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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Texas Panhandle Frontier. By Frederick W. Rathjen. Austin (The University of Texas Press), 1974. P. 249 Bibliography and index. \$9.50.

Much has been written about the Texas Panhandle over the last half-century. Articles and books dealing with virtually every facet of Panhandle history up to about 1900 have appeared. But Fred Rathjen's *Texas Panhandle Frontier* is the first effort to synthesize the Panhandle experience.

Regional history has long suffered at the hands of local antiquarians who have treated their respective locales as isolated islands on the North American continent. Rathjen has demonstrated that good regional history can be written by relating the region to the national and international scenes. The author shows that the Panhandle was important as a borderland buffer zone lying between the Spanish and the French, and between Mexicans and Anglo-Americans. Although paleo-Indian cultures and the later Antelope Creek Indians lived in the region, the white man traversed rather than settled the Panhandle. Explorers from Coronado to Marcy crossed the region. Santa Fe traders and California gold-seekers followed the Canadian River en route to their destination. With the exception of the Comancheros, those who attempted to trade with Comanches and Kiowas were unsuccessful in their efforts to found trading posts there. Surveyors laid out possible railroad routes across its surface. The buffalo hunters pursued their prey into the area, just as U.S. soldiers entered the region temporarily in order to conquer the southern plains Indians.

It is ironic that although the Panhandle was the homeland of some of the oldest paleo-Indian cultures, it was among the very last to be settled by the white man. The Mexican shepherds drove their flocks down the Canadian in the middle 1870s at about the same time that cattlemen entered from the east. By 1880 only a handful of settlers, cattlemen, and cowboys occupied the area. As late as 1900 the region had a population density of only 0.83 persons per square mile.

Rathjen has drawn upon manuscripts in the Earl Vandal Collection at the University of Texas, government documents, unpublished graduate theses, numerous volumes of secondary works and various interviews to weave together an excellent regional history. He ably demonstrates that regional history need not be "provincial."

Donald E. Green
Central (Oklahoma) State
University

Travels In North America, 1822-1824. By Haul Wilhelm, Duke of Württemberg. Translated by W. Robert Nitske. Edited by Savoie Lottinville. Norman (University of Oklahoma Press), 1973. Originally published in German in 1835. Pp. xxxiv, 456. Maps. Pictures. Bibliography. Index. \$20.00.

This volume is the sixty-third to appear as a part of The American Exploration and Travel Series published by the University of Oklahoma Press. W. Robert Nitske, the translator, is a native of Germany who has co-authored a biography of Rudolph Diesel and written technical automobile literature. The editor, Savoie Lottinville, is a Regents Professor Emeritus and Director Emeritus of the University of Oklahoma Press and is the founder of The American Exploration And Travel Series.

Paul Wilhelm, Duke of Württemberg, was a young German nobleman of twenty-five who in 1822 arrived in the Western Hemisphere anxious to explore the geography and wildlife of the fabled Trans-Mississippi West which was an area of profound interest to the scientifically-inclined, adventurous, and curious of his age. After brief periods in New

Orleans and Cuba, where he increased his knowledge of plant and animal life, Wilhelm was ready to embark upon his journey into the American interior early in 1823.

The Duke, a nephew of King Friedrich of Württemberg, received an excellent scientific education, due in large part to his uncle's personal concern and attention, and after a military career of some eleven years he resigned to pursue the study of natural science. By the time of his journey to America he was quite familiar with the literature of the subject and with the published accounts of other explorers and scientists who had traversed America's western regions and other areas of the Western Hemisphere.

Duke Paul set out in early 1823 accompanied by his body servant and traveled by steamboat up the Mississippi River from New Orleans, and then on the Ohio to Louisville. During this journey he collected information on military forts and Indian trading posts; the names, languages, and situations of various Indian tribes; United States-Mexican-Spanish relationships west of the Mississippi River; and, particularly, the flora and fauna of the region. He recorded the species he observed according to their scientific designations.

Returning southward and then to St. Louis, Wilhelm encountered and was well-treated and aided by the Choteaus and others of the famous French fur trading empire. Traveling up the Missouri River via sail- and cordelle-driven fur boats, the Duke encountered a varied assortment of French fur traders, American frontier types, and several Indian tribes. His descriptions of the plants, animals, and human beings he encountered compose, of course, the scientific meat of the account, but equally interesting are his reactions and impressions as the young nobleman adjusts to wilderness conditions and learns to accept and even embrace the values and practices of the frontier, even while retaining his European societal connections and outlook. His account is thus one of personal evolution as well as of happenings on the Missouri River from St. Louis to the vicinity of present-day Chamberlain, South Dakota.

The Duke eventually made three trips to the Western Hemisphere and various other scientific expeditions in other parts of the world. His account of this first journey was not published in German until 1835, and this text, of which the present translation is the first annotated edition to appear in any language, is quite rare. This edition is carefully documented, both historically and scientifically, contains excellent illustrations, and is handsomely-bound. It will be a welcome addition to the library of anyone interested in early western American history, travels, geography, and natural science.

James E. Fickle
Memphis State University

The Diplomacy of Annexation: Texas, Oregon and The Mexican War. By David M. Pletcher. Columbia (The University of Missouri Press), 1973. P. 611. Maps, bibliography, and index. \$20.00.

Although several American historians have dealt at length with the subject of "Manifest Destiny", most notably Albert Weinburg, Frederick Merk, George Rives and Justin H. Smith, a comprehensive study of the Oregon controversy, the Texas Question, California and the Mexican War has been lacking. The gap has now been filled most effectively with the publication of David M. Pletcher's exhaustive monograph, *The Diplomacy of Annexation*.

Professor Pletcher contends that the Texas Question, the Oregon dispute and the Mexican War, being basically elements in a major balance of power contest involving not just the United States, England and Mexico but France and Spain as well, should be viewed collectively within the scope of mid-nineteenth century social, political and economic alterations of international affairs. Thus the scope of this book extends well beyond the bilateral friction generated between England and the United States over

conflicting claims in the Oregon Country or that with Mexico over the annexation of Texas and the drawing of a common border in the American southwest. Heretofore, as the author explains, the tendency to isolate these seemingly independent and unconnected aberrations, while resulting in significant scholarly contributions to the respective subject matter, has simultaneously distorted the fact that each derives a portion of its causation, its longevity and its resolution from the other. Regardless of the site of the collision, whether it was on the Columbia or on the Rio Grande, both soon transcended simple bickering over precedence or priority of claim, the validity of voluntary attachment or even the destiny of the continent. Policy-makers in London and Paris reacted in a manner more suggestive of the emergence of a new European force and by their reactions vastly enlarged these issues into a much more basic and mutually alarming consideration—the future international relationship in the event the United States resolved these issues in so satisfactorily a manner as to acquire a geo-political hegemony in North America.

