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## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Cavalier in the Wilderness: The Story of the Explorer and Trader Louis Juchereau de St. Denis.* By Ross Phares. Gretna, La. (Pelican Publishing Co.), 1976. Preface, Bibliography, Index, Illustrations. p. 273. \$12.50 (cloth), \$3.95 (paper).

Louis Juchereau de St. Denis came to the Louisiana country with his cousin, Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville early in January, 1700, and remained there, except for travels into New Spain and among the Indians of the frontier until his death in June, forty-four years later. Those years found him first as commander at Ft. Mississippi on St. John Bayou; the leader of at least two trading expeditions deep in Spanish held territory where he was (1) married to the daughter of the Governor of San Juan Bautista (2) arrested for smuggling (3) tried, and finally released, whereupon he returned to New Orleans, Biloxi and Mobile. Later he settled among the Natchitoches Indians and became commandant of the Cane River, and finally of Natchitoches, the westernmost outpost on the French-Spanish colonial frontier, a post he held until his death twenty-two years later.

St. Denis' saga, like the careers of other early explorers, traders and settlers reads as though it were the result of a flighty and somewhat tipsy novelist's imagination. His stature among the Indians is almost too much to believe, and his continual tweaking of the noses of Spanish officialdom leads one to have faith, almost, in the real existence of the Three Musketeers. Indeed, if the reader allowed the swashbuckling story Phares tells to lead him astray, he might, and probably would, miss a significant point: were the French such inept colonists in America as most historians have led us to believe?

Phares makes no effort to deny that some of the French were rascals of the lowest order, but he makes clearer the fact that Louisiana was a living hell, that some Frenchmen were responsible, farsighted men serving king and self no less than others conquering a new land. He also points out that men at home in France who formulated policy and, though slowly but almost inexorably enforced it, must finally bear the responsibility for France's failures on the North American continent.

It is not thinking unhistorically to suspect that had France sent more men such as Louis Juchereau de Saint Denis into the southwest, the western two-thirds of a map of North America would have been, and possibly still would be, colored green.

Ert J. Gum

University of Nebraska at Omaha

*Calligraphy on the Spanish Borderland.* By Gerald P. Doyle. Beaumont (Privately printed for the Beaumont Art Museum and the San Jacinto Museum of History), 1976. Illustrated, Bibliography. p. 48. \$7.50.

This provocative study of the penmanship of the clerical, civil, and military officials who inhabited the borderlands of New Spain will quicken a new appreciation in those who spend portions of their time pursuing archival holdings. This book, published in conjunction with an art exhibit on Spanish calligraphy being shown at the Beaumont Art Museum and the San Jacinto Museum of History, explores much more than its title implies. It traces the history of Spanish penmanship from the pre-Christian period to the demise of the Spanish empire in the early nineteenth century. Romanic, Visigothic, Islamic and Oriental influences have definitely left their mark on handwriting practices in the borderlands.

Because of isolation, Indian depredations, disease, and political instability which were characteristic of the Spanish borderlands, it is surprising that those who wrote clung so rigidly to a pride in their work. The author informs us that literate borderlanders wielded their pens with *gallardia*, an expression not only of aesthetic beauty but also of supreme individualism. Often in a shortage of paper, Spaniards included in their writing the

boldness of capitalization, especially initial letters in introductory words; the *rubrica*, a flourish appended to one's signature for verification of authenticity; and the *rasgo*, an uninhibited stroke of the pen. These combined ingredients make borderland calligraphy unique in the history of penmanship. Doyle states, "One marvels not only at the beauty of these . . . (capitalization, *rubrica*, and *rasgo*) but at the confidence with which they were executed when paper was precious and revision or retouching was out of the question" (p. 19).

One-half of *Calligraphy on the Spanish Borderlands* is devoted to illustrations of borderland handwriting. Examples of hand-drawn maps, civil service scripts, clerical copying, forms, form letters, and pictographs are included in this section of this work. These illustrations as well as those contained in the art exhibit are principally taken from the Bexar, Nacogdoches, New Mexico, Laredo Archives and other sources housed in a host of libraries throughout the American and European continent.

Lamentably, the text is not footnoted; however, a bibliography points the reader to other works on this subject. If the art exhibit even approaches the beauty and originality of this book, every student of calligraphy and borderlands history will want to make plans to see it.

James M. McReynolds

Stephen F. Austin State University

*Struggle for the American Mediterranean: United States-European Rivalry in the Gulf-Caribbean, 1776-1904.* By Lester D. Langley, Athens, Ga. (University of Georgia Press), 1976. Notes, Index. p. 226.

