



OFF THE PRESS

The Valley of the Mississippi Illustrated. By HENRY LEWIS. Translated by A. HERMINA POATGIETER. Edited by BERTHA L. HEILBRON. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1967. xix, 423 p. Illustrations. \$39.75.)

Reviewed by John Francis McDermott

HENRY LEWIS' panorama of the Mississippi River was as ephemeral as its fellow travelogues, but out of it came *Das illustrierte Mississippi-thal*, a permanent record of life on the river in the mid-nineteenth century and a charming monument to its author. The seventy-eight colored lithographs, based on scenes in his gigantic moving picture, have made it one of the most sought-out volumes of Americana. Now, more than a century after its publication, we have at last the complete text in English, accompanying the reproduction of the entire set of views.

Although the editor has good reason to think that the idea for the volume may have occurred to Lewis as early as 1848, the book was no doubt a publisher's project designed hopefully to reach a large market in the multitude of European emigrants heading for America. Original plans called for separate issue of the fascicules in German and in English, the text by Lewis being turned into German by George B. Douglas. However, after the first few parts appeared in 1854, difficulties developed. The German volume was completed in 1857, but only the first ten chapters of the present edition, seventy-two pages, were ever printed in English. In 1858 the

publisher failed and the book apparently had but a small sale. In 1951 the Minnesota Historical Society acquired one of the two known sets of the English fragment.

The Valley of the Mississippi Illustrated was planned around the illustrations. Lewis began at St. Louis, where he had lived for fourteen years (the view of the city he used in the book had originally been painted in 1846). Plate 2, showing a steamboat wooding at night, introduced the prime interest of river travel. Plate 3, entitled "Indian Deputation," (which he owed to a sketch by his friend Captain Seth Eastman), brought in the second theme of Indian life. Thereafter he followed, in views and text, a straight geographical order from Fort Snelling to the Gulf of Mexico, except that the sketch of the mouth of the river was placed beside that of the fort. His great concern was with the river above St. Louis, to which he devoted sixty-two scenes and three-fourths of his pages, perhaps because he himself had made three voyages up the river and none down, or perhaps because he was essentially a Hudson River school landscapist and found the upper river more exciting. The lithographs of lower river scenes are all based on sketches by Charles Rogers, one of the artists who assisted him on the panorama.

To accompany the pictures Lewis assembled a suitable text which supplies "historical and geographical descriptions" of the valley as well as notes on the "manners, habits and customs of the Indian tribes still found on its upper waters." Henry Lewis, however, was no scholar. The text he put together was largely a scissors-and-paste job in which many errors resulted from hasty transcription of his well-chosen contemporary sources. His translator, Douglas, was by no means an expert in the German language and

Mr. McDermott is research professor of humanities at Southern Illinois University. Among his many works in the field of western history and art is Seth Eastman: Pictorial Historian of the Indian (1961).

managed to inject some of his own variations and complications into the text. These faults, feelingly described by Miss Poatgieter in her preface, were overcome by assiduous historical study and "imaginative sleuthing," as she aptly calls it. The result is an ably managed merging of the original English chapters with the thirty-nine never before translated.

Equal difficulties confronting the editor are spoken of in Miss Heilbron's preface. She had the advantage of an acquaintance with Lewis' work from the time she published in 1936 the manuscript journal of his 1848 sketching voyage, and she has dealt with Lewis problems in a number of articles and notes, particularly since 1951 when the present publication was first thought of. Lewis had been intent on a popular volume and made little acknowledgment of the sources from which he borrowed—a procedure common enough in his day. He was often careless in copying quotations, and he rarely used quotation marks. All of this posed interesting questions for the editor, and she has been conspicuously successful in answering them.

In her introduction Miss Heilbron has traced the history of the book and given an admirably concise account of Lewis' career. Here and in the text she has provided documentation that straightens out the complexities that would otherwise confuse the reader. A list of illustrations and an ample index give ready access to the contents of this doubly interesting volume. The translator, the editor, and the society are truly to be congratulated on a difficult and valuable job superbly done. This reviewer's only regret is that Miss Heilbron in her extensive research into the life of Lewis was not able to locate the paintings from which the lithographs were made—what a find that would be!