At the outset the author disclaims any attempt to uncover a "slave conspiracy" or to pillory James K. Polk for premeditatedly contriving a war with Mexico. His premise, to the contrary, holds that it is "the duty to those who determine or carry out foreign policy . . . to secure their country's best interests in the most efficient and the safest manner available to them." This is not to imply that the book is an apologia, but neither is it an indictment. All too frequently the Mexican War has become the carrier for emotionally fabricated conspiratorial theories with the results neither conclusive nor convincing. The Oregon dispute has escaped the attention of these "plot theorists" only because its resolution was pacific. An objective, dispassionate treatment, such as is contained within this book, should render the prejudiced works of the past all the more inconsequential.

There is little new in the way of source material or interpretations to be found in the book's background section, and only slightly moreso in the unit on the Texas question. Somewhat engaging, however, in the description of the diplomatic machinations of Britain and France in attempting to either deter Texas from seeking annexation or to produce an unfavorable vote on that treaty in Washington. Of particular interest is the author's examination of the development of the so-called "Diplomatic Act," that curious device concocted between England and France which, had it been implemented, would have permitted them the right of intervention in maintaining the peace, independence and territorial integrity of Texas. That this demarche failed, the author notes, was due not so much to anxiety lest the act hasten the much-feared event but to the mutual resentment and suspicion over questions both European and Asiatic which had developed between its two instigators.

The Mexican War, Pletcher argues, stemmed not from plotting and skull-duggery, not from the dispatch of Zachary Taylor into the disputed zone nor from a "manufactured" conflict over annexation which would follow Texas into the Union. It came, instead, from continued Mexican procrastination, the refusal to accept John Slidell's original credentials, the reluctance on the part of any Mexican Government to enter into negotiations which might be branded as treasonable, and from Polk's decision to increase the pressure on Mexico so as to force that government into negotiations as had been done successfully with the British over Oregon. General Zachary Taylor's army was not originally intended as a "trigger," but rather as a measure of Damoclean leverage. When the Mexican Government gave no indication of thawing, and in fact adopted a more inflexible stance, Polk, according to the author, decided "he must force the issue and demand an immediate declaration of war, not only to maintain the strong front against Mexico but also to confound the opposition at home." This decision, which numerous historians have interpreted as premeditation, was arrived at as a last resort and was not the decided-upon goal at the beginning of the crisis over Texas. Mexican bellicosity, the

escalating incidents along the Rio Grande, the likelihood of British interference in California, and indications that England was prepared to settle the Oregon question on terms satisfactory to Polk, all convinced the President of the wisdom of his decision. And curiously, in the author's opinion, the initial American victories at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma hastened the amiable settlement of the Oregon question by restraining those British statesmen who anticipated American defeats and looked to the improvement of England's position as a consequence.

While much of the remainder of the book has been treated at length previously, there are some engaging comments on the Polk-Atocha-Mackenzie intrigue which involved the return of Santa Anna to Mexico from his exile in Cuba. Of particular interest is the intricate relationship of English agents to this scheme, and others, which might have resulted in the conclusion of a peace as reassuring to Britain as it was unfavorable to the United States. Military operations, the conquest of California, the mission of Nicholas P. Trist, and the "all of Mexico" movement are discussed in detail, but provide, with slight exception, little that is surprising.

The book is both sound and scholarly. It is as much a work of Texana as it is a study of American diplomacy. It offers valuable insight into the formulation of British foreign policy and illuminates many areas of domestic American politics. It is a must for every library and imperative to the personal collection of the military scholar, the diplomatic historian, the political scientist and the Texana buff.

Calvin W. Hines

Stephen F. Austin State University

The Mexican War, A Lithographic Record, by Ronnie C. Tyler. Austin (Texas State Historical Association), 1973. P. 90, Illustrations, maps and index.

Many scholars place little historical value on non-literary evidence. Included in the historians' list of doubtful sources are 19th century lithographic works of famous events. Scenes of the Mexican War or other happenings are suspect, because of potential inaccuracies in dress, architecture, topography and so forth. Dr. Ronnie C. Tyler, curator of history at Amon Carter Museum of Western Art, Fort Worth, had dealt with the problem of lithographs as a legitimate source of Mexican War documentation. The result of his thorough research and analysis is the book, *The Mexican War: A Lithographic Record*.

Dr. Tyler examined scores of lithographic works dealing with the Mexican Conflict. The pictures encompass the entire war from the soldier's farewell, through the campaigns of Taylor and Scott, to the final victory. From these numerous prints Tyler has chosen fifty which he proceeds to analyze. Each lithograph is discussed with regard to accuracy of the uniforms, men involved, topography and even local flora. Also written records are used as a criteria for the pictures' veracity. The author compares and contrasts prints on the same subject and then states which one he feels is most correct. From this side by side analysis of lithographs, Tyler has determined that two artists, Carl Nebel and George Kendall are the leaders in accuracy.

One aspect of the author's research was perusal through books about the Mexican War to discover how often historians used lithographs. He discovered that a number of scholars had included the pictures in their publications. However, few of the authors used the lithographs as serious historical sources.

One problem for the reader is the distribution of the lithographs. Most of the prints are usually five to twenty pages away from the places where they are discussed. For example: figure 22, discussed on page 30, is printed on page 40. Another picture appears on page 81, but was dealt with on page 62. The result of such placement of the pictures is a frenzied round of page flipping by the reader. If the lithographs had been opposite their discussions

or placed in a separate section, much time consuming searching would have been eliminated.

The object of Tyler's treatise is to show that Mexican War lithographs are a legitimate historical source and should be used in the same manner as documents with the usual admission of strengths and weaknesses. *The Mexican War: A Lithographic Record* achieves this goal with thoroughness and scholarship. The work is further enhanced because it brings proper emphasis to non-literary documents as historical evidence.

Daniel P. Friz

Gilmer, Texas

Robert S. Weddle. *Plow-Horse Cavalry, The Caney Creek Boys of the Thirty-Fourth Texas*. Austin, (Madrona Press). 1974, Pp. XVI, 621. Illustrations \$9.00.

The Caney Creek Boys of Fannin County comprised the majority of Company E, 34th Texas Cavalry Regiment, sometimes known as the 2nd Texas Partisans. This regiment was commanded most of the Civil War by Colonel A. M. Alexander.

The story of the Plow-Horse Cavalry is built primarily around an exchange of interesting letters between A. L. Nelms and his wife. Weddle uses the letters to good effect, lacing them together with good concise accounts of the major actions in all three theatres. The correspondence is rather voluminous and gives not only a private's version of the war in the Trans-Mississippi, but also the trials and tribulations taking place on the home front in Fannin County.

The author does a commendable piece of writing in discussing the problem of Confederate deserters in the Trans-Mississippi and the back biting that existed between generals Hindman, Pike and Holmes. This controversy seriously hampered the Confederate efforts west of the Mississippi early in the war. The photographs are the biggest asset of the book, they are superb and worth the price of the volume alone.

The major shortcomings are a paucity of maps and the tendency to dwell at length on rather obscure battles and incidents. For instance ten pages are spent on the minor battle of Newtonia and twelve pages are devoted to the strange case of Dr. Penwell.

Unfortunately there were few major battles of the war fought west of the Mississippi so that few fighting reputations were made by either leaders or units. The Caney Creek boys did participate in two of the hardest fought engagements of the war in the west—Prairie Grove and Mansfield. In the latter battle, the Company from Fannin County made a heroic charge across an open field to break the Federal line.

