest known and indisputable cartographic representation of any part of the Americas," and there is perhaps little need of reporting details to readers of this magazine. It may be said, however, that the map, hitherto unknown and dating from about 1440, is an interesting and important find because of its inclusion of Vinland and its consequent status as the first known pre-Columbian cartographic confirmation of the saga accounts of early voyages to North America. An inscription in Latin, on the map, speaks of "Vinlanda Insula" as having been discovered by "Bjarni and Leif in company." Much is known about Leif Ericson, but little about Bjarni Herjolfsson, who in the Greenland Saga is mentioned as having sailed to the "uninhabited lands to the west" of Greenland fifteen years before Ericson. Yale University's genuinely sumptuous quarto volume, entitled *The Vinland Map and the Tartar Relation* by R. A. Skelton, Thomas E. Marston, and George D. Painter (New Haven and London, 1965. 291 p.), tells the fascinating story of the discovery of the map and also of the manuscript account of a thirteenth-century journey to the land of the Mongols. The map was of the world as known toward the middle of the fifteenth century. The authenticity of both the map and narrative is beyond question, and the editing of the Yale volume by three distinguished scholars is impeccable. Naturally the authors are interested in the question of where the Norsemen went in America, but they make it clear that it cannot be answered unless new evidence turns up. They take note of Helge Ingstad's excavation of a supposed Viking site in Newfoundland, dating (by radiocarbon tests) to the approximate time of Leif Ericson, but they tend to approve the caution of Canadian scholars who, while not regarding it as Eskimo, are reserving judgment as to whether or not it is Vinland. An excellent summary of the Yale book by the original authors appears in *American Heritage* for October. Meanwhile, it is expected that Mr. Ingstad's book will soon be published in Norwegian, Swedish, and English editions. A treatise on *The Norsemen* by a Swedish archaeologist, Eric Oxenstierna, originally written in German and published in 1959, has now been brought out in an English translation by Catherine Hutter (Greenwich, Connecticut, New York Graphic Society, 1965. 320 p. \$8.95). The book, finely printed and richly

illustrated, deals comprehensively with the Norsemen and includes one chapter on "The Discovery of America." It presents a sympathetic account of Mr. Ingstad's identification of his Newfoundland village site as Norse. The Kensington inscription is described as a forgery because, according to Count Oxenstierna, "modern influences are blatantly evident in it."

IN A RECENT VOLUME on *The Sioux: Life and Customs of a Warrior Society* (Norman, Oklahoma, 1964. 337 p.), Royal B. Hassrick, writing in collaboration with Dorothy Maxwell and Cile M. Bach, describes life among the Teton division of the Sioux nation during the mid-nineteenth century. The book is divided into five sections: "Rank and Order," which explains the structure, mores, modes, and manners of Sioux society; "The Warrior"; "Familiarity and Respect," which deals with family relationships, the sexes, and forms of recreation; "The Predators," which includes a chapter on nomadism and on production; and "Self-Sacrifice," which tells in four chapters about the religion, psychology, and philosophy behind the Sioux way of life. The author's epilogue briefly considers the present situation of the tribe and points out that "in a very frightening sense the Sioux are victims of the white man's insistence that others accept his way as the only way of life." The volume is annotated and includes numerous handsome illustrations, a bibliography, an index, and two useful appendices. Its outstanding contribution, however, lies in the fact that it presents a substantial body of sociological and anthropological information in clear, informative, and nontechnical English.

THE TRAGIC STORY of the red man's final battle for his native land is told by Ralph K. Andrist in *The Long Death: The Last Days of the Plains Indians* (New York, 1964. 371 p.). Although organized chronologically, the book is not a comprehensive history but a series of separate episodes, including the Sioux Uprising of 1862; the Cheyenne-Arapaho War; various engagements along the Bozeman Trail and in California and Texas; and the battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876. Fifteen years later, with the massacre at Wounded Knee and the subsequent surrender of the hostiles at Pine Ridge, South Dakota, in 1891, "the history of the Indian wars of the West ends The strength of the tribes everywhere was gone."