WESTERN ESSAYS

The American West: A Reorientation. Edited by GENE M. GRESSLEY. (Laramie, University of Wyoming Publications, 1966. 172 p. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by Martin Ridge

WESTERN historians have been a discontented lot for more than a generation. They readily confessed—long before the death of Frederick Jackson Turner and while Herbert E. Bolton bound his students into a fascis held together by a cord of Catholicism—that too much of

the region's important history was still unwritten. But this has been changing. There has been a movement away from studying Spanish colonization toward analyzing modern immigration, from writing romantic narratives toward producing analytical evaluations, from stereotypical portrayals toward case studies, and from events described in a vacuum of regionalism toward episodes interpreted as a part of the national or international scene. This brief book—a collection of essays—is part of this new and welcome trend.

Gene M. Gressley, who edited the work, knows the field. Unfortunately, rather than appraise the state of western historical writing in his introduction, he attempted to set each essay in perspective. The result is somewhat disappointing. The essays, however, are well written and informative. Gerald White, a good storyteller and the author closest to the narrative tradition, reflects the business historian's view of the impact on entrepreneurial decision-making of the professional problems of Benjamin Silliman, Jr., when he became a promoter of the California oil boom of the 1860s. Leonard Arrington and Wayne K. Hinton trace the development of a silver mine from the vantage point of investors and operators. Beginning with Jay Cooke recouping his fortune after his disaster in 1873 and ending with the final payout of ore in the 1960s, this essay is scarcely the typical romantic tale of the mining frontier. William Lilley, Jr., and Lewis L. Gould have looked at irrigation legislation and focused on Francis Newlands' personal experiences in Nevada, but they actually tell a tale of the western settler's selfishness and pragmatism in dealing with the region's most precious commodity—water.

In a brief essay Gerald Nash provides a précis of his larger work on California when he analyzes the role of the state in the economic development of the Port of California from 1863 to 1963. Wallace Farnham, expressing the frustration of serious scholars when they attempt to measure the effect of the railroads on the West, argues on the basis of the history of the Union Pacific that historians have not been asking the right questions. Studies of

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profits and social cost, although worthwhile, tell only a negligible amount about what the railroads meant to a region. The final essay, by Richard Ruetten, uses Burton K. Wheeler of Montana to demonstrate that western politicians were hardly as simplistic as they have been depicted. The "sons of the wild jackass," Mr. Ruetten shrewdly concludes, were ahead of most of their contemporaries in socio-economic matters in the 1920s. This brief summary does the authors an injustice, especially Mr. White, Mr. Nash, and Mr. Ruetten.

But the book is not without shortcomings. Much of the material represents the spin-off from larger studies, and if the authors had been less ingenious, it would all seem quite familiar. And, as is true in many collections, the theme of the book is virtually lost by the volume's end. It is also unfortunate, in a book so well designed, illustrated, and printed, that there are so many typographical and careless errors. In spite of these surface blemishes, this work is a valuable contribution to the newer scholarship of western history.

CANADIAN NORTHWEST

The Fur Trade and the Northwest to 1857. By E. E. RICH. (Toronto, McClelland and Stewart Limited, 1967. xii, 336 p. Maps, illustrations. \$10.00.)

Reviewed by Alvin C. Gluek, Jr.

PROFESSOR RICH justly enjoys a reputation for scholarship; a shelf of good books testifies to that. His *History of the Hudson's Bay Company 1670-1870* (London, 1958, 1959) is and will remain a standard history, for few other men will possess the stamina to work their way through the archives of the Hudson's Bay Company or have the scholarship to select and arrange the materials in as logical and lively a way as Mr. Rich has. More than that, his history of the company ranks as one of the best business histories yet written. Antedating and supporting this monumental work are many useful Hudson's Bay Record Society and Champlain Society volumes—among them *Eden Colville's Letters 1849-52* (1956), *Ogden's*

Snake Country Journals 1824-26 (1950) and *McLoughlin's Fort Vancouver Letters 1825-46* (1941, 1943, 1944)—which Mr. Rich edited or to which he contributed long introductory essays.

In his new book, the latest addition to the Canadian Centenary Series, the author's declared purpose is to tell "the history of a territory, and of the part played by the fur-traders in opening and developing that territory." If justification for such history seems necessary, Mr. Rich supplies that, too, correctly asserting that the fur traders "mastered the dangerous and exhausting routes to the Northwest, . . . revealed its wealth, and . . . secured its retention within the Dominion." This book concerns the history of the fur trade in the Northwest from its genesis at the head of Hudson Bay in the seventeenth century to its stagnation in the mid-nineteenth century. It is told on imperial lines, beginning with the contest between the English and the French for Hudson Bay itself and culminating in the struggle for the entire Northwest between the French along the St. Lawrence (and, later, their British conquerors) and the English merchant adventurers on the bay. There are many well-written chapters, especially those which relate to the company or its servants—the rise of the Hudson's Bay Company from its "frozen sleep" and its movements inland to meet its competitors, the heroic voyages of men like Anthony Henday, Henry Kelsey, Samuel Hearne, and others.