The layout, type, binding, and paper used make the volume most attractive. This book will be of particular interest to Civil War buffs and students of the Trans-Mississippi. It is a fine addition to unit histories of the Civil War.

Harold B. Simpson

Hill Junior College

Samuel Bell Maxey: A Biography. By Louise Horton. Austin (University of Texas Press). 1974. Pp. 222. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$10.00.

Samuel Bell Maxey, West Point graduate, Mexican War veteran, and Civil War general, was one of the numerous Brigadiers who represented states of the old Confederacy in the United States Congress during the dozen or so years that followed the end of Reconstruction. A native of Kentucky, Maxey migrated to Northeast Texas on the eve of the Civil War. Here he was engaged in the practice of law when the outbreak of hostilities occurred. Maxey was commissioned a colonel in the Confederate army but was quickly advanced to brigadier general. While his war service was not spectacular, he did serve capably first in Tennessee and Mississippi and later as commander of the Indian Territory district.

After the war Maxey returned to his home in Paris, Texas, and resumed the practice of law. He was especially active in Democratic party affairs in East Texas and opposed any fusion with the Liberal Republicans led by Horace Greeley. He ran a poor third in a Democratic convention to nominate a Congressman in his district in 1872, but in the spring of 1875 was chosen by the legislature as United States Senator from Texas.

Maxey represented Texas in the United States Senate for two terms, 1875-1887. During those years he generally voted with the conservative bloc of southerners labeled the "Redeemers." As a southwesterner he was keenly interested in Indian affairs, frontier protection, and improved roads and transportation. While interested in tariff reform, he opposed reform efforts in currency, civil service, and education. Like most of the southern brigadiers, he supported railroad building and opposed the Greenback movement.

The author, Louise Horton, argues that "Maxey stood head and shoulders above any other congressman from Texas during the years 1875 to 1887." Indeed, she believes that Maxey's name "should be inscribed among the list of the great men of Texas, as are the names of Sam Houston, Thomas J. Rusk, John Hemphill, and Ashbel Smith." Although many readers will debate this evaluation, most will agree that Maxey was honest and fairly capable. Refusing to wave the battle flag at former enemies or engage in fiery but unproductive eloquence, Maxey did nevertheless gain the respect of his colleagues and associates as a man of reason and deliberation.

The author has performed a service in carefully retracing Maxey's solid, if unspectacular, career. She has based her work heavily upon primary sources, especially the Maxey Papers in the Archives Division of the Texas State Library. She appears to be familiar with the major secondary sources for the period; although she either ignores or does not accept the Van Woodward interpretation of the Wormley conference. Her book will add to the growing literature on late nineteenth century Texas and Southern politics, an area of historical investigation that until only recently was badly neglected.

Ralph A. Wooster
Lamar University

Soldiers of Texas. By James M. Day, Lester N. Fitzhugh, Billy Mac Jones, Dayton Kelley, Harold B. Simpson, Robert L. Wagner, and Dorman H. Winfrey. Waco (Texian Press), 1973. P. 160. \$12.00.

This is the tenth in the series of distinctive Texas history books published by the Texian Press. The authors are not only seven of the outstanding contemporary Texan historians, but each has worn the uniform of his country in wartime and has endured the hardship and danger of active military service. When they write about fighting men, their personal experiences give validity to what they say.

Seven specially commissioned descriptive Texas artists depict the "citizen soldiers" for each article. They are: Jack Bryant, Joe Ruiz Grandee, Bruce Marshall, Joe Rader Roberts, Milton Rowcroft, Randy Steffen and Donald M. Yena.

Texas units in all the wars from 1836 to World War II are covered, (two for the Civil War). They are Sam Houston's Army, Jack Hays' Texas Rangers, Hood's Texas Brigade, Terry's Texas Rangers, Roosevelt's Rough Riders, the 90th Infantry Division (WW I), and the 36th "T-Patch" Division (WW II). The authors have lived with their subjects for years. They know more of what they write about than anyone else.

This reviewer found "The Rough Riders" (The First Regiment of United States Volunteer Cavalry) of "the forgotten war" of 1898 especially interesting because so little is now remembered about this outfit. Not strictly a Texas regiment, it was included because these troopers were mustered in and trained at San Antonio. The men and this war were unique. As a veteran later wrote, "the only 100% Volunteer Army the world has ever

known . . . the only war in history that has paid dividends. A war that was not fought to a draw—we dictated the terms. We [the veterans] received no bonus, no war risk insurance, no adjusted compensation, no vocational training, and no hospitalization until 1922, twenty years after the war was over”.

It was a pleasure to read and savor each of the articles without having to tiptoe through a multitude of footnotes. With authors such as these no documentation is needed. May the publisher continue the issuance of these deluxe Texas history books that provide the historian and accomplished artist alike an opportunity to publish and at the same time preserve in imperishable form our heritage and history.

Cooper K. Ragan
Houston, Texas

John McIntosh Kell of the Raider Alabama. By Norman C. Delaney. University, Alabama: (University of Alabama Press), 1973. Pp. 266. \$8.50.

The Confederate Commerce Raider *Alabama* has fascinated generations of Americans since she commenced her spectacular career more than a century ago. Generally writers have concentrated on her diplomatic, military, or economic significance or else on her colorful commander, Raphael Semmes. Mr. Delaney has chosen another approach to the saga of the *Alabama*, by emphasizing the background and activities of her executive or first officer, John McIntosh Kell.

The Georgia-born Kell never held high command or executed any spectacular exploits except as a subordinate. He was strictly a minor though valuable cog always directed by some more dynamic figure. Yet the executive officer of a warship is an important figure for it is his duty to carry out the captain's orders and to see that the ship is ready to execute its mission. Therein lies the virtue of this biography for it deals with Kell as a man and as the officer charged by Semmes with attending to the routine and even mundane duties of ship handling that made it possible for the *Alabama* to become the scourge of the United States Merchant Marine in the Civil War.

Born in 1823, Kell entered the United States Navy in 1841 and later spent two years at the infant Naval Academy at Annapolis. During his two decades of service “under the Old Flag” Kell served as a junior officer on many of the United States Navy's best known warships, participating in Mexican War operations in California waters and later in the opening of Japan and China to American influence. A solid, reliable subordinate, Kell served under most of the Navy's leading figures of the period and even survived one nasty court martial without impairing his career. When secession came, the Georgian cast his lot with his native state in the Southern Confederacy, exercising minor commands until appointed as first officer of the *Sumter* and later the *Alabama*. As executive, Kell served with Semmes from the initial escape of the *Sumter* to sea, all around the world and finally to the bitter moment off the coast of France when the *Alabama* was destroyed.

After the War, Kell turned to planting and eventually became Adjutant-General of Georgia, as well as acquiring some literary reputation for his *Recollections of a Naval Life* and several articles dealing with the *Alabama*. This biography adequately covers all aspects of Kell's personal and professional life, with especially interesting data on conditions in the U.S. Navy in the pre-Civil War era. The volume is based on solid research, especially at Duke University and in the various relevant collections in the National Archives. There are ten interesting illustrations covering various aspects of Kell's career plus a competent bibliography. This is a competent if undramatic study of an important secondary figure in American Naval History and has value to anyone interested in the field.