In this synthesis, Lester D. Langley summarizes the English language scholarship, while at the same time developing this own thesis. Langley's thesis contends that while the United States was expanding westward, southward and southwestward, it was constantly conscious of the European presence, which it was continually trying to weaken and undercut. Similar to the findings of the David Pletcher in his recent fine study, *The Diplomacy of Annexation: Texas, Oregon and the Mexican War*, Langley points out that the United States annexed Texas "in order to undermine European diplomatic maneuverings along the Gulf-Caribbean world." (p. ix) Langley recounts the sporadic but insistent United States interest and intrigues in the Central American states, Mexico and Caribbean islands throughout the 19th century. He cites humanitarianism and a desire for progress as motor forces. Still, he sees, if only vaguely, that the United States' desire for humanitarian improvement and progress in these areas was inexorably linked to its conception of its own progress and growth. Perhaps Langley best summarizes his case when he asserts that "where European colonialism had failed, it was argued, American paternalism would succeed." (p. ix)

Although the other chapters treat broader aspects of United States or Southern expansionism into the neighboring fringe areas for territorial or economic fulfillment of dreams and schemes, chapters 3 and 5 discuss matters central to Texas history. In chapter 3, Langley views the role of Texas in this American Mediterranean over the three decades beginning with Latin American independence in about 1821. He concludes that "the war with Mexico was looked upon by Americans as a mission to extend the frontiers of republicanism to the Pacific and as a way of checking European influence in the continent." (p. 52).

This is a competent study. Yet it clearly reveals the need for American historians to treat foreign relations from broader perspectives. While using much of the English language materials, as is so common among North American scholars, Langley's approach overlooks the role played by the Mexican, Central American and Caribbean

leaderships in shaping and altering American policy in this crucial area. Admittedly their role was seldom decisive. However, equally clearly it was often significant and always present as a limiting or delimiting factor. Yet, to end in a positive vein, Langley does invite us to consider the inter-relationship and linkage between such apparently unrelated areas as Florida, Texas, Cuba, Costa Rica and Mexico and the other little islands and countries in this geographically large, and commercially and strategically very important area.

Thomas Schoonover  
University of Southwestern Louisiana

*Susanna Dickinson: Messenger of the Alamo.* By C. Richard King. Austin (Shoal Creek Publishers), 1976. Bibliography, Notes, Index. p. 166. \$7.95.

This popular history of Susanna Wilkerson Dickinson has been long awaited by collectors of Texana and is suitable for both the general public and adolescent readers. Scholars have avoided lengthy studies of Susanna, the only Anglo-American, adult survivor of the Alamo, because of the lack of source material. This hardy pioneer woman was illiterate and thus left none of the traditional letters, diaries, or reminiscences treasured by historians.

The author, a fourth generation Texan and professor of journalism, has used public records and newspaper accounts admirably to augment family tradition and folklore to produce a readable, reliable biography. C. Richard King relied on the standard secondary sources for the 1835 skirmish at Gonzales, the fall of the Alamo, and the journey from San Antonio to Sam Houston's army encamped at Gonzales, the only documented episodes in Susanna's life; he carefully pieced together the remainder of her days using original source material in a creative manner. While a few serious researchers will question some of King's historic interpretations, the overall narrative is reasonably accurate.

Beginning with her marriage in 1829 to Almeron Dickinson, a Tennessee blacksmith, King traces the couple from Tennessee to Gonzales in the early 1830s and then the fatal move to San Antonio. During the early months of 1836, after the surrender of the town by General Cos and before the retreat into the ruined missioned at the end of February, Susanna took in boarders and laundry to support the tiny family. Unfortunately, in an effort to make the story vivid, King allows his historical characters to "gallop" about shouting improbable commands, participate in stilted, unconvincing conversations, and worst of all (from a historians's point of view), states positively that William B. Travis was thinking as he presented his cat's eye ring to Susanna's infant daughter, Angelina. (See pages 34-35, 40, 41, 48).

The remaining chapters trace the Widow Dickinson to Houston and later Austin, and the author handles conversation in an admirable manner by excerpts from testimony and other legal documents. Susanna gained a somewhat notorious reputation in Houston between 1837 and 1857, partially because of her three unsuccessful marriages. In 1857 she married Joseph W. Hannig and moved to Austin where she gained respect as the wife of a merchant. She was often interviewed about her experience at the Alamo, and was remembered as a "dignified old lady . . ." by one interviewer. (p. 97-98).

Almost as central to the story is Angelina Dickinson, the "Babe of the Alamo," who touched the hearts of Texans in the years immediately following independence from Mexico. In 1851, her mother urged a rather unsuitable marriage on her seventeen year old, city-bred daughter, and in 1857, then the mother of three, Angelina left her farmer husband, John Maynard Griffith. The unhappy young woman went to New Orleans where she died in 1870, the subject of gossip because of her many liaisons.

Susanna survived her daughter by a number of years, dying in Austin in 1883, at the

age of 68. Her descendants through Angelina D. Griffith still live in Texas and contributed their knowledge of the "Messenger of the Alamo" to the author.

Margaret S. Henson  
Southwest Center for Urban Research  
Houston

*The Yellow Rose of Texas: Her Saga and Her Song.* By Martha Anne Turner. Austin (Shoal Creek Publishers), 1976. p. 136. \$7.45.