To this reviewer, however, the book's title seems inappropriate. It ought to read *The Hudson's Bay Company, the Fur Trade, and the Northwest to 1849-50*. When the author treats the company, his touch is sure; but when he ranges beyond it and its affairs, he is often unsure. The work is repetitive and frequently cluttered with the names of insignificant men who never reappear—Lieutenant Jonas Oxley, late of the Third West India Regiment, for example. Irrelevancies pop up here and there, such as the pointless reference to Father Isaac Jogues. There are errors—the French did not, for instance, receive religious or linguistic rights from the Proclamation of 1763. There are misconceptions; General James Murray was not forced out by the merchants and replaced by the man of their choice, though the merchants played a role in both events. The Nor'Westers suffer by comparison with the Hudson's Bay men, and the Americans simply suffer.

Some big historiographical questions are neither posed nor answered. How did the Hudson's Bay Company manage to make money during the early years of the Napoleonic Wars? Why did the North West Company finally succumb? Why were certain officials in the British government so hostile to the Hudson's Bay Company?

This reviewer is hard pressed to explain why Mr. Rich, a capable and accurate scholar, should have written a book like this. Perhaps he found the transition difficult from a detailed canvas to a general synthesis. Perhaps he is not really as much at home in Canadian and American history as in imperial history. The bibliography would seem to support this last criticism. One looks in vain for solid secondary works; or, finding them in the bibliography, fails to see their impact in the text. Nor is the bibliography up to the standard set in earlier volumes in this series. It is, in fact, not annotated and includes old, superseded books and articles. It begins, curiously, by referring to an "invaluable guide" to the archives and manuscript sources which the author admits he has not examined.

Despite flashes of excellence, the book is not satisfactory. The series still needs a one-volume history on the fur trade in the Northwest, a balanced, accurate, and articulate book which relates its theme to the changing historical environments.

ENGLISHMAN'S WEST

America's Western Frontiers: The Exploration and Settlement of the Trans-Mississippi West. By JOHN A. HAWGOOD. (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1967. xxiii, 440 p. Illustrations, maps. \$10.00.)

Reviewed by Dale L. Morgan

ALWAYS a perplexing problem for a reviewer is the gap between the ideal and the realistically attainable. A general work of history should be impeccably accurate in detail, broad and perceptive in generalization, and well variousness of man and all his works. Very few written, with a contagious appreciation for the books measure up in all respects; the specialists cannot see the forest for the trees, the generalizers often cannot tell a Douglas fir from a

narrow-leaf cottonwood, and neither may have any real power of communication.

Professor Hawgood is an English Americanist who for some decades has carried on a love affair with the American West in general and California in particular. He has traveled more widely in the West than most Americans and has frankly enjoyed the spacious history of a half-continent. In a sense, *America's Western Frontiers* is a love letter, and one who reads it as such is likely to enjoy it, especially because the turn of phrase is often sprightly and the insights contingent upon the author's special background sometimes unexpected.

About half of the volume, which was given the Alfred A. Knopf Western History Prize for "a work that is *written with distinction* and in which sound scholarship may be taken for granted," is devoted to the period from Francisco Coronado through the California gold rush; later chapters center upon the mining booms of the interior West, the transportation revolution, the Indian problem, the cowman's frontier, the western farmer, and twentieth-century frontiers. The publishers describe the whole as a one-volume social history of the American trans-Mississippi West, thereby claiming rather too much for it; but they have done handsomely by the book in the way of illustrations.