O. Edward Cunningham
Tulane University

Arming the Union: Small Arms in the Union Army. By Carl L. Davis. Port Washington, New York (Kennikat Press), 1974. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$12.50.

As the literature of the American Civil war expands, greater attention is paid to the fundamentals of war. We have enjoyed generous portions of biographies, monographs of single battles, syntheses of the entire period, and personal narratives. Much of what has been printed is of questionable value, except to its author, and we are becoming harder to shock, or to revolutionize, in our thought on the period. But occasionally a book comes along which has the potential for just that. Carl L. Davis's *Arming the Union* is such a book. Davis is probably the first historian to thoroughly study the Ordnance Bureau of the Union army, and his results might not be so revolutionary as they are establishmentarian. That is, what he really seems to be doing is disposing myth and imposing truth for the first time.

In one sense, the topic is approached through the professional biographies of the Bureau's four chiefs during the period of the war. The strengths and shortcomings of Col. Henry Knox Craig, Gen. James Wolfe Ripley, Gen. George D. Ramsay, and Gen. Alexander B. Dyer are aired, and it is obvious that it is from careful research in the pertinent archival holdings, some of them for the first time. But the book really is about arms, and the careers of the above mentioned administrators is always in the perspective of their job. There are some interesting chapters here on the difficulties of the various administrators in perceiving the ultimate demands of the war, of their troubles in securing arms from foreign and domestic sources, of the internal struggle over the adoption of the breechloader weapon, and a fine conclusion about the potential of the arms themselves. Davis finds that the muzzleloaders were more effective, for instance, than their reputation among the soldiers who were forced to use them wanted to admit, mostly because they desired newer or fancier weapons. He finds that the Bureau did an admirable job when its problems of staff size, administrative interference, and above all, the enormity of its task is considered.

Davis's book will be controversial. In his favor will be the fact that he is not just a historian writing about arms; rather he is an arms expert who has used his considerable professional skills to write about a subject of importance to the outcome of the Civil War. It is an unbeatable combination.

Archie P. McDonald

Stephen F. Austin State University

Two Presidents: Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis. By C.E. Gilbert. Introductions, Highlights and Explanations by Tom Hudson. San Antonio: (The Naylor Company), 1973. P. xxiii, 85. Photographs and index. \$6.95.

Tom Hudson, nephew of the author, C.E. Gilbert, edited this reprint of his uncle's book, originally published in 1927, and added an introduction and highlights on President Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Confederate States of America. The work is one man's attempt to show the origin, cause and conduct of the War Between the States, which, the editor admits, is extremely biased, showing how Lincoln's decisions affected the outcome of the war.

Although the editor added an introduction and explanations, offset by brackets within the text, the study adds little of significance to what we already know from earlier writers and from published memoirs, which the original writer apparently overlooked in his golden years. It is the opinion of the reviewer that Hudson could have improved on his explanations and footnotes, many of which are lacking in detail.

The author is also repetitious. For example, he twice attacks Lincoln's boyhood associations, and likewise goes into two lengthy denunciations of the President's decision

to "invade the South," and defend Fort Sumter, which Gilbert tries to show was due to a rural and low cultural upbringing. Davis is pictured as a gracious, kind, and cultural person who was loved by most all Southerners on a par with General Robert E. Lee.

Gilbert was a newsman in later life, having founded the *Dallas Times Herald*, and used only a few scholarly works on which to base his opinion. Only ten years old when the Civil War ended, he apparently formed much of his opinion in his later years as did many ex-Confederates and the sons and grandsons of unreconstructed Rebels, a term the author deplored.

The author occasionally makes intriguing assertions for which he offers little proof. Among those assertions are that President Lincoln should have been held responsible for the 13,700 dead at the infamous Andersonville Prison in Sumter County, Georgia, and not Major Henry Wirz, the commandant. He resents the fact there were no Union officers tried for "war crimes," while Wirz went to the gallows and Davis and members of his cabinet spent up to two years in federal prisons for only enforcing their interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.

There is no bibliography, but even more important for a reprint of an earlier work, Hudson's notes are rarely critical and are also lacking for footnotes. The two photographs, Lincoln and Davis, are of little help. Other than strictly a Southerner's view of the War, the book is of very little use to the Civil War historian.

Maury Darst

Galveston College

The Cattle-Trailing Industry: Between Supply and Demand, 1866-1890. By Jimmy M. Skaggs. Lawrence (The University Press of Kansas), 1973 ix, 173. Index, notes, bibliography, and illustrations. \$8.00.

After the Civil War Texans were in dire economic distress. But unlike their fellow Confederates they had a valuable commodity, thousands of Texas longhorns, which would alleviate some of the Reconstruction ills. Yet they faced the dilemma of driving cattle to northern cities or of bringing the market to the state. They therefore struck a happy medium by moving their herds to newly founded railroad towns in Kansas. As a result the last great Cattle Kingdom—of the roundup and long drive—reached its zenith, thereby creating "substantial profits" for "deft entrepreneurs." (p. 1)

In this thin monograph Professor Jimmy Skaggs of Wichita State University has not presented any startling new information; instead, he has documented in detail the business activities of several score individuals who were responsible for marketing over 3,000,000 beeves in twenty-five years. As a consequence such "hip-pocket businessmen" as John Kritzer, Charles Goodnight, John Lytle, and Charles Schreiner profited handsomely from their cattle-trailing ability. Others like the Blocker brothers combined their skills and money with William Henry Jennings in a successful cattle transportation agency. And still others like Eugene Millett, James Ellison, Dillard Fant, and George Saunders extended their operations to ranching, trail contracting, or horse trading in order to broaden their financial base. Either by opportune happenstance or by genius for providing meat for Easterners they achieved both wealth and reputation.

In what obviously was a doctoral dissertation Skaggs has rendered a service by gathering information which has been widely scattered. Through numerous biographical sketches of cattle-trailing entrepreneurs he has shown the problems of this fleeting business—estimations of profit and loss, salaries, Texas fever, quarantines, and bred stock. In turn, he has examined the politics which put forward and defeated a National Trail resolution in Congress. But most important he has separated myth from realistic business enterprise, for as Skaggs summarized: "For the most part, those individuals associated prominently with the transportation phase of the range cattle industry seldom

carried a gun, apparently never shot anyone, and rarely romanticized about their own contribution." (p. 123)

Ben Procter
Texas Christian University

Victorio and the Mimbres Apaches. By Dan L. Thrapp. Norman, Oklahoma (University of Oklahoma Press), 1974. P. 314, Bibliography, notes, & index \$9.95.

In August of 1879, Victorio and a band of Mimbres (Warm Springs) Apaches bolted their asylum on the Mescalero Reservation and began plundering southwestern New Mexico. For twenty years the government had tried to locate the Mimbres on a reservation and curb their forays into Mexico. In 1877 these Indians were moved (unwisely) from their Black Range homeland to the sprawling San Carlos reserve in Arizona. Finding conditions intolerable, Victorio and several other Mimbres chiefs soon fled back to New Mexico, settling at Mescalero. Hearing that he faced indictments in Grant County, Victorio, although in his mid-fifties, gathered a heavily armed band and returned to the Black Range. For over a year he raided along the New Mexico-Arizona border and massacred several parties in Mexico. The end came in October of 1880, when he and a group of his followers were cornered and killed at Tres Castillos, Chihuahua, by a Mexican force.

