



OFF THE PRESS

Burial Mounds of Central Minnesota: Excavation Reports. By LLOYD A. WILFORD, ELDEN JOHNSON, and JOAN VICINUS. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1969. 72 p. Illustrations, maps. \$3.25.)

Reviewed by Marshall McKusick

AMONG ARCHAEOLOGISTS working in the Midwest it was not a question of whether Professor Lloyd Wilford's reports would be published, but rather when and in what form. The Minnesota Historical Society has now undertaken an archaeological research series which, as it continues, is laying the foundations for the systematic expansion of information about prehistoric man in the region.

After the surveys by Theodore Lewis and their eventual publication in 1911 by Newton Winchell, archaeological research was virtually ignored until a student training program was established in 1933 at the University of Minnesota by Professor A. E. Jenks. Mr. Wilford, as field supervisor, eventually directed the program, and from the 1930s nearly to the time of his retirement in 1959, he carried out investigations in all parts of the state. The basic information and collections he obtained during the period of his research continue to be of great significance in interpreting the prehistory of Minnesota and surrounding states. This significance is due to the well-documented study collections at the department of anthropology and to the range, in area and prehistoric time, his various investigations represented. He

undertook the first comprehensive synthesis of Minnesota archaeology, revising it as his information increased.

The bulk of the report under review was compiled from Mr. Wilford's manuscripts, on file in the department of anthropology, describing mound excavations in the southern half of the state. It does not include his numerous excavations at other kinds of sites. With a few reports from other individuals, the monograph describes forty burial mounds from twenty-three mound groups in addition to excavations at nine disturbed groups which provided less information. The coauthors have added or expanded the artifact descriptions where necessary and have provided full documentation of the finds in twenty large pages of plates.

The conclusion, written by Elden Johnson, discusses Mr. Wilford's classification of cultures and adds some radiocarbon dates illustrating that the custom of secondary burial spans at least eighteen centuries. Mr. Johnson further suggests this custom may have originated from the impossibility of making primary burials during the long winter months. Secondary burial thus may be an alternative to primary burial in some prehistoric cultures, reflecting the seasonal factors rather than a uniform burial pattern.

Burial mounds present numerous problems for archaeologists. Artifacts are sparse, there is frequently disturbance from relic hunters, and potential cultural interpretations are sometimes scant. The bones themselves, particularly in secondary burials, are poorly preserved. Although Mr. Wilford was trained as a physical anthropologist, he presents little information about skeletal remains beyond suggestions of age and sex because of the difficulty of mak-

Mr. McKusick is Iowa's state archaeologist and a professor of anthropology at the University of Iowa.

ing systematic measurements on much of his material. As more information accumulates from village and camp sites some of the cultural groupings derived from the mound explorations will undoubtedly be modified or discontinued. We also anticipate that larger numbers of sherds and projectile points will permit more detailed typing and classification than was possible in the present report.

The coauthors are to be complimented on presenting a well-edited version of Mr. Wilford's reports, an edition which will be cited and used by subsequent investigators confronted with the problem of mound investigations. We look forward to other studies in the series.

INDIAN PAINTS

A Pictographic History of the Oglala Sioux. By HELEN H. BLISH. Drawings by Amos Bad Heart Bull. Introduction by Mari Sandoz. (Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1967. xxii, 530 p. Illustrations. \$17.95.)

Reviewed by Karen Daniels Petersen

THE HEART of the *Pictographic History* is a series of some four hundred drawings done by a Sioux Indian in the years 1890 to 1913. Amos Bad Heart Bull, a self-taught artist, envisioned and executed in behalf of the Oglalas "a chronological narrative giving in intimate detail the story of the life of a people in all of its numerous ramifications."

With rare devotion and the help of Sioux informants, Helen H. Blish, a white teacher and summer student, overcame the prodigious difficulties entailed in writing a commentary on the pictures which would render them meaningful for a modern audience, white or red. The late Mari Sandoz, the Nebraska author, has provided an introduction that places the drawings in a cultural perspective.