Martha Anne Turner has made "The Yellow Rose of Texas" her theme song. In an earlier book, she explored the origins of the song. In this one, she narrates the events that allegedly gave birth to it and traces its variations and uses through the years.

The book is a mixture of legend and fact. It retells the story of the Battle of San Jacinto, with emphasis on the story of the slave girl with whom Santa Anna dallied at the beginning of the battle. Miss Turner has gathered every scrap of evidence about the girl and has treated the evidence with imagination, interpreting the girl as a patriot who deliberately detained the Mexican general in order to gain advantage for the Texans. Tacked on to the book in an appendix is another legend, suggesting that Santa Anna was Kentucky-born and attended West Point before beginning his controversial adventures in Mexico. As the author admits, this legend is based on "a slender framework of historic fact."

The factual part of the book, and the most useful, concerns the variations of the folk song. Miss Turner traces *The Yellow Rose* from the first extant manuscript copy through the Boogie Woogie transcription of 1956, and includes the music for several variations.

In an introduction, C.L. Sonnichsen calls this book "grass roots history" and that is perhaps the best overall description of it. It is for those who like history laced with legend—and set to music.

Marilyn M. Sibley  
Houston Baptist University

*Blood Over Texas: The Truth About Mexico's War With the United States.* By Sanford H. Montaigne. New Rochelle (Arlington House), 1976. p. 160. \$8.95.

Sanford H. Montaigne's *Blood Over Texas: The Truth About Mexico's War With the United States* is a study of the causes of the Mexican War and the events leading up to the war. The book is colorfully written and well documented.

In recent years it has been fashionable for historians to regard the Mexican War as an example of American imperialism against a small, helpless country. Most theories regarding the causes of the Mexican War place a heavy burden of guilt on the United States. Interpretations such as the Slave Power Conspiracy, Manifest Destiny, and the Mercantile Theory largely ignore the role of Mexico in precipitating hostilities.

Sanford Montaigne subscribes to the theory that Mexico was totally to blame for the Mexican War, and that the United States made every effort to avoid war.

*Blood Over Texas* is divided into two parts; the first part is devoted to showing how Mexico, under the leadership of Santa Anna, rode rough-shod over the Mexican Constitution of 1824, thereby driving Texas to seek independence. After being defeated by Sam Houston's forces at San Jacinto, Santa Anna signed the Treat of Velasco which granted independence to Texas. Montaigne shows that Mexico never accepted Texas as a department of Mexico in a state of rebellion, and tried repeatedly to subjugate Texas.

The second part of the book deals with the conditions which developed between Mexico and the United States.

As soon as Mexico realized that the United States was entertaining the idea of annexation, diplomatic relations between the two countries deteriorated. Mexico continued to charge that Texas was a department of their country, and that any effort to annex Texas would result in an immediate declaration of war.

In February 1845 Congress passed a joint resolution inviting Texas to enter the Union. On March 1, 1845, President Tyler signed the resolution, and General Juan N. Almonte, the Mexican minister to the United States, broke off diplomatic relations.

Mr. Montaigne presents evidence that the Polk Administration was not to blame for the outbreak of the war. Every effort was made to send representatives to Mexico City. As a result of communications between the American confidential agent, Dr. William S. Parrott and the new Mexico Minister of Foreign Relations, Manuel de la Pena y. Pena, John Slidell was sent to Mexico City in December 1845. Once there, however, the Herrera government refused to see him. Slidell's mere presence was enough to trigger a revolution in which a militant figure, General Mariano Paredes y Arrillaga, came to power. Mr. Montaigne states that Paredes and his generals plotted for war.

The author draws the conclusion that the Mexican military incited their own people to expect the subjugation of Texas, a feat made impossible by American annexation. Blinded by their own fantasies, they could retain power only by advocating the impossible: the conquest of Texas.

Dennis Stuart  
Longview, Texas

*Second Fatherland: The Life and Fortunes of a German Immigrant.* By Max Amadeus Paulus Krueger. College Station and London (Texas A & M University Press), 1976. Edited with an introduction by Marilyn McAdams Sibley. Index, Pp. xix + 161. \$10.00.

To revise an edition of a 1930 publication, which was itself a translation of an original German manuscript, is a considerable undertaking; and to keep it relatively free of error, while adding information "at appropriate points" from notes in the possession of the author's family, it indeed an achievement. Ms. Sibley has succeeded in producing a readable work, adding color and clarifying detail to what—at times, at least—must have been somewhat incohesive presentation.

Minor flaws, whether due to typographical error: "Griefswald" (p. xiv) or possibly to translation problems of tense in the original: "This brutal murder has (had) been committed . . ." (p. 65), or perhaps to a translated idiom: "At nights . . ." (p. 71), do not detract from the value of the work. Its true value lies in the vivid depiction of the central experiences in the life of a struggling, unfortunate, yet successful immigrant to Texas over a century ago.