In *Victorio and the Mimbres Apaches*, Dan Thrapp, author of four other books about the Apache wars, describes in fast moving, somewhat melodramatic prose the rise and fall of "America's greatest guerilla fighter." In what is primarily a life and times study of the plight of the Mimbres in the white man's world, Thrapp condemns the forces that drove Victorio to the warpath, hoping a recital of them will "sting the conscience" of present day Americans. With equal feeling he applauds the qualities that enabled the Mimbres chief to survive as long as he did. Although he casts his subject in a heroic mold, Thrapp's study of Victorio will become the standard authority on the celebrated Apache.

The book may be divided into two parts. In the first 200 pages, the author comments of the question of Victorio's nationality and describes the Apache world of his youth, flashes back to Spanish and Mexican contact with the Mimbres, then covers in great detail the administrations of the various Mimbres agents beginning in the 1850s. In the remaining 100 or so pages, Thrapp focuses directly on Victorio, describing his attempts to find peace and the military campaigns to bring him to bay. Important themes lace the narrative: the close relations between the Mimbres and Chiricahua Apaches; the deep, on-going Mexican and Apache hatred for each other; and the fumbling government policy over reservations.

The narrative has certain weaknesses. Thrapp's biases occasionally appear. For example, he depreciates John Cremony's statements as frequently exaggerated, distorted, and untrue (p. 76), then cites him for a character portrayal of General James H. Carleton (p. 81). To characterize the General as "unencumbered by the slightest impulse toward justice for the Indians" (p. 88) is hardly fair, in light of Carleton's attempts to establish a church, a school, and a hospital on the Bosque Redondo Reservation. Additional research on Victorio might have been possible: e.g., the Blazer Collection at the University of Arizona has a delightful anecdote about Victorio pulling agent Samuel A. Russell's beard during a heated argument. Thrapp's writing is clear but his use of such words as "messed" wrenches the story out of the language patterns of Victorio's day.

Victorio is a handsome volume, containing three dozen photographs and five maps. Strangely, there are no pictures of the Mimbres agents, nor is there an indication of where or when Victorio was photographed. Excellent footnotes and an extensive bibliography enhance the volume. There is a good index, but all proper names do not appear—e.g.

Jaquez (p. 253), and Blazer (p. 255). Thrapp's *Victorio* is a must for the student of the Apache wars and will provide exciting reading for the Western historian.

Harwood P. Hinton
University of Arizona

Witchcraft in the Southwest: Spanish and Indian Supernaturalism on the Rio Grande. By Marc Simmons. Flagstaff (Northland Press), 1974. P. 184. Illustrations, bibliography. \$8.50.

Witchcraft in Europe and Salem, Massachusetts, has received attention from serious scholars, but few have explored supernaturalism in the American southwest. Marc Simmons, an authority on both the Hispanic and Indian heritage of New Mexico, has produced a monograph on the development of witch lore in the villages along the upper Rio Grande. This historical survey of sorcery relies on selected secondary sources and the Spanish Archives of New Mexico, plus the less reliable, but fascinating oral histories and newspaper accounts. Whether or not the black arts can be scientifically documented is immaterial to Simmons, because a large segment of the population still relies on occultism to explain events.

The Roman Catholic Church in Spain acted as a moderating influence during the height of the "witch madness" between the fourteenth and eighteenth centuries. Although the Inquisition actively sought out and punished heretics, the accusations against witches were often rejected as delusions of hysterical and ignorant persons by those conducting thorough and painstaking investigations. This ameliorating influence and reliance on legal procedures traveled to the New World.

Prior to the arrival of the Spaniards, Indian sorcerers were held in esteem because of their supernatural powers. The friars, however, soon attacked the witch doctors as tools of Satan, finding them useful when explaining the abstractions of good and evil to converts. Baptism was offered as salvation from the wicked rites of the wizards, and any opposition to the missionaries was labeled the work of the Devil. By the eighteenth century, the friars along the upper Rio Grande grew increasingly intolerant of the tribal medicine men, claiming that the witch doctors used their powers against individual priests—an indication that the frontier missionaries succumbed to local superstition. This frailty among the clergy had the unfortunate effect of reinforcing native fears about bewitchment. Civil authorities adhered to traditional, legal inquiry, and thus, the pueblos of New Mexico avoided the excesses of New England.

Even today, many residents believe in the power of the evil-eye, were-animals, and other supernatural beings. The author provides a plethora of examples as he examines witchcraft among the Pueblo, Zuni, Navajo, Apache, and Hispanic residents in the north and west of New Mexico.

While photographs of reputed witches taken between 1885 and 1895 enhances the volume, the lack of an index hampers the reader who wants to relocate a specific incident. Simmons makes a valuable contribution in accumulating the folk tales of this area in a pleasurable readable form.

Margaret L. Henson
Houston Metropolitan Archives

David Lipscomb: A Journalist in Texas, 1872. Edited by John L. Robinson. Quanah, Texas (Nortex Offset Publications, Inc.), 1973 P. 58 Frontispiece, preface, map, biographical note, index. \$4.95.

David Lipscomb was one of the most influential preachers for the southern wing of the religious fellowship known as the "Restoration Movement," and his newspaper, the *Gospel Advocate*, claimed to have the largest circulation of any religious periodical

published south of the Mason-Dixon Line during the Reconstruction Period. Since the "Restoration Movement" had no centralized power structure it did not experience the divisive political turmoil suffered by most American denominations during the Civil War period. However, between the war and 1906, the movement divided into two major wings, the Disciples of Christ or Christian Church, located primarily in the North, and the Church of Christ, concentrated in the South. Until recently the story of the southern wing of this movement has been the province of church historians, but now, John L. Robinson, who has previously published articles in historiography, Latin American, and military history, has undertaken a biography of Lipscomb.

As a by-product of the biography Robinson has collected and edited a series of articles taken from the *Gospel Advocate* concerning a missionary journey the preacher made to Texas in 1872. Though most of his time was spent in the central portion of the state, the evangelist visited such East Texas towns as Willis, Montgomery, Huntsville, Bryan, Quitman, Mt. Pleasant, and DeKalb before returning to his home in Nashville, Tennessee. This travel journal suggests that Lipscomb was a sincere, dedicated individual with a wry sense of humour whose perceptions of Texas reveal both depth and naivete. Much of the narrative is spent in describing the geography of Texas, but the Tennessean does comment on the movement of the cattlemen's frontier and the role of railroad promotion in the development of Texas towns. In Fort Worth the traveler seemed especially pleased with the "flourishing school" of "young bretheren A. and R. Clark," (p. 56) later Texas Christian University, but the Baptist experiment with coeducation at their college in Waco was "of doubtful propriety," and would certainly result in "a superficial standard of scholarship." (p. 25) Robinson has collected references to the individual churches of Christ in the state and has grouped them in a special section which documents some of the problems facing all denominations in Texas during the period of Reconstruction.