Although Miss Blish completed the manuscript in 1928, she died in 1941 before its publication. When the University of Nebraska Press prepared to bring it out in 1967, the publisher determined to present the manu-

script in its original form insofar as possible and to refrain from editing Miss Blish's research. While the reasons for this course are understandable, one wishes that more consideration had been given to the reader. Needless repetition and much turning back and forth from text to illustrations might have been avoided if all the commentary pertaining to an individual drawing had been placed on the same page with it, leaving only the comparative analyses in the chapters of the text. The reader deserves the benefits of a research and a bibliography not only brought up to date by forty years but greatly broadened. Some antiquated concepts could have been deleted, such as the idea that every beadwork symbol has a meaning of its own.

Miss Blish entered bravely upon the formidable task of discussing a body of four hundred drawings from the perspectives of history, art, and Dakota thought, while freely citing examples. She is most at home in the analysis of the drawings as art. Her mastery of this phase compensates for a deficiency in the area of ethnohistory. Many of the drawings showing "events perhaps earlier than 1856" could be given a more precise date, and a more recent one. For example, a comparison of the names and the natures of the soldier societies with those recorded by F. V. Hayden in 1859 and 1860 would confirm a suspicion that the societies as Bad Heart Bull knew them in 1890 must differ considerably from those of 1856. Again, the emergence of the crow bustle and the Omaha Dance are phenomena that could be assigned more specific dates. Finally, a more thorough study of one of Miss Blish's favorite sources, Garrick Mallery, would have prevented such errors in interpretation as that in illustration number 32. Here the circle that is the conventionalized representation of "forted up" Indians under attack is mistaken for the top of a butte, notwithstanding that on the same page the author quotes the artist as calling it "a stand under a projecting rock along a cliff."

Amos Bad Heart Bull, one of the outstanding masters of traditional Plains pictorial art, produced a magnificent series of drawings of epic proportion. Custer buffs will have a field day with the fresh, detailed, and exciting pictures of the Little Big Horn, while Indian devotees will find endless source material for the study of customs, costumes, and regalia.

Mrs. Petersen is the author of *Howling Wolf: A Cheyenne Warrior's Graphic Interpretation of His People* (1968).

Unfortunately, although not surprisingly in view of the many varieties of paper used for the originals, some of the details are lost in the reproductions, particularly in the smaller-scaled of the four hundred black-and-white pictures. The thirty-two colored plates have been reproduced in tints and shades which it is hard to believe Bad Heart Bull ever employed. The device of a panoramic view with a hundred or more figures, which Miss Blish frequently reiterates was original with Bad Heart Bull, was being used to good effect by the Kiowa and Southern Cheyenne prisoner-artists at Fort Marion when the Sioux was only seven years of age. His uniqueness lies in "the astonishing conception of the work as a whole, his far-reaching and comprehensive plan of the work."

Of particular interest to Minnesota readers are the seven illustrations dealing with the commission that treated with bands of Sioux and Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho for the cession of the Black Hills in 1876. Reproduced are Bad Heart Bull's map of the hills, a panorama of the treaty site, excerpts from the speeches of Red Cloud, Spotted Tail, and Manypenny, a close-up showing the principals in council, and a list of the commissioners that includes Episcopal Bishop Henry B. Whipple of Minnesota, the reformer of the government's Indian policy, and Dr. Jared W. Daniels of St. Peter and Faribault, inspector of Indian agencies. The close-up reflects the fact that the artist was working from neither eyewitness accounts nor photographs. His portraits bear little resemblance to the clean-shaven but long-haired bishop or his full-bearded fellow commissioners.

FRONTIER ARMY

The Sword of the Republic: The United States Army on the Frontier 1783-1846. By FRANCIS PAUL PRUCHA. (New York, Macmillan Company, 1969. 442 p. Illustrations. \$12.50.)