Max Krueger's *Odyssey* takes him in a few pages from hunger and sickness in Germany through France, Spain, Cuba, and New Orleans to his second fatherland: Texas. Here, as a stevedore, well-digger, factory hand, miller, cowboy, merchant and industrialist, Max moves through a panorama of colorful experiences from the life of a nearly penniless immigrant to that of a wealthy industrialist with capital investments of a million dollars.

This first person narrative portrays not merely the active efforts of an individual endowed with strength of character and perseverance in struggle with a frequently hostile environment, but also a perceptive, sensitive soul capable of renewing his spirit through contacts with a beautiful, gentle and benign nature.

Addition of eight pages of photographs of various members of Krueger's family, the dwelling house at Twin Sisters, the Theodore Roosevelt letter, and the map of Krueger's Texas round out nicely this very readable book.

Recommended for those who are interested in Texas frontier history and to others who revel in man's indomitability.

Carl Keul

Stephen F. Austin State University

*A Ranching Saga: The Lives of William Electious Halsell and Ewing Halsell.* By William Curry Holden. San Antonio (Trinity University Press), 1976. Drawings, Notes, Index. p. 568. \$25.00.

This two volume set is an excellent biography of the lives and times of William Electious Halsell and his son Ewing Halsell. The narrative focuses on the history of the Halsell family from the entrance of William Electious into Texas in 1854 until the death of Ewing in 1965. This ranching story chronologically spans from the birth of the cattle industry to the present. Geographically, it stretches from the Rio Grande River to Kansas and from the Arkansas River Valley to the High Plains of Texas. The dominant theme is a compatible intermingling of the weather cycles of the land and of the life cycles of the Halsell family. The plot is essentially a character study of William Electious and Ewing.

The narrative is very readable and is well-documented. The book is both an important contribution for the western history scholar and an enjoyable story for all readers. Prior to 1900 the basic sources include newspaper accounts, legal documents, a limited amount of correspondence, and verbal reminiscences of family members, friends, and acquaintances. After 1900, these same sources continued to be used, but the principal depository of data became the Halsell Collection of records. During his research Dr. Holden interviewed more than 150 people who have known either William Electious, Ewing, or both, and this insight adds a more human dimension to the text. The humanistic quality of the narrative also provides important glimpses into the lives of other significant persons, such as Will Rogers, Shaghai Pierce, the Dan Waggoner Family, and numerous employees of the Halsell Family.

The text reflects the history of ranching from the colorful open range period to the sophistication of the modern cattle industry. Throughout the impact of these changes on the method of cattle operations, the individuals involved emerge with their identity and integrity. The reader is constantly reminded that although the cattle business has become increasingly complicated due to the growing complexities of our economic and mechanized environment, the individual continues to dominate his surroundings with his personality intact.

In addition to Dr. Holden's wife, Frances, three other individuals deserve mention for their contributions to the success of this two volume work. Jose Cisneros for his talented drawings, and Miss Helen Campbell and Mr. Gilbert Denman, Jr. for their remembrance of the principal characters of this history and for their technical assistance.

Duncan G. Muckelroy

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

*By the Sweat of Their Brow: Mexican Immigrant Labor in the United States, 1900-1940.* By Mark Reisler. Westport (Greenwood Press), 1976. Bibliography, Index. p. 258. \$14.50.

This volume attempts to relate and analyze the experiences of the 1.5 million Mexican immigrants who entered the United States between 1900 and 1940. In a crisp, direct writing style, the author traces the ebb and flow of those migrations into the Southwest, and their

eventual spread into urban areas across the nation. The book's main thrust is that this founding generation of today's Chicano population met isolation and poverty rather than the acceptance and economic betterment which lured them north from Mexico.

The Mexicans came for many reasons. Reisler points out that disastrous economic conditions and revolutionary turmoil pushed them out of their homeland, while the promise of jobs by American entrepreneurs pulled them into agriculture and industry. But when the economy of the United States dictated, and when nativist racism presented itself forcefully, many thousands of these exploited, hard-working newcomers were hustled back to Mexico. Those who remained sweltered at the bottom of American society.

The chief merit of this study lies in its value as an introduction for the beginning student of Mexican-American history. The author outlines all major legislation affecting the immigrants, and summarizes most of the forces which molded those governmental enactments. Also, he describes how the Mexicans generally viewed the United States once they arrived, and how they coped with their existence.

At best, however, *By the Sweat of Their Brow* is a scholarly synthesis of what is already known. It contains little new or exciting material. Attempting to give a grand overview, Reisler only skims the surface, and neglects certain important facets of his topic such as illegal entrees, the ever-present *mojados* and *alambristas*. Also, he short shrifts the nineteenth century background of the Mexican in the United States leaving the impression that the immigrants of the twentieth century moved into an attitudinal vacuum.

These omissions, and others, might have been avoided had the author delved into Mexican and Southwestern sources with the same diligence that he pursued American national archives. In the end, the study's primary contribution is to remind us of the serious scholarship yet needed in Chicano history.

