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Book Notes

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BOOK NOTES

Porfirio Salinas. By Ruth Goddard. Austin (Rock House Press), 1975. P. 86. Appendix, Illustrations, Index. \$25.00.

For all lovers of Texas bluebonnets, those breathtaking splashes of spring's finest, truest color, this slender volume on Porfirio Salinas and his art will be a must. There are numerous reproductions of Salinas' finest works recreated with excellent color fidelity, and Goddard's narrative feelingly presents the trials and troubles of the artist through what she calls the Formative Period, Salinas and Uncle Sam, the Bradford influence, the Spanish Heritage, Salinas and Lone Star Beer, and the Presidential Period. The latter refers to the claim that Salinas was President Lyndon B. Johnson's favorite artist. To encourage bad puns, you may not have Hurd that before. For those who may not know, Salinas was a landscape artist. Of his kind, he best captured the Texas Hill Country on canvas.

A Nation Within A Nation: The Rise of Texas Nationalism. By Mark E. Nackman. New York (Kennikat Press), 1975. P. 133, Notes, Bibliography, Index. \$12.50.

Texans do not need to be told they are unique; we get vaccinated for that even before we try on our first pair of boots. But we do need the ammunition with which to convince the doubters from the other forty-nine "unique" population clusters which comprise the Federal Union. John Bainbridge's *Super Americans* and George Fuernmann's *Reluctant Empire* served just fine for the modern period, but Nackman's contribution is to suggest that this is not twentieth-century stuff alone. In his opinion it really started in 1821 and just got naturally worse (or better) as the years rolled along until a full-blown sense of nationalism was achieved. *A Nation Within A Nation* is well researched and written, and is worth the time of the interested scholar as well as the general reader.

Battles Lost and Won: Essays From Civil War History. Edited by John T. Hubbell. Westport, Conn. (Greenwood Press), 1975. P. 282. Index. \$13.95.

In this case both the present volume and the journal in which all the essays were originally published were edited by John T. Hubbell of Kent State University. The volume is Number 45 in the Greenwood Press' *Contributions in American History Series*. Hubbell's selections from the hundreds of articles he has helped to edit and publish is good. The offering includes Ludwell Johnson's "Civil War History: A Few Revisions in Need of Revising," which sets a good pace for the remainder of the book: James L. Morrison on the struggle between sectionalism and nationalism at *antebellum* West Point; Edward Hagerman on the contribution of Jomini and D. H. Mahan on the evolution of Trench Warfare in the Civil War; Joseph L. Harsh on the service of George B. McClellan; Grady McWhiney on the "Confederacy's First Shot;" Edwin C. Fishel on the mythology of Civil War Intelligence; and Stephen Z. Starr and Roy P. Stonesifer on the Union cavalry; John Beuchler on Civil War Mythology; Robert McGraw on pre-Civil War Massachusetts militia and Richard Abbott on Massachusetts recruitment of Souther Negroes; Albert Castel on partisan warfare; Richard Duncan on the 1862 Maryland invasion; Thomas L. Connally on Robert E. Lee and Albert Castel on Thomas L. Connally; Harry Scheiber on Confederate administrative failures; Stanley Swart on the Military Examination Board; and finally McWhiney with the conclusion, "Who Whipped Whom — Confederate Defeat Reexamined." The Connelly vs. Castel disagreement over the role of Robert E. Lee in the war produces the most sparks, but Civil Warriors will enjoy the whole thing.

Mark Twain's Mississippi. By T. H. Watkins. Palo Alto (American West Publishing Co.), 1974. P. 214. Illustrations, index. \$18.50.

Bargain hunters for richly colorful picture books should be delighted to learn of this one — its near pre-inflation price is reasonable and the offering is worth it, especially if you like Mark Twain or the river. As a displaced Texan who spent three years on the river's bank at Baton Rouge, and another close to it in Kentucky, it is easy to appreciate Watkins' selection of pictures and his readable text. His use of a good deal of Twain's descriptions of the river for his special association with it is also fortunate. Watkins terms the Mississippi "the overwhelming geographic fact in the eastern one-third of the United States . . ." His narrative traces the river from melting glaciers in the Ice Age to modern industrial uses.

Papers Concerning Robertson's Colony in Texas, II, 1823 through September, 1826. Compiled and edited by Malcolm D. McLean. Fort Worth (Texas Christian University Press), 1975. P. 647. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$20.

Our review of McClean's first volume claimed that it was a major contribution to Texas studies. Evidently the Texas State Historical Association and the Sons of the Texas Republic agreed with the evaluation since each named it the winner of their publishing award for best book of the year. The present volume continues to offer much to students of Texas colonial history. It traces the career of Robert Leftwich from Virginia to Mexico, the granting to him of over ten million acres of land, its sale to the Texas Association, and his loss of the entire investment. The documents cover the evolution of laws governing Texas colonization and the efforts of Stephen F. Austin "to monopolize the colonization of Texas." Sterling C. Robertson makes his first appearance in this volume as a member of Dr. Feliz Robertson's exploring party.

Nueces County, Texas, 1750-1800: A Bicentennial Memoir. By D. E. Kilgore. Corpus Christi (Friends of the Corpus Christi Museum), 1975. P. 10.

Dan Kilgore's contribution to the Nueces County Bicentennial celebration is this well-written survey of early Spanish activity in this area. Well documented, it makes good reading for those interested in South Texas or the Spanish period. It is accompanied by two excellent maps, one of the Texas coast and the other, in color, of the area discussed.

The Southwest: South or West? By Frank E. Vandiver. Drawings by D. Alys Downs. College Station (Texas A&M Press), 1975. P. 48.

This slender volume is an expansion of an address delivered to the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association in Dallas in November 1974. It is pure Vandiver. Those who have read his work, especially *Mighty Stonewall*, know that he is one historian who is also a literary artist. His conclusion to the title's question: "Are modern Southwesterners the sum of these traces? Yes, but with an extra ingredient to make them uniquely Southwestern. They cannot be wholly understood apart from the land that nurtures them, that land from the Red River, west to the Sierras and south to the Rio Grande, a land of varied plenty, unhampered by too much harsh history, a place still becoming something. Southwesterners see the future as a frontier: they are essentially tomorrow's folk." (pps. 47, 48)