This book has some faults in proportion, and one might best describe it as an account of things in western history that have attracted Mr. Hawgood's interest. We would like to let judgment rest there. But in fact the book is marred, all but devastated, by its constant errors in detail. Scarcely a page of the text is factually accurate from first word to last, and surely this need not have been. A twenty-page review would scarcely suffice to point out all such faults, and this reviewer must be content to note by way of illustration that Jessie Frémont traveled to California in 1849 in the "Panama," not the "California"; that she traveled from Chagres to Panama, not the converse; that General Stephen Watts Kearny did not show the American flag to Governor Manuel Armijo in New Mexico in 1845; that the

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Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was not signed in January, 1848; that Alexander Mackenzie did not, in 1793, descend the Fraser River to Puget Sound; that Marcus Whitman never saw the Three Forks of the Missouri River; and so on. Some of these errors are simple mindlessness (which goes beyond carelessness); the author knows as well as we do that John Charles Frémont was not Charles C.; that the *Californian* was not San Francisco's first newspaper; that Schuyler Colfax was not Carfax; that Fort Vancouver was not founded in 1824; that Brigham Young did not go to Utah in 1846.

To come back to the troublesome questions touched upon at the beginning of this review, one might say that the whole impression of the West and its history gained by a reader may mean more than the details he will not remember exactly anyhow, as though we had here a massive lecture on which the auditors need take no notes. Still I think that in a published work of history it does matter finally that the facts be correct in detail, that one can use a book with confidence and return to it when in need of specific information. In this area, *America's Western Frontiers* simply does not measure up as it now stands. Can we really expect that in a revised edition Mr. Hawgood will do the job he should have done in the beginning?

HISTORICAL HARDWARE

Firearms, Traps, & Tools of the Mountain Men.

By CARL P. RUSSELL. (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1967. xviii, 448 p. Illustrations. \$12.50.)

Reviewed by Robert C. Wheeler

ONE is indeed struck with regret that Carl P. Russell did not live to enjoy the accolades which are bound to come from every quarter with the appearance of this book. He was a pioneer in the historic sites and parks field. During an assignment in the West for the National Park Service, which he joined in 1923, his long interest in the history of the mountain man began.

Firearms, Traps, & Tools of the Mountain Men is the result of thirty years of research in private and public collections—the journals,

diaries, and letters of trappers and fur traders, as well as the business records, inventories, and invoices of American and British traders, merchants, and companies. Unfortunately, the great wealth of material in the Montreal merchants' records—thirty-eight recently discovered ledgers kept by six French fur trade entrepreneurs during the eighteenth century—was not known by Russell. But this is no criticism of a book which offers so much to serious students of American history.

The title is misleading, for what appears to be a sharp focus on a specialized segment of American history turns out to be a broad treatment in terms of subject matter, time, and geography. For example, Russell does not restrict his comments on the firearms of the mountain men to the big bore flintlock or percussion so often associated with Jim Bridger, Kit Carson, John Colter, and their colleagues. Instead, he goes methodically back to the antecedents of these guns—the German Jaeger and the Kentucky or Pennsylvania rifle, the Indian trade gun, and the early United States military muskets and rifles. He uses the same genealogical approach with the ax, taking his reader back to Celtic tools and the Biscayan hatchet—ancestor of the iron trade ax which later found its way to much of this country and Canada and to the belts of the mountain men.

Considering all his associations with park and museum visitors, it is not surprising that Russell should view the artifact as an exciting link with the past which, when properly identified and interpreted, has a story to tell. Again and again he emphasizes the importance of three-dimensional objects in the understanding and appreciation of history. He directs a mortar round at the professional historian, saying that "A greater and more deplorable circumstance is seen in the academic historian's seeming adherence to the . . . belief [that] 'the artifact stops short of any possibility of truly reconstituting the picture of the human past; to that end the literary documents are all-essential, now and in the future.'"

Fortunately, in the evening of Russell's career he took encouragement from new trends. "Discerning governments, federal, state, and local, have taken timely action in preserving

Mr. Wheeler, associate director of the society, has led its underwater archaeological program.

and interpreting historic sites, and in collecting, studying, and interpreting historic objects." He had an active interest in the conference on the North American fur trade sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society in 1965. And he saw the potential of the underwater investigations being actively pursued by the society. "In this field," he writes, "lies the opportunity to link certain historic sites in such a way as to clarify the history of some international relationships. . . . In truth, underwater archeology may well constitute a new dimension of the historian-archeologist's discipline needed to round out the profession."

Obviously, one of Carl Russell's virtues was vision. As a pioneer in the now accepted and increasingly sophisticated area of interpretation, he saw the needs clearly. He helped formulate the goals set down at Jamestown in 1946 where an "important enclave" of educators, historians, anthropologists, and National Park Service officials met to consider ways of training historians in the use of artifacts and teaching archaeologists the tools of research. Another goal, not yet attained, was the establishment of a clearinghouse for the identification of historic objects. The Minnesota Historical Society has attempted a partial solution of this problem by setting up a center for information on the fur trade.