Mr. Andrist, a native Minnesotan, devotes a full chapter to his account of the Sioux Uprising although he does not deal at any length with the punitive campaigns which followed in 1863 and 1864. A bibliography and an index are provided, but the book is not annotated; there are twenty-one helpful maps, and among the twenty-seven photographs are four from the Minnesota Historical Society's collection.

FLYING virtually without instruments, air mail service pilots "improvised, experimented, and took chances with their lives" to deliver the mail, according to Page Shamburger in *Tracks Across the Sky: The Story of the Pioneers of the U.S. Air Mail* (Philadelphia and New York, 1964. 179 p.). Miss Shamburger, a commercial pilot, describes in detail "the first flight of the U.S. Aerial Mail Service" in 1918 and several other flights including two made by Charles A. Lindbergh. When the contract air mail system began in 1926, one of its pilots was the young Minnesotan, who, according to Miss Shamburger, became known chiefly for two ignominious parachute jumps from air mail service planes while flying the 278-mile St. Louis-Chicago route. But when this "untalkative tall pilot who had no courage" made his spectacular nonstop flight to Paris in 1927, "a new image appeared. . . . The hero of the transatlantic solo flight was only a boy, and he had been an air mail pilot." One of the fifty-nine photographs reproduced in the volume shows rebuilt army surplus planes of the type Lindbergh flew for the Robertson Aircraft Corporation. The book is neither indexed nor annotated, but it has a bibliography listing forty-eight sources. D.P.

A STRICTLY QUANTITATIVE approach to the subject of *Railroads and American Economic Growth* is taken by Robert William Fogel, whose work is subtitled *Essays in Econometric History* (Baltimore, 1964. 296 p.). Mr. Fogel challenges the assumption — which he attributes to a number of economic historians — that railroads were indispensable to the emergence of the United States as a modern industrial nation. Arguing that "to establish the proposition that railroads substantially altered the course of economic growth. . . it must be shown that substitutes for railroads could not (or would not) have performed essentially the same role," he demonstrates through statistical computation and the construction of theoretical models that the impact of railroads upon the nineteenth-century economy was far less than has been generally supposed. He concludes that "no single innovation was vital for economic growth during the nineteenth century" but that

such growth resulted from the scientific revolution, which "provided the basis for a multiplicity of innovations that were applied to a broad spectrum of economic processes."

IGNATIUS DONNELLY, Minnesota's wayward prophet of reform, who has been called "the sage of Nininger" and "the prince of cranks," may be threatened with yet another title: "the father of American anti-Semitism." The claim for this rests largely on Donnelly's radical novel *Caesar's Column*, which, seventy-five years after its publication, now figures prominently in a heated debate over the place of Populism in the American political and intellectual tradition. Several questions are at issue in the controversy: 1) Did *Caesar's Column* convey a deliberately anti-Semitic message? 2) Can the views implied in Donnelly's novel be taken to represent Populist thinking as a whole? 3) Did the Populists tend to be more anti-Semitic than others in the country, and did such tendencies originate within the movement itself? Numerous articles and several books have discussed aspects of the subject (see *Minnesota History*, 37:261; 38:235, 387; 39:83, 260). The most recent addition is "Handlin on Anti-Semitism: A Critique of 'American Views of the Jew,'" by Norman Pollack, in the *Journal of American History* for December, 1964. In this article Mr. Pollack attacks Oscar Handlin's essay on "American Views of the Jew at the Opening of the Twentieth Century," which appeared in the *Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society* in June, 1951, and was in Mr. Pollack's view "the key work in the subsequent reinterpretation of Populism." Its thesis — says Mr. Pollack — was: "The origins of American anti-Semitism are located in the Populist movement." This statement has brought a vigorous denial from Mr. Handlin (*Journal of American History*, March, 1965), who maintains that "the article in question did not deal with Populists or Populism but treated the general attitudes of Americans at the opening of the twentieth century." Among the attitudes discussed were those revealed in *Caesar's Column*. The novel implied, according to Mr. Handlin in 1951, "that there were hidden organizations, conservative and radical, working toward hidden Jewish ends," and it "markedly influenced many of the earnest radicals of the period." Mr. Pollack argues on the other hand that "the spirit expressed in the book is antithetical to anti-Semitism." He cites Donnelly's plea for "a renewal of the bond of brotherhood between the classes; for a reign of justice on earth that shall obliterate the cruel hates and passions which now divide the world." R.R.G.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

