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BOOK REVIEWS

La Salle, The Mississippi, and the Gulf. Three Primary Documents. By Robert S. Weddle, Editor. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1987. Bibliography. Index. P. 328.

The two hundred year imperial struggle for control of North America pitted Spain, France, and England in a battle of wits and daring. Precisely because the numbers of individuals partaking in those events remained relatively small, their leaders often emerged as larger-than-life characters. None was more ambitious or mysterious than Rene-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, esteemed explorer of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River, accomplished master of Iroquois and Algonquian dialects, and confidant of royalty. Unfittingly, his life ended in a forgotten east Texas locale in 1687, a victim of his own arrogance and irrational behavior; yet, even in death, his "threat" compelled Spain to hasten its missionizing and settlement efforts among the Caddo Indians of East Texas.

The definitive word on La Salle's fascinating life probably never will be written because so many gaps appear in the surviving records, and those accounts that do exist are at odds with each other on critical points. It is, however, appropriate that on the tricentennial of La Salle's death, three crucial documents have been translated, analyzed, and carefully annotated by competent authorities such as Robert Weddle and Patricia Galloway. Each of the three lengthy reports appears in its entirety for the first time, supplemented with copious notes explaining personalities, geographical locations, ethnological features, and broader trends in imperial policy.

The first of these primary documents was written by a shadowy member of the 1684-1685 voyage through the Gulf of Mexico to the Texas coast. Known only as Minet, this engineer and cartographer clashed with La Salle from the inception of the voyage. His first-person writings about the Texas adventure, and his second-person account of the 1682 expedition from Canada down the Mississippi River, formed a litany of accusations against the commander. Briefly jailed with the captain of the ship *Joly* for abandoning the settlers at Fort Saint-Louis, Minet had every reason to characterize La Salle as a tyrant to deflect the charges against himself.

The second report, prepared by boat-pilot Juan Enriquez Barroto, describes Spanish coastal exploration in search of the reported French settlement of Fort Saint-Louis. Even though Barroto only found evidence of wrecked ships, his report aided subsequent Spanish occupation of the Texas coast by providing geographic details and information on the Karankawa, Coahuiltecan, and Atakapa Indians. In a similar vein, the third document contains unique information from Pierre and Jean Talon who not only sympathetically described Caddo and Karankawa life in detail, but also provided the only written eyewitness account of the Indian destruction of Fort Saint-Louis. Concluding essays by modern scholars

Mardith Schuetz, Rudolph Troike, and Del Weniger accurately assess the value of the Talon *Interrogations* for ethnological, linguistic, and natural history data, thus making this a valuable edition of early Texana.

Michael L. Tate
University of Nebraska at Omaha

The Great Comanche Raid. Boldest Indian Attack of the Texas Republic.
By Donaly E. Brice. (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 23069, Austin, TX 78735), 1987. Maps. Photographs. Bibliography. Index. P. 122. \$10.95.

Donaly E. Brice attempts to make *The Great Comanche Raid* more than another shoot-em-up story of an Indian battle. He places the 1840 strike deep into South Texas — and the bloody aftermath that destroyed the power of the Comanches in central Texas — in the contexts of the chronic conflict between Mexico and the Republic of Texas and the aggressive anti-Indian program of President Mirabeau Lamar. Brice effectively pieces together a wide selection of personal narratives, newspaper accounts, and official state documents to present a concise treatment not only of the raid itself but of the events leading up to it.

Unfortunately, Brice fails to substantiate his claim that Mexicans conceived and supported the raid. His largely circumstantial evidence comes entirely from Anglo sources; he considers neither the Mexicans' nor the Indians' points of view and rarely questions the Texans' motivations or explanations. Tantalizing hints are offered about other parts of the story, including failed treaties with the Comanches and Lamar's early experiences with Georgia Cherokees, but for the most part Brice restricts his book to the events immediately preceding the 1840 raid.

James Marten
Marquette University

The Texas Navy. By Jim Dan Hill. (State House Press, P.O. Box 15247, Austin, Tx 78761), 1987. Illustrations. Notes. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. P. 224.

This volume is a facsimile reproduction of a study first published in 1937 by the University of Chicago Press. The present publishers are to be thanked for making available again this classic account of mini-sea power in the Gulf of Mexico. The author, a native Texan and Navy man, had a long and productive academic career in Wisconsin, retiring to Texas where he died at the age of eighty-six in 1983.

Using available American and Mexican sources, Jim Dan Hill concentrated on the efforts of Captain Charles E. Hawkins to control the Gulf during the crucial months in the spring of 1836 while Santa Anna's army advanced through Texas to its destiny at San Jacinto. Later

Commodore Edwin Ward Moore continued periodic operations against Mexico from 1839 to 1843, and even aided Yucatan's efforts to achieve independence. Though always small and by 1845 largely unfit for further action, the Texas Navy played a significant role in the achieving of Texas independence.