Thomas H. Kreneck  
Houston Metropolitan Research Center

*The Making of History: Walter Prescott Webb and the Great Plains.* By Gregory M. Tobin. Austin (University of Texas Press), 1976. Bibliography, Index, Map. p. 184. \$10.95.

Since Walter Prescott Webb's death in 1963 his name and works are being perpetuated through memorial lectures, endowed chairs, reappraisals by senior historians and former students, and biographical studies by a younger generation of historians who came along too late to know him first-hand. The most recent examination of his career represents the work of an Australian scholar who began graduate work at the University of Texas in 1969 and subsequently obtained his Ph.D. in American History at the institution where Webb spent most of his adult life.

Although Tobin utilizes some of the same materials as those examined by Necah Stuart Furman (*Walter Prescott Webb: His Life and Impact*, University of New Mexico Press, 1976), he approaches his subject from a different direction. Whereas Furman presents a well-rounded, concise biography of Webb, Tobin orients the Texas historian within the framework of his intellectual and social setting. Both write with the advantage given an outsider to detect more easily the man's faults, along with his many virtues. Tobin does not write as evenly or as uncritically as Furman, but at times he demonstrates a surprising and incisive appreciation of the role of the frontier in American history. Moreover, his objective account of the celebrated conflict between Webb and his defenders on the one hand and Fred A. Shannon on the other is excellent. Shannon unquestionably was correct on many minor points in his criticism of the thesis that broad environmental factors shaped the Great Plain's history and character. But Webb examined the forest rather than the trees, and his book remains a classic that has not been out of print or revised since 1931.



At times the author flirts with psycho-history, whatever that is, and his narrative suffers from redundancy and awkward chronology. Perhaps the most interesting section of Tobin's book relates to the planning and writing of *The Great Plains*. Except that he fails to mention contributions by Webb's students in testing his ideas, a development which Furman properly recognizes, the Australian traces with considerable skill the intellectual maturing of the Texas historian and the evolution of the environmental determinism thesis. At the same time, Webb himself recognized the limitations imposed by his academic training, a fact which made it difficult for him to function as a professional historian in the traditional practices of most of his colleagues.

Critics charged that Webb sometimes framed his conclusion before searching for evidence to support it. Others said, perhaps facetiously, that he never let facts stand in the way of the truth. And although he retained an open mind and a gentle spirit, he undoubtedly came to feel toward some of his more irrational detractors much the same way that Rhett Butler looked upon Scarlett O'Hara at the end. I can almost hear him now, speaking with subtle wit and without rancor: "Frankly, sir, I don't give a damn."

W. Eugene Hollon  
University of Toledo

*The Promise Kept*. By Kurth Sprague. Austin (The Encino Press), 1975. Notes, Bibliography, p. 93. \$10.00.

Well deserved were the honor and prize awarded *The Promise Kept* by Kurth Sprague at the 40th anniversary banquet of the Texas Institute of Letters for "the best of class." This beautiful and extraordinary book was the recipient of the Paul Voertman Poetry Award of \$200. Together with this honor the book won Honorable Mention for the best book design offered by the Texas Collectors' Institute. The drawings are by John Groth and the book is published by Encino Press of Austin.

Long overdue is an account of the treatment of the red man by the white man who took his land, killed his buffalo and constantly drove him westward from his homeland to barren reservations.

The title comes from the words of a Sioux Indian:

"They made us many promises,  
More than I can remember,  
But they never kept but one.  
They promised to take our land and they took it."

The nineteen gripping stories are told in blank verse and on first reading are a bit difficult to grasp but the author has included helpful notes on each poem "for the enlightenment of the literary peasantry."

Filled with stunning imagery are the poems, particularly the story of the reinterment of Quanah Parker from the Post Oak Cemetery to the Fort Sill Cemetery when he is carried by giant grandsons whose hands were like "freckled hams."

Poignantly sad is the Cherokees' Trail of Tears as told by the Reverend Jesse Bushyhead, a searing litany that remains long with the reader. There are harsh words and beautiful words. The short poem on *Santa Fe* describes an old Indian with "cataract frosted eyes" and the heavy-faced whores promenading in "the heliotrope dusk."

The slaughter of the buffalo is immortalized in *The Song of the Buffalo* and in the rhythmic *Ballad of a Buffalo Hunter*.

Sad and heartbreaking is the concluding poem about Sergeant Frederick Wylyams, graduate of Eton, killed by Cheyennes in June 1867.

As the writer states, these poems contain his reactions to scenes in American history and his concern for the American Indian. It is a beautiful book, one that you would like to own and cherish.

Gene Lasseter (Mrs. E.H.)  
Henderson, Texas

*San Antonio, St. Anthony's Town.* By Leah Carter Johnston. San Antonio (The Naylor Co.), 1976. Bibliography, Index. p. 155. \$7.95.

*San Antonio: A Historical and Pictorial Guide.* By Charles Ramsdell. Austin (University of Texas Press), 1976. Sources, Index, Maps. \$4.95.