UNDER the title "Diggings Yield Clues to State's Past," Robert Lee describes in the *Minneapolis Tribune* of August 29 the results of archaeological work conducted during the summer at Itasca State Park, Mille Lacs-Kathio State Park, and along the Otter Tail River. "New evidence that a primitive people hunted in Minnesota 6,000 to 8,000 years ago" has been uncovered in a peat bog which was once part of the west arm of Lake Itasca; a preliminary survey of a site on the eastern shore of Ogeche Lake near Mille Lacs has revealed a possible stockade and several pit houses that are "perhaps 300 to 1,000 years old," according to Mr. Lee; and he reports that excavations at a group of mounds twelve miles west of Fergus Falls have yielded human remains and "enough artifacts to indicate the site was more than a thousand years old." All three projects were "financed at least in part by the Minnesota Outdoor Resources and Recreation Commission," and were administered by Elden Johnson, state archaeologist and associate professor of anthropology at the University of Minnesota. This work is also mentioned briefly in the *Minnesota Archeological Newsletter* for Fall, which includes the information that "a small survey crew will work in south central and southwestern Minnesota during the latter part of August and September with its primary aim that of locating, mapping and testing preceramic sites." In the same publication Carla Norquist gives a detailed description, accompanied by a diagram and photograph, of "A Middle Woodland Pottery Vessel from Stearns County."

LOCAL POLITICS and *Constitutional Change in a Long-Depressed Economy: A Case of the Duluth Civil Community* are scrutinized by Daniel J. Elazar in a booklet produced by a duplicating process (n.d., 61 p.). Based on the author's larger study of comparative political systems of medium-sized metropolitan areas in the upper Mississippi and Missouri valleys, the article discusses "the economic and social elements . . . that have contributed to that civil community's atypical character." Nearly a third of the study is devoted to the "geo-historical setting." The remainder covers Duluth's political culture and its relationship to the Minnesota political tradition; the city's politics and basic cleavages; and its recent constitutional changes. Mr. Elazar points out that the charter amendment, which was adopted in 1956 and which included a provision for the appointment of a professional administrative assistant to the

mayor, may have resulted from "the influence of the Minnesota political tradition." (He also notes that the state was among the first to adopt a commissioner of administration plan.) In a brief conclusion the author considers the extremity of Duluth's dependence on outside political and economic forces, the problems created by absentee ownership, and the paradoxically unifying effect of the struggle over charter revision.

INFORMATION on the economic and social history of Minnesota's iron range country is included in a ten-part series of articles by Bob Weber which appeared in the *Minneapolis Star*, October 12-22, 1964. The series, entitled "Taconite: Key to Prosperity," was presented to inform the state's voters concerning the issues involved in the proposed "taconite amendment" to the Minnesota constitution, which was subsequently ratified in the general election of November 3, 1964. Facts on ore depletion, early labor conditions, and taxation of mining companies appear in the first three articles; the remainder are devoted to summarizing the various arguments put forth on the question of laws governing the taxation of the taconite industry.

THE April, 1964, issue of *Minnesota Archaeologist* carries four hitherto unpublished letters to Gideon H. Pond. The introduction by R. H. Landon says that the missives were "found in the old Pond home in Bloomington." They are unrelated and were written in years ranging from 1839 to 1857. One is from Thomas S. Williamson at Traverse des Sioux, describing the difficulties of a severe winter and food shortages; another, dated at Lac qui Parle mission in 1839, was written by Stephen R. Riggs and tells of early Indian troubles. Two excerpts of letters written to Pond in 1852 by Amos W. Huggins, then a student in Illinois, deal with the latter's efforts to obtain subscribers for the missionary's periodical, the *Dakota Friend*.

A SOUVENIR BOOKLET, *Kasson Centennial*, published by the Kasson Centennial Corporation (Kasson, 1965. 64 p.) tells the story of the first hundred years of this Dodge County community. Included are profiles of eight pioneers and the stories of the town's government, its school system, its churches, its businesses, and its various clubs and organizations. A list of Kasson professional men from the time of the town's founding to the present day is also given. Enhancing the text are many old and contemporary photographs, as well as reproductions of early documents and newspaper advertisements.



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