It is a shame that such a pleasant book is marred by so many typographical errors because it can be a valuable source document in a virtually unexplored area of Texas social and intellectual history.

Keith L. King
San Jacinto College

Southwestern University 1840-1961. By Ralph Wood Jones. Austin (San Felipe Press), 1973. P. 373. \$10.00.

In recent months histories of at least four Texas universities have been published, including Baylor, Texas Christian, Lamar State, and Southwestern University. Dr. Ralph Jones taught at Southwestern several years before going to the University of South Alabama. His carefully researched history from 1840 to 1961 is an expansion of his doctoral dissertation which reached a standard too seldom duplicated in the education field.

The first 113 pages present a detailed and adequate history of the "four root colleges" which were finally merged into Southwestern. These were Rutgersville, Wesleyan, McKenzie and Soule. From 1865 to 1873 Soule operated the first medical school in Texas. Yellow fever and financial problems caused Francis Asbury Mood, a newly elected president of Soule to decide that it would be better for Texas Methodists to sponsor one good university rather than have several weak schools each supported by a single conference. Mood's diligence in getting approval for the "Texas University" (later Southwestern) and the struggle to breathe life into the new school at Georgetown is carefully reported. Of the twelve administrations dealt with in clear, chronological order none appeared worthy of another forty pages as accorded the founder.

In 1898, after weathering the years of depression, Southwestern elevated a scientist, a layman, a faculty member, Robert S. Hyer, to the presidency. He worked with x-rays

before 1900 and pushed a creditable building program, including the present administration building. Before 1910 three of five Rhodes Scholars from Texas attended Southwestern. In 1910 President Hiram Boaz of Polytechnic College in Fort Worth urged Dr. Hyer to work for a merger in Fort Worth. Talk of merger in a large city continued, and Dallas made tempting offers which resulted in the creation of Southern Methodist University. Southwestern was too well rooted in Georgetown to merge, but Hyer went to S.M.U. Southwestern had a period of several presidents and various hardships from 1915 to 1942 while S.M.U. grew rapidly.

The dynamic Fort Worth minister, John N.R. Score, took the helm in 1942 and met problems of declining enrollment with Navy V 12 units. The junior college branch program involving Weatherford, Daniel Baker and Westminster was abandoned in 1949 (the connection with Blinn College had ended during the Great Depression). Dr. Score was able to increase endowments, start a substantial building program, and improve academic proficiency. Mood and Score probably worked themselves into early graves, dying in office at ages 54 and 53. While the first "found a college; Score left it a University."

President William Finch's administration (1949-1961) overcame a decline in enrollment during the Korean War and completed Score's building program and initiated his own. He left the University to become president of Vanderbilt's Divinity School, but not before he had built an adequate and beautifully landscaped campus.

President Lawrence Durwood Fleming, a native Texan, like Score, had a strong ministerial background. He had provided better housing and eating facilities, arranged sabbaticals for faculty, and increased enrollments to over 800. Someone will need to write the story of the past twelve years as Jones really stopped his research in 1961 and added only six pages about the current administration. His book is footnoted but lacks an index. Southwestern celebrated her centennial in 1973, proudly boasting book collections from former distinguished students including J. Frank Dobie and Ambassador Ed Clark.

Robert C. Cotner

University of Texas at Austin

Walt Coburn, Western Word Wrangler: An Autobiography. By Walt Coburn. Foreword by Walter Brennan. Flagstaff, Arizona (Northland Press), 1973. Pp. 254. Bibliographical note. \$8.50.

Loyal readers of the western adventure stories authored by Walt Coburn will surely be disappointed with his last effort—an autobiography done after he was old and tired. As a writer of western pulp, his success was phenomenal, but this review must evaluate his autobiography rather than his earlier literary efforts. In short, it is long on sentimentality and short on merit.

Walt Coburn, Western Word Wrangler: An Autobiography speeds through the years 1889-1971 at a jerky pace. The early years of Coburn's life get extra attention—the fondly remembered times when he was growing up in Great Falls, Montana. That, in fact, may be the only significant part of this work in that it gives an excellent description of the town and region at the turn of the century. Some rather typical adventures are then recounted about a young man's going away from home to enter college, followed by a few chapters about the years in which the author found himself, at least financially.

For those who depend on the autobiography for an introduction to the earlier writings of Coburn, there will be further disappointment. Numerous references to western pulp magazines and publishing companies are made, but the author reveals little of his literary struggles or successes. More is found in the brief two paragraphs kindly provided by the editors at the end than Coburn provided in the whole of his book.

Walt Coburn brushed alongside things historic on a few occasions. In Great Falls he lived but a few blocks from Charlie Russell, of whom he was aware and for whom he had

much respect even at an early age. Moving to Arizona, he served for a time in Pancho Villa's army and in the Army Air Corps. Finally, as a successful author, he came to hold friendships with such personalities as Jack Dempsey, Ross Santee, and Walter Brennan, but only brief glimpses of these and others are found herein.

To judge from comments made by those who knew him well, Walt Coburn must have been an interesting man. Such is not revealed, however, by the autobiography. Billed as "the exciting story of the king of western pulps," the book is anything but exciting. There is a quality of romance throughout, but seldom either excitement or suspense appears.

Northland Press knows how to produce a handsome book, but the historian must complain that the editors did not include an index. What little of value the book contains can be gleaned only by reading through it all. The foreword contributed by Walter Brennan, in warning the reader of Coburn's ultimate suicide, takes away much chance of light or pleasant reading. The editors again did not help when they chose to include at the end two rambling notes of an old man contemplating and apologizing in advance for his last act.

Frank H. Smyrl
Tyler State College

To Possess the Land: A Biography of Arthur Rochford Manby. By Frank Waters. Chicago (Swallow Press, Inc.), 1973. P. 287 Notes, sources, and index. \$8.95.

This profile is the nineteenth book issued by Frank Waters, a prolific writer equally at home in either Southwestern fiction or non-fiction. Rarely is a volume published which will appeal to so many different groups. Environmentalists will acknowledge and appreciate the book's publication in an excellent format of totally recycled paper—a procedure that far too few American writers ever utilize. Historians will enjoy the edition's brief, cogent style, told in an engrossing and brisk manner. Photographers will approve of the book's excellent views captured on film and interspersed throughout the story, as well as the outstanding reproductions of letters and typescripts thoughtfully included for clarity. Cartographers will not overlook the fine map work necessary for essential geographical citation. Finally, the author's thoughtful and lengthy inclusions of footnotes, acknowledged sources, and a well organized index will please all of these assembled readers. Mr. Waters has clearly written a volume with "something for everyone."

Arthur Manby came from a wealthy English lineage whose fame had spread from native Buckinghamshire to points as distant as Australia and Alaska. One of nine children, Manby demonstrated early in life a love for inland landscape rather than the traditional British romance with the silver sea. Though educated in the arts and architectural disciplines in Ireland, he became more interested in North America via the printed page. Fascinated with the fabulously rich natural resources and opportunities in backward New Mexico Territory, he selected himself to wrest some form of commercial profit from that wilderness. He became known as a family black sheep who railed against all previous modes of family decorum, and in 1883 embarked for the short grass buffalo plains, determined to make money and a new name for himself.