*San Antonio in the Eighteenth Century.* By the San Antonio Bicentennial Heritage Committee. San Antonio (Clarke Printing Co.), 1976. Glossary, Bibliography, Index. p. 139.

In 1936, the Librarians' Council of San Antonio published *An Introduction to Our San Antonio de Bexar*. The material was edited and narrated by Mrs. Leah C. Johnston who for years was Director of Children's Work in the San Antonio Public Library. A revised edition also narrated by Mrs. Johnston and illustrated by Eduardo Cardenas was published in 1947. Now this official San Antonio Bicentennial Edition, completely revised and updated, is dedicated to the memory of Leah Carter Johnston.

*San Antonio, St. Anthony's Town* attempts to tell almost three centuries of the city's history in a little over 150 pages and only partially succeeds. Chapters on the San Antonio legends and the particular missions are excellent. However, some chapters are too abrupt in their treatment of such subjects as the San Antonio Arsenal, monuments, transportation and city and county governments. In several cases, only one page constitutes a "chapter." As a result, the reader is left with the feeling of having read a company's inventory sheet and often it was just as interesting! Perhaps a better integration of related subjects into one chapter to be treated at length would make a better impression on the reader.

The staff which compiled this edition seemed to recognize this problem but decided not to remedy it for as is stated in the preface, "if some chapters read like mere catalogues of factual material, please remember that these facts are wanted and it is better not to confuse the reader by adorning them with fancy." This statement does not give much credit to the minds of prospective readers. Yet the staff expresses the hope that "this story of San Antonio will interest readers of all ages." Perhaps it might, but it seems to belong more the elementary school reader than the adult readers.

A new edition of Charles Ramsdell's popular guide which was published first in 1959 has been issued. Carmen Perry has completely updated and revised this edition published by the University of Texas Press. The San Antonio of today is reflected against the panorama of Texas history from its perspective. The book relates in great detail the "biography" of the city in relation to the nearly three centuries of change through which it has evolved.

This book is particularly valuable for its clear and up-to-date maps. Maps of downtown San Antonio, HemisFair Plaza, Brackenridge Park, Mission Road, Alamo Plaza and other areas are included. There is also a walking tour map of the downtown area which highlights some 95 different churches, landmarks, shops, markets and much more.

The only drawback to the book's format would be its awkwardness in opening. The book measures 5" x 8" and opens along the short edge. Since it is a paperback edition, the book is then rather floppy and unwieldy for a tourist to read while on a walking tour. Otherwise it is a very useful guide, giving both interesting history and practical information which the tourist needs.

Individual chapters are given to the Alamo and its history, La Villita, the Pasco del Rio and the fiestas for which San Antonio is justly famous. For these features and others such as museums, parks, galleries, etc. - *San Antonio* furnished addresses, hours, and admission prices when charged. Throughout the book are photographs, drawings and etchings which make *San Antonio* of special interest to former and current residents of the city as well as to the sightseer.

*San Antonio in the Eighteenth Century* is the product of an idea conceived by the late Henderson Shuffler (Institute of Texan Cultures) and Vivian Hamlin. After the Historical Research Committee was formed and began functioning, their project grew both in size and scope and resulted in the present publications.

The book is a cooperative effort with its seven chapters and epilogue written by eight different authors. They undertook the task of providing a record of San Antonio in the eighteenth century, or more precisely from 1718 to 1784. A variety of other books, periodicals and publications have described the frontier conditions, the hostile Indians, the missionary achievements and the political endeavors. Until now, however, a survey of the community in a single work was lacking.

Various works and many documentary sources were pulled together to provide the narrative. A particular effort was made to reveal the people of the time—Indians, missionaries, settlers—and the conditions in which they lived.

*San Antonio in the Eighteenth Century* is at once scholarly and readable. At the end of each chapter detailed footnotes are given. It might be wished, though, that they had been given on each page to allow for easier reference. A glossary of Spanish terms is given and the various photographs and drawings from the Institute of Texas Cultures give added interest to the book. At the conclusion, a six page bibliography of manuscript collections and secondary works is cited along with a detailed index. Though *San Antonio* is a work of high caliber, it is also a story that should interest and intrigue any reader.

Miss Ann Elizabeth Heslop  
Silver Spring, Maryland  
(formerly of San Antonio)

*What's Going On? (In Modern Texas Folklore)*. Edited by Francis Edward Abernethy. Austin (Encino Press), 1976. Illustrated, Contributors, T.F.S. History, Index, p. 309. \$12.50.

To many of us interested in folklore, Francis Edward Abernethy is at the same time the heartbeat and the nerve center of Texas Folklore. If anyone is in a position to know what is going on in folklore today, it is Ab. In his vital position as Secretary-Editor of the Texas Folklore Society, he is preeminently qualified both as a contributor and as the editor of the Society's latest volume, *What's Going On? (In Modern Texas Folklore)*.