Firearms, Traps, & Tools of the Mountain Men is far from dull for the devotee of America's past. This reviewer considers it required reading for historical museum curators, and both public and specialized libraries should have it on their shelves. Moreover, persons with a particular interest in firearms, the fur trade, and western Americana will delight in its pages.

PROGRESSIVE REFORMERS?

The Populist Mind. Edited by NORMAN POLLACK. (Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1967. lxiii, 539 p. \$3.75.)

Reviewed by Carl H. Chrislock

THIS VOLUME provides a documentary base for the well-known Pollack thesis which holds that Populism, far from being reactionary and retrogressive, actually was a sensitive, sophis-

ticated, and genuinely progressive reform movement. The work consists of several categories of primary source material: Populist newspaper editorials, campaign utterances, excerpts from books and articles by Populist authors, resolutions passed by organizations affiliating with the movement, and letters exchanged by practicing Populists.

Unquestionably this mass of material, much of it printed for the first time, powerfully supports Mr. Pollack's view that Populism "sought to build a society . . . where the individual fulfills himself not at the expense of others but as a social being, and in so doing attains a higher form of individuality." Arrangement of the sources under such headings as "Justice for the Outcast: The Negro," "Populist Support for the Working Class," and "A Transformation of Social Values" enhances the argument's persuasiveness. So does the editorial commentary both in the introduction and at the beginning of each section.

Nevertheless, Mr. Pollack's thesis remains debatable. If a critic of Populism were to collect materials pointing up the movement's less lovely aspects, an interesting volume might eventuate. Such a work might include, for example, the following gem published in a Populist weekly edited by Haldor Boen, onetime Populist congressman from Minnesota: "The West and South are the debtor sections and are inhabited by people who love liberty, right and justice. . . . The East is inhabited by a scheming, grasping, greedy, nose-pinching, unscrupulous people who are always looking for the main chance, and always wanting something for nothing."

Such a statement could not have come from the pen of, say, Henry D. Lloyd, a major spokesman for urban Populism. Yet Boen's Populist credentials are as unassailable as those of Lloyd. In other words, the Populist continuum is broad enough to accommodate both Mr. Pollack and his adversaries. Acceptance of this reality might contribute to the cessation of a debate that has reached a point of diminishing returns.

To suggest this is not to detract from the value of the volume. The American Heritage Series editors are on sound ground in claiming that the book "is a superlative collection of the primary sources" assembled by a scholar with "an unrivaled knowledge of the literature of his subject."

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MIDWEST INEQUALITY

Free but Not Equal: The Midwest and the Negro During the Civil War. By V. JACQUE VOEGELI. (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1967. vii, 215 p. \$5.95.)

Reviewed by Earl Spangler

THE THESIS that the midwestern idea of equality for the Negro did not go far toward meaning political or social equality is advanced by Professor Voegeli in this study of attitudes on race, emancipation, and related political aspects engendered by the Civil War. Three states — Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois — receive greater attention from the author than do Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, or Minnesota. While there is much pertinent and available material for the first three, one must remember that these were border states and reflected the ambivalence of their location both in terms of settlement patterns and cultural mores — a situation the author does not always make clear.

A more accurate gauge of typical midwestern attitudes might be found in Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota which, while not neglected in the study, are often brought in peripherally as illustrative confirmation of actions and events in the other three states. It is true that many of the same attitudes and beliefs prevailed throughout the area, but the examples are not always balanced.

On the whole, *Free but Not Equal* analyzes clearly the problems that haunted both political parties: slavery, emancipation, the freed Negro, and white opinion as the war went on. The change in war aims from preserving the Union to emancipation, as well as the administration's need to convince both itself and its constituency that the change was necessary, are carefully delineated. Military requirements would be the rationale, Mr. Voegeli points out, but humanitarianism and idealism were present, though often subordinated. Democratic opposition, particularly in Indiana and Illinois, to these "war measures" is well presented, as is the history of Republican confusion and disunity over issues such as the use of Negroes in

the army, resettlement, colonization, and assimilation into the midwestern states.