For more than two decades, Manby poured his life and his dreams into a wild 100,000 acre Spanish land tract near Taos. In a fascinating story of both history and character personality, Waters depicts how Manby's unrestrained obsession for power so overwhelmed him so as to use every available means to retain his grant—whether legal or otherwise.

The drama did not end until the morning before Independence Day, 1929, when a U.S. Deputy Marshal from Santa Fe was called upon to investigate a murder at Don Fernando de Taos. Whether the decapitated and putresce body in the nineteen-room

hacienda actually was that of Arthur Manby was an argument that raged for years. Even though the remains were exhumed and re-examined the following month, many citizens presented the contention that Manby was still alive, and frequently seen in the area in fleeting glimpses, surmising that he had murdered someone and left them at his home. Frank Waters has written an enthralling story of one of the West's tempestuous migrants who envisioned a textured dream—only to see it crash ignominiously before his own eyes. He is to be commended for this outstanding biography.

Staley Hitchcock
Shreveport, Louisiana

Strawberry Years: Recollections of a Runaway. By Max Strang. Cornelia, Georgia ('Ellanem Publishers), 1973. P. 91. \$5.95.

The Reverend Max Strang, former Methodist Episcopal Church minister, of late years serving in the Congregational ministry and now living in Demorest, Georgia, has produced in this small book an interesting picture of life in rural East Texas as he lived it with a prominent farm family in Starrville, Smith County, Texas from the time he was seven years old in 1901 until he was 13 years of age in 1907.

In his preface he states that he has been urged by his wife and many others who had heard parts of his story to put his recollections into permanent form and in this he has tried to portray faithfully a way of life which impressed upon him values which have affected his later life.

The title comes from his fondness, as a child, of strawberries, and he quotes John Jay Chapman, "No words can convey the taste of a strawberry."

His father, minister and also publisher of a weekly newspaper in Texarkana, where they moved when Max was four years old, was a stern disciplinarian with his four sons who were left motherless when Max was six. Playing hooky from school became a way of life for the boys. Before he was seven, Max had learned to set type and feed a job press. One day when he was seven, his father gave him a dollar and sent him out to buy strawberries for their evening meal. On his way home Max passed a tamale stand and spent a nickel for a half-dozen tamales. This angered the father who refused to let Max have any of the strawberries for dessert, and it led to the boy's decision to run away from home. Even at so young an age Max felt that "a hand always above my shoulder pushed me." Throughout the book he tells of feeling these strong influences and attributes them to his mother who was directing his steps. He boarded a Cotton Belt train planning to visit friends in Ashdown, Arkansas, but instead the train was bound south and he arrived in Waco. After conferences between the conductor, the sheriff and Max's father, he was put on a train to return to Texarkana. Fearing the lashing he would receive on his arrival home, he got off the train in Tyler, slept in the jail there and was given free meals at a restaurant in the rear of a saloon where he was found by a young man who asked him if he would like a home. The boy was taken to the man's uncle who was losing his eyesight and needed someone to help him around the farm. This proved to be the greatest influence his life would ever have for the uncle was Isaiah Nicholas Browning "one of the noblest men I have ever known", patriarch of a large family, large landowner and prosperous farmer, who had come from Mississippi in 1852 settling in Starrville, Smith County.

The family accepted him as one of their own, and the recollections of life with them are wholesome and revealing of life on a huge farm in the early years of this century. Readers will find fascinating the description of the Browning home which Max describes as "the grandest house I had ever seen". His detailed description of it shining in the June sun, brilliant in its white paint shows it to be an ideal place for a young motherless boy to grow up in for the next six years.

The book ends abruptly with the boy's leaving the Browning family without explanation when he was 13 years old, going to Dallas, finding a job with a printing company and becoming reunited with his father who had remarried. His warm and cordial relationship with the Browning family has continued across the years as he returns to the community for commencement addresses, burials and other memorial occasions for this family.

For an understanding of life on a large farm with an outstanding family this small book is a valuable contribution and provides entertaining reading.

Gen B. Lasseter (Mrs. E. H.)
Henderson, Texas

Interwoven: A Pioneer Chronicle. By Sallie Reynolds Matthews. Austin (University of Texas at Austin Press), 1974. P. 209. Index. \$10.00.

Although previously published in limited editions, first in 1936 and subsequently in 1958 this third edition of *Interwoven* is the first time this important book has been readily available to the reading public. The story is an autobiography of Sallie Reynolds Matthews and a chronicle of the "interweaving" of the Reynolds family and the Matthews family through marriage and descendants. Consequently, it is a ripe source for information of the day to day incidents of the anglo-pioneers in the Shackelford County region. The powerful narrative is a vivid portrayal of the joys and sorrows of the author and these two large families. The book traces the heritage of their families from their arrival in West Texas in 1859 through the turn of the century. This time frame spans from the birth of Sallie Reynolds Matthews in 1863 through the birth of her youngest child in 1899.

The narrative is liberally sprinkled with humorous recollections. The author was extremely foresighted and had an understanding of life that was not restricted by provincialism. Although her older brother had fought on the side of the Confederacy, she denounces slavery, and although another brother was brutally killed by hostile Indians her words are free of prejudices. The courageousness of her life style is reflected in the style of her writing. Although she did not have more than an elementary level of formal education, she wrote with a profound homespun wisdom.

This book is saturated with interesting tidbits of information. For example, when she was describing the details of a particular cattle drive, she explained that some of the men who watched the herd at night would put chewing tobacco in their eyes to keep themselves from going to sleep and falling from their horses. She describes West Texas as being alive with herds of thousands of majestic buffaloes before 1875. She reminds the historian that the pioneer ranchers did not have permanent houses in her homeland because of the need to constantly move the graze upon the "upon range".

Since this is a comprehensive report of the lives and environment of the early anglo-settlers in West Texas, it is of significance to numerous fields of study. It is valuable not only to the historian, but in addition, to the sociologist, architect, anthropologist, agricultural scientist, home economist, and others. This book is more than a vibrant story of West Texas during the last half of the nineteenth century. It is also an identification of that noble and praiseworthy pioneering spirit which permeates every generation of mankind.

Duncan G. Muckelroy
Texas Historical Commission

Footnotes to History. By W. Ernest Thompson. San Antonio (The Naylor Company), 1973. P. 272. \$7.95.

W. Ernest Thompson, in his *Footnotes to History*, reveals to the reader what he calls "records stored away in my noggin," going back to about 1880, the time of his first

childhood memories at his father's farm near Midway, on the Trinity River. The author's life, while not exciting, has been interesting, as would be the case with almost any observant person who has seen over ninety years of change in American life and known quite a few prominent persons.