One of the limitations on written communication is that it is essentially linear in nature; it starts at one point and ends at another with a succession of things in between. This may be relatively easy to do in a book with one author, one subject and one purpose, but not so when a book has twenty-two authors, with a variety of subjects and purposes. Ab's task must have been something like that of attempting to describe a three or higher dimensional object in a one dimensional framework, for *What's Going On* certainly exists in several dimensions. It is a collection of articles from a representative sampling of Texas folklorists. Folklore is beginning to take on multimedia modes of expression, and this was reflected somewhat in the numerous photographs used to illustrate the articles.

Most, if not all, of the articles have been presented as papers to meetings of the Texas and other Folklore Societies. Professional folklorists might cringe at my definition of folklore, which is that folklore is stories about everyday people doing whatever it is that makes them who they are. The book fits this definition because it is about us.

A person skilled in higher dimensional geometry knows that a complex object can often best be examined by looking at it in only one of its dimensions at a time. One of the dimensions in folklore is time. Traditionally, folklore papers have concentrated on lifestyles and events in the rather distant past. Joe Lomax, who contributed

"Zydeco—Must Live On!" is one of the younger generation of folklorists, and he has contributed to the recognition that folklore is a current phenomenon, and his influence undoubtedly helped set the stage for a volume dedicated to "modern" folklore. All of the articles in *What's Going On*, from "Neiman-Marcus Lore from the Inside" by Stanley Marcus and "You Gotcha Ears On?" by Archie P. McDonald to "Preparing the Fatted Calf" by William C. Martin and "The Improbable Rise of Redneck Rock" by Jan Reid are distinctly modern.

Another dimension of the book is the range of writing skill displayed in the articles. Some of the articles, such as "Western Swing" by Guy Logsdon were obviously thoroughly researched, but held up better when presented orally than in writing. "Texas Tea and Rainy Day Woman: The Folklore of the Underground Press" by Hermes Nye was well-researched, but more importantly, written in Hermes' inimitable delightful style; and Bill C. Malone's "Growing Up with Texas Country Music" is written with such authority that you know he has first-hand information.

Still another dimension of the book is the tracing of a socio-political theme that touches each of us. We are living in a time when change is occurring so rapidly that it is difficult to be aware of one change before another has occurred. *What's Going On* lets us see into the kaleidoscope that is life in Texas in the twentieth century. If the book has main subtheme, it has to be music. Since most of us spend so much time hearing if not listening to music, it seems fitting that the last two-fifths (no-pun intended) of the book be devoted to tracing the evolution of music in Texas. From the childrens' taunt, "As the Hearse Goes By" by Charles Clay Doyle and the childlike enjoyment of gospel singing in "Give the World a Smile Each Day" by Francis E. Abernethy through western swing to young adults challenging tradition with protest songs in redneck rock and harder rock, and finally to the more placid country western in "Backwoods Beer Busts" by Stanley G. Alexander, who himself provided much of the impetus for change, the book recounts the changes Texans have wrought on the music world.

There is something here for everyone and something here about everyone. *What's Going On* is both entertaining and educational, and well worth the price of a membership in the Texas Folklore Society.

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*Texas: A Bicentennial History*. By Joe B. Franz. New York (W.W. Norton and Co.), 1976. Bibliography, Maps, Illustrations, Index. p. 222. \$8.95.

Joe B. Franz's *Texas: A Bicentennial History* represents our state in the Norton fifty-one volume States and the National Series [the District of Columbia story is included]. Morton Smith, the General Editor, notes that a meaningful review of the Revolution considers what the country has become as well as what it was. Smith invites the reader to a volume in which the author was asked to give "interpretive, sensitive, thoughtful, individual, even personal" accounts of what seems significant in interpreting his state. The Texas "photographer's essay" [following p. 114; a 16 pp. supplement to the 222 pages], created by A.Y. Owen, represents a skilled photographer's "own personal perceptions of the state's contemporary flavor." These personal approaches provide both the strengths and the weaknesses of the volume.

A readable history of Texas in 222 pages must necessarily compress some incidents and personalities and omit some completely in order to amplify others. Thus Ben Milam gets fuller treatment than Sam Houston during the Texas Revolution. Fine. Six pages are allotted the Battle of the Alamo, with a final "three-quarters of an hour" of "barbarity," of "brutal, close-in orgiastic fighting"; the Battle of San Jacinto gets six lines. Again, fine. But, will San Augustine, that august "gateway," really understand its omission? The maps show a Piney Woods area in the eastern part of the state, but some of us could discover that Franz's personal view is not from East Texas by the way he spells "east Texas."

Too, while most of Owen's photographs are excellent, there is not a single forest illustrated. Surely the creation of the Big Thicket National Park is both contemporary and significant. A graphic image of Texas' forests would help dispel the stereotyped image of Texas geography.