Reviewed by Walter O'Meara

AT THE CLOSE of the Revolutionary War the United States disbanded its army and declared peace with everybody—everybody but the Indians, that is. The war with the original inhabitants of America went on and

on, necessitating a gradual build-up of the armed forces for what was somewhat euphemistically called "the defense of the frontier." As an instrument of white land greed, the army's real job was, of course, to oust the red men from their ancestral homelands—by peaceful removal, if possible, by extermination, if necessary. Despite the high-sounding directives of Congress, everything else was incidental to this ultimate purpose. And, although the author may not agree, this is what Francis Paul Prucha's fine book, *The Sword of the Republic*, is really about.

In this scholarly work Father Prucha gives us an exhaustively documented account of the army on the swiftly expanding frontiers of the new nation. He remarks a little wryly that it was not a very exciting time. There was not much of an army, and its exploits were often short of glorious. But the years 1783 to 1846 were critical ones, when paper titles had to be made good with men on the ground. Father Prucha's account makes them anything but uninteresting to students of American military history.

The Sword of the Republic, it must be noted, is hardly popular entertainment. Heroic, disgraceful, heartbreaking, and sometimes momentous events are reported with a minimum of dramatics and emotion. St. Clair's stunning defeat by Little Turtle and the Ohio Indians is described in half a dozen lines. The infamous removal of the Cherokee over "The Trail of Tears" is characterized with, "The whole affair, of course, was not a happy one." The great Indian leader Tecumseh is hardly mentioned. The reader senses an exaggerated care, perhaps, not to "take sides" and a little too much objectivity. Some might say the author shows a slight bias in favor of the army, and especially its officers, in its relations with the tribesmen.

Father Prucha is a military historian, and a very good one. His interest is not in repeating the clichés of popular history. In *The Sword of the Republic* he sets out to give us the first comprehensive account of the frontier army's development, organization, deployment, and role as an instrument of national policy—and

Mr. O'Meara, whose newest book is *Daughters of the Country* (1968), has a particular interest in military history.

that of its men as "agents of Empire." Readers with a feeling for the deep currents underlying history will agree that he has done it superlatively.

WEATHER WATCHED

Early American Winters II, 1821-1870. By DAVID M. LUDLUM. (Boston, American Meteorological Society, 1968. ix, 257 p. Maps. \$10.00.)

Reviewed by June Drenning Holmquist

DEDICATED Minnesota weather watchers, of which the state seems to have an inordinate number, will find this book a delight. It is crammed with little-known bits and pieces of weather lore and facts and figures heretofore scattered and hard to put one's hands on. Scholars will find it equally fascinating and very useful. Here one can find winter temperatures for a given month or year at Fort Snelling or St. Paul; weather data at the time of the Civil War battle of Lookout Mountain; accounts of huge snowfalls at Marietta, Ohio, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, in 1831; all-time low temperatures for Cleveland in 1821 and Chicago in 1864; the record snowfall piled up in New York City in 1867-68; and thousands of other assorted and interesting facts.

Mr. Ludlum's present study, his second, carries the story of American winters forward from 1820, where volume 1 concluded. The author has now progressed chronologically into a period where he has considerably more data to work with than he had in volume 1. For one thing, it was "about 1821 that the first government sponsored weather reports commenced to be received on a regular basis at Washington," and for another, it was in the 1850s that "the admirable system for volunteer weather observing stations" was developed by the Smithsonian Institution under the direction of Joseph Henry. The terminal date of the book — 1870 — coincides with the year in which Congress authorized "large-scale federal weather service," and the beginning of even more systematic record keeping.

Geographically the author covers the continental United States as far west as the first tier of states bordering the western shores of the Mississippi and including, of course, Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Very little data is given for Dakota Territory.

The book is divided into chapters on winters in the Northeast, the South, and the Midwest, and during the Civil War, 1861-65. A fifth section entitled "A Winter Anthology" offers a potpourri of material on specific storms or topics, including a description of the "Farthest Northern Weather Station" at Pembina in Minnesota Territory quoted from the *Minnesota Pioneer* of February, 1852, and an account of "A Dakota Storm" in 1868 taken from the journal kept by Philippe Régis de Trobriand at Fort Stevenson. The volume is well indexed and contains a bibliography.