The book is most effective in the early part, where Mr. Thompson gives his recollections of life in Hillsboro, where he lived for some forty years. A lot of this is good social history. He tells what the town looked like, captures the beauty of the old-fashioned stoves, lard cans, and barbed wire sold in his father's hardware store, describes the food the people ate and the clothes they wore. In short, he manages to evoke the sounds, the smells, and the colors of small town life in Texas during the late nineteenth century. Such a life had its charms but also its drawbacks. Those of us who are disenchanted with Plastic America need to be reminded of some of the everyday realities of the Good Old Days: the drafty houses, the narrow religious and social life, the unsanitary handling of milk and meat, the medicine cabinet stocked with castor oil and calomel—and the backyard privy. This latter institution Mr. Thompson deals with adequately in a couple of sentences:

[A] night sound that might awaken us was hearing some scavenger men cleaning out the "Backhouse," which was done once a month. Though the garbage man still has an unsavory job, it is not as bad as these men had.

In telling his story, Mr. Thompson chooses to "hop, skip, and jump through many of the 33,397 days" that he remembers. This casual approach may have its advantages, but occasionally the reader is somewhat confused, not always knowing for certain the time or place the author is dealing with. In spite of this weakness in arrangement, many of the incidents are effectively described. His boyhood impressions of the Chicago World's Fair during the grim period of the Cleveland Panic, his college days at Southwestern University in Georgetown, and his law student days at the University of Texas—all this is good reading. One wishes he had told a few more things about the famous U.T. building B. Hall, where this reader began his graduate career as a green teaching fellow about a quarter of a century ago. But this is a small personal complaint.

The last part of the book, which Mr. Thompson devotes to biographical sketches of well-known men like Melvin A. Traylor and Governor Jim Hogg, is not as original or as entertaining as the first. These sketches contain a good deal of information that is not new, as the author acknowledges. It should be remembered, however, that the men Mr. Thompson is writing about have all influenced him in one way or another and thus are a part of the story of his long and admirable life.

John Payne

Sam Houston State University

France and North America: Over Three Hundred Years of Dialogue. Edited by Mathe' Allain and Glenn Conrad. University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, Louisiana. 1973. (Except FIN-DE-SIE'CLE: THE THIRD REPUBLIC MAKES A NATION, copyrighted by Eugen Weber.) Illustrations. Index. P. 201.

From John Francis McDermott's opening essay, "French Pictorial Reporters of the American Scene" to F. Roy Willis' "Image-Making in French Foreign Policy: Boches and Yankees" which closes this "Proceedings of the First Symposium of French American Studies," this series of essays dealing with many diverse topics, holds the reader's interest. There is much here for the humanist who finds cultural influences as determinants in national attitudes; for the political scientist interested in the confrontations brought on by changing power relationships; the legalist interested in the structure of society and the place of law in determining national and personal relations. It goes without saying that there is much here for the thoughtful modern historian who perforce must have the same interests.

If there is a criticism to make, it is that the emphasis of the essays presented here is primarily upon the sometimes vague and nebulous influence of the United States upon France, with only occasional reference to the influence of France upon the United States. Surely France has had significant influence upon the United States in areas other than law and the neo-existentialism of Sartre and Camus.

All in all, though, the essays are worthwhile and should be a valuable adjunct to materials used in both European and American history courses, particularly as they apply to France.

Ert J. Gum

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Emissaries to a Revolution: Woodrow Wilson's Executive Agents in Mexico. By Larry D. Hill. Baton Rouge (Louisiana State University Press), 1973. P. 372. Bibliography, Preface, Index. \$12.95.

The number of studies dealing with Woodrow Wilson's diplomatic efforts in Mexico are legion. There have been so many in fact that one is tempted to ask if anything new can possibly be written on the subject. Larry D. Hill in *Emissaries to a Revolution: Woodrow Wilson's Executive Agents in Mexico* has answered all doubters with an emphatic affirmative. What Mr. Hill has done, and done well, is to bring from the shadows the special representatives that President Wilson sent to Mexico in an attempt to correct his self-proclaimed ignorance of the Mexican Revolution. While these men and their reports have been mentioned in previous works, no concerted effort has been made before to explain why they were chosen, why they have reached the conclusions they did, and the effect of their conclusions on Wilson's policy toward Mexico. Without an understanding of these men, Wilson's Mexican diplomacy cannot be understood.

Students of this period will already be familiar with the names of these executive agents—William Bayard Hale, Reginaldo del Valle, John Lind, George C. Carothers, Leon Canova, John Silliman, Paul Fuller, Hubert Hall, Duval West, and David Lawrence. What the student may not know is their qualifications for being information gatherers in Mexico, what was expected of them, and their relative success or failure in living up to these expectations. This is the great gap filled by this study. Each of them is covered with a clarity and precision that belies the tremendous difficulties involved in making sense out of actions that often appeared nonsensical. It is to Mr. Hill's credit that one can read the book and leave it with a heightened appreciation of President Wilson's frustration, if not an appreciation of his convoluted policy.

Obviously then this book is important for those interested in U.S. diplomatic history, but it is much more than that. After all, the milieu in which these people operated was the Mexican revolution itself, and some of the best writing and research in this study deals with that revolution. Mr. Hill's descriptions and insights into one of the major upheavals of this century and its figures are uniformly excellent. It is, then, a book that has a double importance and should be read as carefully by students of Mexico as it is by students of the United States.

Douglas F. McMillan

Stephen F. Austin State University

Family History for Fun and Profit. By Vincent L. Jones, Arlen H. Eakle, and Mildred H. Christensen. Salt Lake City, Utah, (Publishers Press), 1972. Pp. 291.

Through the years many professional historians and others from the world of ivy towers, have condescendingly viewed those engaged in genealogical research. To an extent, part of this negative perspective has been justifiable; many genealogists have little or no research training and the results of their studies are often not documented and are

unreliable. The authors of this splendid book have provided potential genealogists and family historians with a valuable guide—a code of ethics. The study should also be a great value to those already involved in substantive research.

Family History for Fun and Profit provides the reader with a step-by-step approach to genealogical research. The book is filled with numerous examples of charts, calendars, and work sheets. If a researcher follows the advice of the authors, his/her work will be orderly, accurate, and thorough. A detailed introduction to using a library is given, including superb explanations of the Dewey Decimal and the Library of Congress cataloging systems. A major strength of *Family History for Fun and Profit* is the comprehensive bibliography.

Ironically, one of the book's primary assets may also be its greatest flaw. The "deficiency" is the massive detail incorporated into the study. One wonders if the beginner might decide, after reading about preliminary surveys, jurisdictional surveys, particular surveys, post-research analysis, and institutional jurisdiction, that he/she is embarking upon a project that perhaps might best be forgotten. The established family historian will appreciate the minute detail, and the amateur will realize the immensity of the research he/she is about to undertake.

Like most studies, *Family History for Fun and Profit* contains minor errors. For example, in explaining how the family can be organized in such a way that each member will be assigned portions of responsibility, the authors refer to families with 9 or "only 5 children." (243) Many decades have passed since typical American families have averaged between 5 and 9 children. Too, one may question the authors' assumption that "Rare is the family about which at least one history, printed or manuscript, does not exist." (p. 44) These minor flaws, however, do not generally detract from this outstanding work.

S. Bartley Brophy
Nacogdoches, Texas