Franz demonstrates the ability to use human interest material. He also has a gift for summarizing. Ending one chapter he notes that a 16th exploration party constituted the "first European-African Texans," the hyphenated addition referring to Estevanico. In a later chapter, after establishing Jane Long's career in some depth, he concludes: "When the first white [here meaning non-Spanish??] men came to Texas to stay, she was there to meet them . . . One has been called 'The Mother of Texas' . . . The other [her slave] could be . . . 'The Mother of Black Texas.' "

Franz's annotated bibliography, organized topically, probably includes more than most people really want to know about Texas. It would be more valuable, however, if the bibliography section were enlarged from the nine works cited. He cites no works in progress.

The most serious flaw in the book is the incomplete index. For examples, neither Nacogdoches nor William B. Travis appear in the index, and both receive rather extensive treatment in the text.

That Franz can provide fresh analogies is a delightful discovery, especially after the mixed metaphor in the opening sentence of his preface. I think he was oversimplified a complex idea in his opening paragraph to Chapter I, but I leave Turner's thesis to the professional historians. I leave the question of whether Jim Bowie or his brother invented the famous frontier knife to trivia enthusiasts.

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*The Forest Service: A Study in Public Land Management.* By Glen O. Robinson. Baltimore (Published for Resources for the Future, Inc. by The Johns Hopkins University Press) 1975. Notes, charts, index. Pp. xv + 286.

This study of the United States Forest Service was written by Glen O. Robinson, formerly professor of law at the University of Minnesota and currently a member of the Federal Communications Commission. The volume is attractively designed, carefully documented, and objectively written. It provides a perspective, primarily economic, of the Forest Service by an outsider who is committed neither to the federal bureaucracy nor to the environmentalists.

This is not a history of the Forest Service although the author begins with a short historical sketch in the first chapter. Instead, it is a study of this federal agency, its organization, decision-making process, and current problems. Beginning with the parent Department of Agriculture, Robinson has examined the several echelons of control from the Chief Forester down to the Forest Ranger, the "man on the ground." Here he discussed service philosophy, direction and control, planning and direction. The Forest Service emerges as a self-conscious bureaucracy with a proud heritage, high ideals, and a thoroughly professional attitude. At present, however, it is somewhat confused and uncertain because of the confrontations and litigation by citizens who disagree with its management policies and challenge its decisions.

In some detail the author has examined the various resources supervised by the Forest Service, giving a chapter to each. He discussed the timber resource, including inventory, growth, long-term outlook, administration of sales, harvest, and reforestation. Then he examined such problems and conflicts as the multiple use controversy and the clear-cutting issue. Robinson has rejected the charge that the Forest Service is a captive of the timber industry. He concluded that markedly decreasing the cut in the National

Forests will result in escalating increase in the price of lumber and it is probably unrealistic to expect much greater production from private industry. On the other hand, significant increases of timber cut from public forests could be obtained only through substantial investment in intensive management programs.

In like manner the author has examined Outdoor Recreation, Wilderness, the Range, Wildlife, Water and Watershed. He covered agency policies, developments, and current controversies. At the end of each discussion Robinson analyzed the salient points of confrontation and suggested alternate solutions and their long-range effects. What is apparent in each of these areas is that there are no easy solutions and frequently no compromise which will please all of the claimants for use of the forest resources.

Written primarily for the interested general public rather than for professional foresters or trained ecologists, this study gives a clear, objective view of the Forest Service and its present situation. Professor Robinson neither rushes to defend nor to denounce the agency in its current confrontations but seeks to understand the problems. He has presented a reasoned study of the Forest Service, explained how it operates, and analyzed its principal problems and controversies. It is recommended reading for all who are interested in the American forests and wise use of their resources.

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### BOOK NOTES

*The Governors of Texas.* By Ross Phares. Gretna, La. (Pelican Publishing Company), 1976. Bibliography, Index, Illustrations. p. 184. \$12.50.

Assembled in this volume are capsule biographies tracing the careers of more than 80 individuals who have occupied the highest office of Texas. The work documents the leadership—failures as well as successes—that accompanied the development of the modern state.

From the formative period under the rule of France, Spain and Mexico, to the Republic, and finally to the contemporary state, author Ross Phares brings to life the personalities, the conflicts, the sweep of history from which the Lone Star State evolved.

*The Corps at Aggieland.* By Bill J. Leftwich. Lubbock (Smoke Signal Publishing Company), 1976. p. 148.

To Texans accustomed to the mixed appreciation of graduates and students of that institution on the Brazos known as Texas A & M University, which varies from the familiar, uncomplimentary Aggie joke to dewey-eyed, throat choked emotion at Silver Taps in a Twelfth Man service, comes a beautiful little book on the corps. Handsomely bound in white with maroon lettering, it is dedicated to all who serve the corps, past, present and future. Chapters are devoted to the corps' development, the Aggie band, and the Ross Volunteers, among other pertinent subjects. Special attention is given to the evolution of the corps uniform, Medal of Honor recipients, officers of flag rank, and an especially interesting section entitled, "Aggie Lingo." The book is extremely well illustrated, both with photographs and the author's own and often humorous drawings. Nothing says it so well as his uniform illustration on a nobby-kneed Maggie.