The data presented for Minnesota is typical of that offered for the other states covered, although not all are treated with equal thoroughness. The records of the National Archives, for example, have been utilized to present considerable statistical detail on winters at Fort Snelling from 1819 to 1858. The author's knowledgeable comments are also of value. He notes, for example, that the fort's thermometer was located within the stockade and that it customarily registered temperatures higher than those recorded at spots outside the walls. William H. Keating's 1823 description of the instrument is quoted, and the fact that precipitation records at the fort (which usually did not give snowfall) were begun in 1836 is stated with appropriate explanation.

Weather records at Fort Snelling were kept by the post surgeon. The author remarks that although "the observations made by the Medical Corps at the frontier posts" varied "greatly in quality and quantity with the personality of the observer," without them "our knowledge of the climate of the great interior of the United States would have long remained much less detailed. . . ." The surgeons frequently set down temperature observations three times daily, noted prevailing wind directions, and remarked on unusual weather phenomena as well as comets, falling stars, and diseases prevalent at the posts.

The usefulness of such data for the historian is obvious. For example, much has been made of the severe winter experienced by Colonel Henry Leavenworth and his troops at Camp

Mrs. Holmquist is the managing editor of the Minnesota Historical Society.

New Hope, the forerunner of Fort Snelling, in 1819. Mr. Ludlum has provided specifics. Leavenworth's troops were blessed with above normal temperatures in November and December, but January, 1820, was one of the two coldest Januaries on record from 1820 to 1870. Twenty days had morning readings below zero, and the ice did not begin to break up in the Minnesota River until April 5.

Additional information gathered from other sources for such Minnesota spots as Forts Ripley and Ridgely, Lakeland, and Forest City are scattered through the Midwest section. Among these are temperatures at Fort Ripley from December, 1855, to February, 1856, and from December, 1856, to March, 1857; comments on the New Year's storm in 1864 at Mankato and Forest City; on the blizzards of 1856 and 1870; and a good set of temperature statistics recorded at St. Paul from 1859 to 1870 by the observer appointed by the Smithsonian Institution.

In this reviewer's opinion, Mr. Ludlum deserves a vote of thanks from librarians, students of American and local history, and the millions of curious human beings who have ever wondered what winters were like in by-gone years.

HISTORIC DIGS

The Joseph R. Brown House: Final Report on Archaeological Excavations. By CARLA G. LINDEMAN and DAVID W. NYSTUEN. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1969. xiv, 53 p. Illustrations, maps. \$1.50.)

The Excavation of Fort Renville: An Archaeological Report. By DAVID W. NYSTUEN and CARLA G. LINDEMAN. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1969. xiv, 58 p. Illustrations, maps. \$2.00.)

Reviewed by G. Hubert Smith

THESE TWO REPORTS are the first of a new publication series from the Minnesota Historical Society to be devoted to results of archaeological explorations at noteworthy historic sites in Minnesota and to the correlated documentary research. Grants from the Minnesota Resources Commission have supported the project. The two sites here discussed — a briefly occupied dwelling now ruinous and a fur trading post, remains of which have survived only in the

earth itself — are both located on the upper Minnesota River. They are administered as public-use areas by the Minnesota Division of Parks and Recreation, which granted permission for new excavations and made available essential records, photographs, and specimens obtained in previous excavation efforts. A third report in the new series will deal with work at the surviving structures of the Upper Sioux, or Yellow Medicine, Indian Agency, in the same quarter of the state. The series "reactivates" the society's long-standing interest in, and sponsorship of, the employment of systematic archaeological methods for recovering very specific, localized evidence illustrating in material form certain aspects of the development of Minnesota during the more recent past — evidence not ordinarily to be had in any other way.

The two initial publications summarize the available documentation for each site and provide concise accounts of the earlier investigations, in 1938 and 1940 respectively, which were financed by federal funds and endorsed by both the society and the division of parks. The results of these digs have not been available to the interested general public. To this are added the results of the more recent investigations and research in 1968, carried out with the particular aim of completing the previous efforts. Both of the 1968 investigations inevitably raised new questions about subject matter, the significance of surviving material evidence, and the precise relevance and meaning of certain contemporary or traditional documents. It is to be hoped that additional research will shed further light on all such matters and, ultimately, afford solutions for some of them. Most documents need explication, and the reviewer suspects that in each of these two instances the documentary sources have not yet been exhausted.