The author makes it obvious that very few people in the Midwest, whatever their political persuasion, were really in favor of Negro equality as it is understood today. Equality was, rather, a legalistic concept against which Mr. Voegeli juxtaposes white supremacy with telling effect. The hopes for deportation of Negroes and the efforts at persuading them to stay in the South after freedom are also well handled.

When, in the summer of 1863, "the cause of emancipation seemed to be stalemated in the Midwest," military successes on the Union side were a decisive factor in rekindling confidence in the Lincoln government and its objectives. The author substantiates, too, the fact that emancipation became a more religiously oriented, morally directed, and ethically construed posture as the conflict continued.

The second half of the volume suffers less from repetitive arguments and flows more smoothly and readably than does the first part. It is more incisive on major issues, such as the question of "after emancipation, what?" This chapter is a fine presentation, as is the author's examination of the backlash suffered by the president in 1864, when a "dump Lincoln" movement developed, foreshadowing in some ways the divisive debate over reconstruction.

Despite some organizational faults and a minor error to which Minnesotans will take exception — namely, that Ignatius Donnelly was a congressman from Wisconsin — the book has been carefully researched. The use of a sufficient number of primary sources makes it a definite contribution to scholarship. The annotation and the bibliographical essay are excellent; the index is superior.

MISSIONARY ARTIST

Wilderness Kingdom: Indian Life in the Rocky Mountains: 1840-1847. The Journals & Paintings of Nicolas Point, S.J. Translated and introduced by JOSEPH P. DONNELLY, S.J. (New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1967. xiii, 274 p. Illustrations. \$21.95.)

Reviewed by Bertha L. Heilbron

AMONG THE PIONEERS who recorded their frontier experiences in the American West both

Mr. Spangler, professor of history at Macalester College in St. Paul, is the author of *The Negro in Minnesota* (1961).

in words and pictures, Father Point must be accorded a prominent place. That his elaborately illustrated narrative journal of his experience as a Catholic missionary to the Indian tribes of the northern Rockies in the 1840s has been so little known seems strange indeed. For rescuing it from obscurity, historians, anthropologists, and students of American art alike owe a debt of gratitude to the translator and editor, Father Joseph P. Donnelly, and to the publishers, who spared neither pains nor expense in producing this beautiful book.

Father Point went to the Rocky Mountain country in the spring of 1841, serving as the official diarist of an expedition led by the famed Jesuit missionary, Father Pierre Jean De Smet. During the six years that followed, he assembled records, written and visual, of life among the Flatheads, the Coeur d'Alenes, and the Blackfeet in the area that was to become Montana and Idaho. It was not until 1859 and the years following, however, that he had the opportunity to draw upon these materials and to compose in his native French the *Recollections of the Rocky Mountains* translated for this book. A self-taught artist, Father Point illustrated his manuscript with charming, highly colored primitives, rich in detail that make them "pictorial documents of great interest to historians and anthropologists."

The editor has not only translated and annotated Point's text, but he has provided a revealing survey of the missionary's life and a history of his manuscript. The latter includes a firsthand report on Father Donnelly's persistent efforts, extending over more than three decades, to obtain the publication of the illustrated narrative. This handsome volume is evidence of his success. Although the editor's enthusiasm for his subject is fully justified, it does at times lead him to exaggerate. Thus he asserts that Point depicted the lives and customs of certain Indian tribes "long before any artist of our West, except George Catlin, had put brush to canvas." Surely Father Donnelly is aware of the contributions of such pioneering artists as Samuel Seymour, J. O. Lewis, Peter Rindisbacher, Karl Bodmer, and Seth Eastman. That they, and others, preceded the Jesuit father in no way detracts from his importance.

It is to be expected that many of Father Point's illustrations picture the western mis-

sions and missionary activities. His interests, however, extended far beyond his own calling. The Indians among whom he worked drew his attention, resulting in some noteworthy portraits. Primitive in technique though they are, these likenesses reveal the strength and dignity that characterized many of his subjects. Point's Indians are living individuals, and his portraits are far superior to those limned by many other artists of the West. He portrayed also some of the fur traders he encountered—mountain men like Alexander Culbertson and Jacques Berger—and he pictured the posts they built and frequented, among them Fort Lewis, Fort Union, Fort Pierre, Fort Yankton, and Fort McKenzie. Especially significant are Father Point's interior views, which show in great detail such features as the trading stores with their gaily colored wares, and activities like the baling of pelts in preparation for shipment.

