

10-1988

Book Notes

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj>



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Tell us how this article helped you.

Recommended Citation

(1988) "Book Notes," *East Texas Historical Journal*: Vol. 26: Iss. 2, Article 11.

Available at: <http://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj/vol26/iss2/11>

This Book Note is brought to you for free and open access by SFA ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in East Texas Historical Journal by an authorized administrator of SFA ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact cdsscholarworks@sfasu.edu.

BOOK NOTES

The flood of books on various aspects of Texas continues, if a bit lessened with the passing of the Sesquicentennial. And books on other subjects, some almost as important as Texas, continue to find their way to our office. The following are some that our readers will find of interest.

The Western Writer's Handbook, edited by James L. Collins (Johnson Books, 1880 South 57th Court, Boulder, CO 80301. P. 154. \$7.95 paper and \$12.95 cloth), is a collection of essays by sixteen experienced writers of fiction and fact about the West. Unlike most "how to" books, Collins' handbook also acquaints the reader with other aspects of publishing. It includes essays on the traditional western novel, by Collins, adult westerns, writing for television, short stories, the series western, marketing the western, editing, and western biography, among other subjects. East Texas (Nacogdoches) author Joe Lansdale contributed the chapter on The Western Short Story.

Oral History for the Local Historical Society, by Willa K. Baum (American Association for State & Local History, 1400 Eighth Ave., South, Nashville, TN 37203. Photographs. Bibliography. P. 68) is a real "how to" book. Baum is the director of the Regional Oral History Office at the University of California, Berkeley, where she has worked since 1954. She played a major role in developing the techniques of oral history. She assumes that the reader has an interest in the field and little else. Topics include how to start an oral history program, an examination of equipment and tapes, the interviewing process, who should interview, indexing, transcribing, legal agreements about the use of tapes, the ethics of oral history, and methods of preserving the tapes. Any agency or individual interested in the field of oral history would do well to begin with this book.

Obituaries Recorded in Panola County, Texas, 1873-1920, by Ann Morris and her history students at Carthage High School (The East Texas Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 6967, Tyler, TX 75711. Index. P. 239. \$15.00) is a dual contribution: she has left a valuable and accessible record of individuals who lived and died in Panola County for the use of genealogists and others, and she has taught her students much more about the study of history, the usefulness of newspapers, and an appreciation of their community's history. A history of Panola County is included, but the bulk of the text is a chronological listing of the deceased in Panola County from 1873 until 1920. Entries include name, death date, cause of death (if known), residence, date the death was reported, survivors (if known), and a wealth of additional information.

Dictionary of Texas Misinformation, by Anne Dingus (Texas Monthly Press, Inc. P.O. Box 1569, Austin, TX 78767. Bibliography. P. 292. \$4.50 paper). Dingus claims that "Misinformation is an old Texas tradition" that began with "mixed reports of its attractions and dangers" that has made the rest of the world wonder about what goes on here. As a case

in point, on a trip to Australia two years ago, I learned that most of what the average Australian knew about our state came from watching the television series *Dallas*. As Dingus continues, "But facts are facts." To present them, she examines folklore, trivia, and legends and attempts to set the record straight. The book appropriately begins, perhaps some unkind folks would muse, with "Aggies," and ends with Zapata County. So here you have Texas from A to Z.

Two books about topics other than Texas are *Kosher Cajun Cookbook*, by Mildred L. Covert and Sylvia P. Gerson (Pelican Publishing Co., 1101 Monroe Street, Gretna, LA 70053. Illustrations. Index. P. 91), and *Hollywood Goes to War: How Politics, Profits & Propaganda Shaped World War II Movies*, by Clayton R. Koppwa and Gregory D. Black (The Free Press, 866 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022. Photographs, Notes, Bibliography, Index. P. 374. \$22.50). Both reflect personal interests of the editor. I like cajun cooking whether it is Kosher or not, and I like cookbooks, all the more since I can no longer eat most of the fare they describe. But this book is something else. It really is Kosher. It has a foreword by a rabbi that explains the meaning of the term and recipes that show how the good food we have associated with our neighbors to the east can be made that way. Of special interest is the Glossary. It will teach you a little Hebrew and a little Cajun French at the same time. I also like movies, and since I did some growing up during WWII ("the big one"), naturally I liked the look of this book, too. It is more than a book about Hollywood; it is real history. "It is an examination of how one of America's largest and most lucrative industries were enlisted as an enthusiastic recruiter for Uncle Sam to create scores of 'entertainment' pictures . . . in which blatant morale-building propaganda messages received top billing." I saw a bunch of those pictures, and I suppose my attitudes about Germany and Japan, at least at the time, largely were shaped in those dark theatres in Beaumont, Texas. Students of the war, or of the movies, will find the book valuable.