These two reports are necessarily quite literal accounts of detailed observations made during excavations, accompanied by descriptions of the artifacts and specimens recovered. As raw material for historical reconstructions, the reports have a limited appeal. For specialists concerned with the historical development of the

Mr. Smith, who was the society's museum curator from 1946 to 1950, served as historical archaeologist of the Smithsonian Institution's river basin surveys from 1951 to 1968.

various frontiers, temporal and geographic, they afford fresh sources of very specific, localized evidence in material form.

The authors of these booklets are doubtless well aware of the fact that by publication of their notes and conjectures they have provided any hostile critics with abundant matter for debate, argument, or even invidious comment. Their courage can only be commended. Heinrich Schliemann himself had his hostile critics. They are forgotten while the pioneer himself is gratefully remembered by scholars. Something resembling the revolution in historical studies of the last century seems to be happening in our own time, in this part of the world.

CATHOLIC REFORMERS

The Conservative Reformers: German-American Catholics and the Social Order. By PHILIP GLEASON. (Notre Dame, Indiana, University of Notre Dame Press, 1968. x, 272 p. \$8.95.)

Reviewed by Vincent G. Tegeder, O.S.B.

IN THIS MONOGRAPH Professor Philip Gleason, a member of the department of history at the University of Notre Dame, presents a careful analysis and evaluation of the record of a German-American Catholic mutual aid and fraternal society, the Central-Verein, as an agency for the promotion of social reform during the first decades of the present century. The author demonstrates that a close study of the Central-Verein not only emphasizes the reform interests of this organization, but provides the reader with much information about the life of German-American Catholics in the United States during the past one hundred years. Thus, the book also sheds much light upon the immigrant facet of American history.

The writer had an expansive body of original source materials at his command: the rich archival and newspaper holdings of the Central-Verein in St. Louis, Missouri, and the Kenkel Papers in the archives at the University of Notre Dame. He has thoroughly researched

this significant data which frequently has been neglected due to a language problem.

In appraising his findings Mr. Gleason makes a strong case for his contention that the leaders of the Central-Verein proved to be conservative reformers. Frederick P. Kenkel, who had an unbroken association with this society from 1908 to 1952, consistently reflected a similar approach in his interpretation of the social question. Although he desired the drastic reconstruction of American life, he chose as his model the organization of society in the Christian Middle Ages: family, guild, and church. As a reformer, Kenkel appears to have been "inspired by a vision of preindustrial harmony and solidarity" which he hoped would be revived in a new form. His ideology did not favor the growth of federal power and state socialism. It did not stress the role of government, but relied on the church and voluntary groups for the initiation of change. It placed the emphasis on the use of co-operatives, credit unions, and enthusiasm for rural living as the chief means for the positive reorientation of American society.

Although the reform program of the Central-Verein ran counter to many of the trends in modern industrial society at the turn of the century, it did encourage German-American Catholic sensitivity to social problems. It also served as a unique critic of the weaknesses of American society as this ethnic group established its identity in a strange new world.

MYTH RE-EXAMINED

The Golden Bottle. By IGNATIUS DONNELLY. Edited by David W. Noble. (New York and London, Johnson Reprint Corporation, 1968. xxiii, 313 p. \$15.00.)

Reviewed by Rhoda R. Gilman

THE THIRD and last of Ignatius Donnelly's novels appeared in 1892 during the author's ill-starred campaign for governor of Minnesota. It is a political and economic tract thinly disguised as fiction and intended to embody Donnelly's thoughts on the money issue, which was even then beginning to divide the country over the question of bimetalism. But the allegory of *The Golden Bottle* goes much further than a simple attack on the gold standard.

Father Tegeder is professor of American history and chairman of the history department at St. John's University in Collegeville.