It is fortunate for the reader that Father Point should be introduced by John C. Ewers of the Smithsonian Institution, who brings to the "Appreciation" that opens the work his own vast knowledge of the American Indians and his wide familiarity with the pictorial records of their history. His remarks provide a setting for Point's own narrative, which includes accounts of the westward journey of the missionaries with De Smet and of the missions established among the Flatheads, the Coeur d'Alenes, and the Blackfeet; descriptive reports on the summer and winter buffalo hunts of these tribes, in which Point often participated; and the story of a "Stay at Fort Lewis and a Journey on a Barge Down the Missouri" that marked the close of his Rocky Mountain experience. It is our good fortune that when he left, the missionary, as noted by Mr. Ewers, "took with him a unique record of Indian life in the Northwest, which we are privileged to see and to read, faithfully reproduced in this handsome book." Illustrating it are 232 of Father Point's highly colored primitive paintings in all their original brilliance, as well as some fifty in black and white. A section of notes and a bibliography conclude the work. Unfortunately, the book lacks an index.

Miss Heilbron has had a long interest in western art and recently edited Henry Lewis' Das illustrierte Mississippithal (1967), which is reviewed on page 43.

. . . on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

NILS WILLIAM OLSSON, director of the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, has published the result of more than twenty years' research in the source materials of Swedish immigration to the United States in *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in New York, 1820-1850* (Chicago and Stockholm, Swedish Pioneer Historical Society, 1967. xx, 392 p. \$15.00). The work lists in chronological order the approximately four thousand Swedish names on the New York passenger manifests (for the period indicated) that are preserved in the National Archives, together with the other facts given in those manifests—age, sex, occupation, ship's name, and that of the port from which it sailed. To this basic information has been added wherever possible—and the frequency with which it has been possible witnesses to the compiler's thoroughness—brief details of the immigrant's or visitor's Swedish origins and life in America, drawn from a great number of archival and printed sources in Sweden and the United States. Among those whose arrivals in New York are documented are Fredrika Bremer, John Ericsson, Lars P. Esbjörn, Jerry Lind, Eric Norelius, and Gustaf Unonius. Erik Jansson evaded the port authorities, but Dr. Olsson provides documentation on many of the adherents who followed him to Bishop Hill, Illinois. Besides addenda and a bibliography, the compiler has provided indexes of place names, personal names, and ships' names. Michael Brook

UNDER THE TITLE *Tom Walsh in Dakota Territory* (Urbana and London, 1966. 301 p.), the University of Illinois Press has published a collection of letters exchanged between a young Dakota lawyer, who was to become Senator Thomas J. Walsh of Montana, and Elinor C. McClements, who before the close of the correspondence had become Mrs. Walsh. The editor, J. Leonard Bates, explains in a foreword that these are "virtually the only letters that exist for the first fifty years of Walsh's life." As such they are precious source material for the biographer, and they illuminate the personalities and cultural interests of two ambitious young midwesterners during the sanguine era of the 1880s. But to claim as the book jacket does that the letters "contribute to present knowledge of agrarian discontent and the developing reform movements of the late nine-

teenth and early twentieth centuries" is to stretch a point. They contain little to foreshadow Walsh's later career as a progressive Democratic senator and opponent of the "copper trust." Though the editor has clarified all references to politics and current events by careful and complete annotation, the contents of the letters remain overwhelmingly personal, and in the absence of a full biography of Walsh, the picture they convey remains fragmentary.

Rhoda R. Gilman

A GENERAL introduction to *The North American Indians: A Sourcebook* has been edited by Roger C. Owen, James J. F. Deetz, and Anthony D. Fisher (New York, Macmillan Company, 1967. 752 p. \$10.95). The first 121 pages present an overview of Indian culture; they are followed by eight sections organized on a regional basis. The concluding seventy-five pages concern "The Indian in the Modern World." The volume offers fifty-four abridged essays by nearly as many scholars from previously published works which date from 1888 to 1963. Designed primarily for textbook use, the volume provides a list of additional readings and one of educational films about North American Indians. It has an index but is not annotated.