To this reprint edition Professor Noble has contributed an introduction which assesses the book as "a major document of what has been called the American agrarian myth." In his tightly packed and thought-provoking essay he goes beyond an examination of the book itself to disagree with recent historians who have "given us an erroneous emphasis on the peculiar American quality" of this myth. He points out that the sturdy yeoman-farmer of Jeffersonian thought is merely an American cousin of the Enlightenment's unspoiled "natural man" and that ambivalence toward the growth of industrial society has not been limited to rural areas or to the United States. When the economy expanded, the nineteenth century rejoiced in "progress"; during periods of stagnation it suspected a conspiracy to enslave mankind.

In Donnelly's life, politics, and other writings Mr. Noble finds evidence that the author persistently rejected the optimistic doctrines of progress and social Darwinism and foresaw an ultimate world struggle between the forces of good and evil. Finally, Mr. Noble raises the interesting question of whether there was a relationship between this strain in Populist thought and "the apocalyptic ideology which defined the participation of the United States in World War I as a holy war to end all war by making the world safe for democracy." It

is a question to make the reader ponder, for in the story of *The Golden Bottle* the hero, as president of the United States, leads American farmers and workingmen on a crusade to overthrow the tyrannies of the Old World and establish a "Universal Republic," or world federation of democratic nations. And in the book's closing pages Donnelly voices an uncanny prophesy: "Within the next twenty-five years America will have to lift up Europe, by wiping out the kings and aristocracies, or go down to ruin under the feet of armed mobs, driven to desperation by wretchedness. The world has got to be . . . 'all free or all slave.' There is an irrepressible conflict that takes in the planet."

This reprint is one volume of a *Series in American Studies* under the over-all editorship of Joseph J. Kwiat. Accompanying Mr. Noble's introduction is a very brief bibliography of works by and about Donnelly. Apparently no effort has been made to correct the typographical errors and blemishes of the original edition, and the price of this small and sloppily printed book can only be explained by the difficulty of obtaining the original.

Mrs. Gilman, assistant managing editor of the society, has had a long-standing interest in Ignatius Donnelly.

. . . on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

"WHAT A MAN finally becomes, how he adjusts himself to his world, is a composite of all the horizons he has explored, for they have marked him and left indelible imprints on his attitude and convictions and given his life direction and meaning," says Sigurd Olson in his introduction to *Open Horizons* (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1969. xv, 227 p. Illustrations. \$5.95). This volume is Mr. Olson's poetic reminiscence of the horizons he has discovered and traversed — his youth on an isolated farm in northern Wisconsin, his summers as a canoe guide in the Quetico-Superior region, and his rise to pre-eminence as a writer and conservationist.

To live close to nature was also the dream of Helen Hoover and her husband. The tale of their escape from the demands of Chicago to the beauty and peace of Minnesota's north-

ern wilderness is told in *A Place in the Woods* (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1969. 292 p. \$5.95). Mrs. Hoover recounts in a warm and humorous manner the joys and trials they experienced as city-bred newcomers to the woods. The book was illustrated by Adrian Hoover.

THE ILLEGAL abduction of Little Six (Shakopee) and Medicine Bottle from Canada in 1864 after their active participation in the Sioux Uprising of 1862 in Minnesota is well told by Alan R. Woolworth, the society's chief of archaeology, in the Spring, 1969, issue of *The Beaver*. Mr. Woolworth's article, entitled "A Disgraceful Proceeding: Intrigue in the Red River Country in 1864," recounts how British conspirators plied the hapless Indian leaders with liquor, drugged and bound them, and

took them to Major Edwin A. C. Hatch of St. Paul who was waiting at Pembina on the United States side of the boundary with his independent battalion of cavalry. Eventually the Sioux were imprisoned at Fort Snelling, convicted on flimsy evidence, and hung on November 11, 1865.

THE AMERICAN ADVENTURES of Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, world-famous aeronautic inventor and German national hero, are recounted by Rhoda R. Gilman in "Count Zeppelin and the American Atmosphere," an illustrated article in the Spring, 1968, issue of the *Smithsonian Journal of History*. Drawing largely on Zeppelin's own letters and contemporary newspaper accounts, the author describes the young count's experiences as a military observer with the Union army in the spring of 1863, the delight and misery of his subsequent journey over the Great Lakes to the headwaters of the Mississippi and finally St. Paul with two Russian companions, and the exhilaration of his first flight in a balloon over St. Paul. The article concludes with a brief discussion of his later years as a cavalry officer and inventor of the first rigid airship. Mrs. Gilman, former editor of *Minnesota History* and now assistant managing editor of the society, has written two previous articles about Zeppelin which appeared in the Fall, 1965, and Summer, 1967, issues of this magazine.

THE THEORY that Norsemen explored and lived in parts of what is now the United States after 1000 A.D. is again put forward by Ole G. Landsverk in *Ancient Norse Messages On American Stones* (California, 1969, 142 p.). The study of hidden dates in medieval runic inscriptions, writes the author, proves the existence of Norsemen in New England and Oklahoma in the eleventh century and in Minnesota in the fourteenth century. Mr. Landsverk proposes that a continuity of procedures existed over the entire three and a half centuries and suggests that members of the clergy made nearly all the dated runic carvings. He describes and illustrates principles of cryptography and sets forth his solutions to several well-known runic inscriptions, including the Kensington stone. The volume supplements an earlier work, *Norse Medieval Cryptography In Runic Carvings*, which Mr. Landsverk coauthored with Alf Mongé in 1967, and which was the subject of a critical review article in the Spring, 1968, issue of *Minnesota History*.

Westward from Vinland, the late Hjalmar R. Holand's discussion of the Kensington rune stone and other possible Scandinavian arti-

facts in North America, has been reprinted by Dover Publications, Inc. under the title *Norse Discoveries & Explorations in America 982-1362: Leif Erikson to the Kensington Stone* (New York, 1969. x, 354 p. \$2.75). It is illustrated.

PIERRE GAULTIER, Sieur de la Vérendrye, is discussed in recent biographies by two Canadians. In his yet untranslated work, *Les La Vérendrye et le Poste de l'Ouest* (Quebec, Les Presses De L'Université Laval, 1968. 589 p. Illustrations. \$12.00), Antoine Champagne recounts the history of the discovery of the Canadian West from 1717 to 1760. The immense plain in the center of the North American continent attracted several explorers before La Vérendrye, according to Mr. Champagne, but no one traveled the region as extensively or lived in it as long as the former fur trader. La Vérendrye emerges as an idealistic and persevering soul, deserving of the title of "discoverer of the West." The book, which relies heavily on primary sources, attempts to correct much of the confused and fragmentary documentation of previously published biographies. There are three appendixes, a substantial bibliography, and an index.

In *La Vérendrye: His Life and Times* (Brandon, Manitoba, 1967. xiv, 262 p.), Martin Kavanagh attempts to dispel the image of La Vérendrye as an adventurer who worked for the monied interests in Quebec City. Tracing La Vérendrye's life from infancy, Mr. Kavanagh describes him as "a soldier and a patriotic fur trader impressed into exploration, not for exploration's sake, but because it would help his country's defence and add to her lustre." This book, too, is thoroughly documented and indexed and includes several appendixes.

THE GREAT LAKES Historical Society has published a reprint of *The Autobiography of Captain Alexander McDougall*, edited by Janet Coe Sanborn (Cleveland, 1968. 78 p.). The book was first published in 1932 for close relatives of the sailor-inventor, one of whose whale-back vessels is still in active service. The volume gives a glimpse of the author's early childhood in Scotland, his emigration from there to Canada in 1854 at the age of nine, and then concentrates more fully on the years spent on the Great Lakes as deck hand, porter, second mate, pilot, and captain. McDougall's early ships were schooners and sidewheel steamers. One early recollection tells of a trip to Grand Portage with a cargo that included annuities for about 1,400 Indians from the interior north of Lake Superior. The beginnings of Duluth and the great rivalry with

Superior, Wisconsin, are recounted, and the Scotsman's invention and production of the unique Great Lakes cargo vessel, the whaleback steamer, is told in detail. In addition to ten illustrations, the book contains a partial list of McDougall's writings, a list of the patents granted him after 1900, and information on the forty-four whalebacks built between 1889 and 1896.