EDITORS Bernard Klein and Daniel Icolari have compiled a curious mixture of Indian-related subjects in *Reference Encyclopedia of the American Indian* (New York, 1967. 536 p.). Included are state-by-state listings of government agencies dealing with Indian affairs, museums and libraries with Indian exhibits or collections, historical societies and other associations treating Indian subjects, Indian reservations, tribal councils, schools, and Indian arts and crafts shops. Also listed, both alphabetically and by subjects, are some two thousand in-print books about North American Indians. Newspapers and magazines printing Indian material are included, too, as are government publications. The book's last two hundred pages consist of a who's who of prominent Indians and of non-Indians, especially writers, who have worked in various related fields. Although a useful tool, the guide is not as complete as its editors claim. The compilation is based on questionnaires and not everyone answered them.

TWENTY-FIVE ESSAYS, edited by Morgan B. Sherwood, provide a chronological survey of *Alaska and Its History* (Seattle, University of Washington Press, 1967. 475 p. \$12.50). Three sections of nearly equal length deal with the Russian period, "The Transition," and the American years. Mr. Sherwood says that one reason for publishing the anthology is "to introduce both amateurs and professionals to the monographic literature in article form"; to that end, he has included studies from eleven periodicals. The articles range from one which examines the Russian movement eastward in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to a look at Alaska's progress and problems taken by Senator Ernest Gruening. The publication of the volume coincides with the centennial of Alaska's purchase by the United States. The majority of the work is annotated and the book contains an index, a contributor's bibliography, three maps, and nine illustrations.

THE UNIVERSITY of Illinois Press has published a solid study of *The Grain Trade in the Old Northwest*, by John G. Clark (Urbana, 1966. 324 p.). Although nominally spanning the period from earliest settlement to the Civil War, Mr. Clark concentrates mainly on the two decades after 1840, by which year "only a few areas within the region, notably in Ohio, had made the transition . . . to a predominantly commercial agriculture." He traces the changing patterns of commerce and transportation to 1859, when the "relative importance of the East North Central states to the wheat production of the United States reached its peak." Drawing upon a wide range of sources, both statistical and descriptive, he shows the transition from the earliest north-south flow via the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to a predominantly east-west flow, first in the northern areas tributary to the Great Lakes and later in the south as railroads penetrated the Ohio and Mississippi valleys. The importance of rail lines in stimulating the agricultural production of Illinois and Wisconsin during the 1850s is demonstrated, but Minnesota remains peripheral to the study, since "the latter did not produce a surplus until the mid-1850's." The work is fully annotated and indexed. It received the 1965 award of the Agricultural History Society.

IN HIS *The Frederic Remington Book: A Pictorial History of the West* (Garden City, New York, 1966. 285 p.), Harold McCracken again has mined that famous artist's vast output of drawings, paintings, and sculpture for an at-

tractive volume. Not an illustrated biography like Mr. McCracken's earlier *Frederic Remington: Artist of the Old West* (1947), this book has a biographical chapter but otherwise points up Remington's role as a pictorial historian who saw at first hand many of the western subjects he painted and sculptured in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The nearly four hundred Remington works reproduced, many in color, are grouped "in a semblance of historical chronology." A short, rather superficial narrative provides background and holds them together. Covered are such topics as explorers (including La Vérendrye, Radisson and Groseilliers, whose name is misspelled), mountain men, pioneers, Indians, army troopers, and cowboys. Of special interest are several of Remington's on-the-spot pictures of the military campaign that ended with the massacre of Sioux Indians at Wounded Knee in December, 1890. There is an index of pictures but not of the text. The book is not annotated.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

PROBABLY the most popular book to be published by the University of Minnesota Press, *The Doctors Mayo*, by Helen Clapesattle, which first appeared in 1941, has been issued in paperback form (Minneapolis, 1968. 426 p. \$2.25). This reprint follows the second edition of 1954 which was "condensed for quicker reading," not rewritten but "streamlined—stripped of details that served to authenticate and underscore, but not to alter, the essential narrative." Similarly, the notes of documentation included in the first edition have been eliminated. The volume is a welcome addition to the growing list of Minnesota Paperbacks coming from the university.

WITH this issue responsibility for the editing of *Minnesota History* is assumed by Kenneth Carley. A native of Rochester and a graduate of the University of Minnesota, Mr. Carley has been for a number of years assistant editor of the *Minneapolis Tribune Picture Magazine*. He is familiar to readers of this quarterly for his many articles and book reviews, as well as for his book on *The Sioux Uprising of 1862*, published by the society in observance of the Civil War and Sioux Uprising centennial. Rhoda R. Gilman, who has edited *Minnesota History* for the past seven years, has been promoted to the position of assistant managing editor. Her work will in future be mainly associated with the society's book publishing program.



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