HODAGS, owl-eyed ripple skippers, and goofus birds may exist only in the lore of the Great Lakes region, but Walker D. Wyman brings them and sundry other animals to life in *Mythical Creatures of the North Country* (River Falls, Wisconsin, River Falls State University Press, 1969. vi, 65 p. \$3.50). The beliefs, songs, and tales handed down from the Chippewa and Sioux Indians, fur traders, and lumbermen who once lived in the northern parts of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota furnished Mr. Wyman with many of the mythical stories about strange animals, fish, and birds. Helen B. Wyman did the illustrations. A reprint of William T. Cox's *Fearsome Creatures of the Lumberwoods*, published in 1910 and long out of print, is included for further entertainment.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

A GUIDE to Minnesota's lakes of ten acres or more has been published by the Department of Conservation. *An Inventory of Minnesota Lakes* (St. Paul, 1968. 498 p. \$4.50) was compiled by the division of waters, soils, and minerals to replace the out-of-print *Gazetteer of Minnesota Lakes* (1928). The book, which provides names and locations for 15,292 lakes, is arranged alphabetically by counties. All the lakes appear on the maps of their respective counties. There is also an index of lake names. Useful information on the origin of lake basins, their classification, and distribution is included. The volume should be of interest to private citizens and those agencies involved in the management and regulation of the state's water resources.

FAITH and resourcefulness have sustained the settlers at the junction of the Beaver River and Lake Superior for over a hundred years, writes Jessie C. Davis in *Beaver Bay: Original North Shore Village* (Duluth, Minnesota, 1968. 107 p.). The German-speaking pioneers who first migrated to the Beaver Bay region in 1856 were attracted by reports of

"little poor land, good ground for roads—good pine timber, good water mill sites, a fair show for copper" from Thomas Clark, one of the village's proprietors. Mrs. Davis chronicles the shifting economic fortunes of the settlement, the growth of its citizenry, and its reaction to the development in the 1950s of a new modern town, Silver Bay, just four miles away. Interwoven with historical fact is the story of a strong community spirit. Published by the St. Louis County Historical Society, the book contains illustrations, maps, and several genealogical charts.

THE HARDY PLANTS which bloom in the state between mid-March and early June are the subject of Thomas Morley's revised *Spring Flora of Minnesota* (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press in association with the Department of Botany, University of Minnesota, 1969. 283 p. \$7.75). Designed for the amateur or professional botanist, the manual provides descriptions of 662 species of native plants and 194 commonly cultivated species. Maps, a glossary, and an index are included.

THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL Society was host to the annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History August 19-23. The conference, which was headquartered at the St. Paul Hilton, included a buffalo barbecue and a Shakespeare in the Streets production of *Taming of the Shrew* at Fort Snelling, "Historical 30's Fashion Show" at the welcoming luncheon, a buffet and reception at the society, and the AASLH annual banquet at which Hubert H. Humphrey was chief speaker.

Robert C. Wheeler, the society's associate director, was chairman of the local arrangements committee; Helen M. White, associate curator of manuscripts, was chairman of the host committee.

COPIES of Eric W. Morse's *Fur Trade Canoe Routes of Canada/Then and Now* (Ottawa, Queen's Printer, 1969. 125 p. \$3.75) are available in the United States through the order department of the Minnesota Historical Society. The book outlines the economic, navigational, and geographical background of the Canadian fur trade through the eyes of a voyageur and describes the old canoe routes as they appear today. Numerous illustrations help chronicle the successful challenging of the northern wilderness. There is a foreword by Pierre Trudeau, the prime minister, and a bibliography.



Copyright of **Minnesota History** is the property of the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, or email articles, however, for individual use.

To request permission for educational or commercial use, [contact us](#).