Robert S. Maxwell
Stephen F. Austin State University

Soldiers, Sutlers, and Settlers. Garrison Life on the Texas Frontier. By Robert Wooster. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1987. Illustrations. Index. P. 240. \$22.95.

If you have ever enjoyed viewing *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* or one of the other John Ford-John Wayne cavalry epics, if you have prowled through the remaining structures of Fort Davis or any of Texas' other abandoned frontier outposts, if you have vicariously campaigned against Comanche war parties in some well-crafted volume of fiction or non-fiction, then you may look forward to a rich reading experience. In *Soldiers, Sutlers, and Settlers*, Robert Wooster has produced an exceptional study of garrison life on the Texas frontier.

Soldiers, Sutlers, and Settlers is the second volume in the Clayton Wheat Williams Texas Life Series, and sets a demanding standard for subsequent entries (the series was initiated with another excellent study, *Plantation Life in Texas*). The result of painstaking research, *Soldiers, Sutlers, and Settlers* thoroughly examines every facet of military life on the Texas frontier, and provides a major contribution which will be welcomed by students of the army of any western region. The book is crammed with fascinating detail about moving to the frontier, constructing a new post, campaigning in the field, routine duties of the garrison, social activities and entertainment, and virtually every other aspect involving military personnel and their dependents.

There are no photographs, but Jack Jackson has masterfully fashioned seventy illustrations which depict many details of frontier military life for which there is no photographic record. A major contribution of the book is a fifteen-page bibliographic essay which provides an indispensable guide to primary and secondary sources in the field. *Soldiers, Sutlers, and Settlers* offers captivating reading about an appealing subject, and Robert Wooster is to be congratulated for creating a classic volume that should be added to the bookshelves of every student of the Texas frontier.

Bill O'Neal
Panola Junior College

The Exodus of Federal Troops from Texas. By J.J. Bowden. (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 23006, Austin, TX 78735), 1986. Photographs. Drawings. Map. Bibliography. Index. P. 149. \$11.95.

The Civil War should have started in Texas. In early 1861, more than 2,600 Federal troops were assigned to duty along the Rio Grande and at posts spotted across the frontier from Fort Davis to Camp Cooper, high on the North Fork of the Brazos River. The story of the surrender of this formidable force to the demands of Texas secessionists is a story of honor and treachery, of greed and selflessness. It is, in microcosm, the story of much of America in the first months of 1861, and has been told admirably here by El Paso attorney J.J. Bowden.

The basic facts of the surrender of Federal troops in Texas are well known. Under extreme pressure from Texas secessionists, with a sincere desire to avoid bloodshed, and with no guidance from lame-duck President James Buchanan, Brigadier General David E. Twiggs surrendered all Federal forces and property in the Department of Texas to agents of the Texas Secession Convention on February 18, 1861. Beyond these general facts, however, the story quickly becomes complex. Was Twiggs, a Southerner, a traitor? Could effective resistance have been offered by Federal troops? What was the role of the Knights of the Golden Circle? Why did Confederate Colonel Earl Van Dorn violate the evacuation agreement by seizing over 700 Federal troops as prisoners of war?

Bowden has addressed these and other questions in a workman-like fashion and has produced a well researched, readable account of the events leading up to the surrender and subsequent evacuation of most of the Federal force. He has made extensive use of primary sources, as well as most of the appropriate secondary works. While specialists will find that some sources have been missed or ignored, Bowden's account is factually accurate. If there is a major fault it is the objectivity which he tries to preserve at all costs. This is a powerful, emotional, story with a cast of strong characters, among them Samuel Maverick, Ben McCulloch, Captain Bennett H. Hill, and Lieutenant Colonel Carlos A. Waite. The reader might wish for a little more emotion on the part of the author, for the real value of this work is its contribution to our understanding the great ambivalence and confusion of the early months of 1861. Events at San Antonio and the posts along the frontier were replayed throughout the South. Bowden's account makes clear how nearly the Civil War started in Texas. It would have been a confrontation much more bloody than the bombardment of Fort Sumter.

The Exodus of Federal Troops from Texas is illustrated by a number of contemporary drawings, photographs, and modern drawings by Jose Cisneros. Although there are several small editorial problems with the work, Bowden's effort is a welcome addition to the literature of the early period of the Civil War. Non-specialists will find it a fascinating account and specialists will find it a thought-provoking point of departure.

Ron Spiller
Nacogdoches, Texas

The Army in Texas During Reconstruction, 1865-1870. By William L. Richter. (Texas A&M University Press [Military History Series #3], Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843-4354), 1987. Maps. Notes. Index. P. 265.

Central to William Richter's discussion is his point that "the personality of each commander heavily influenced the character of Military Reconstruction in his district" (p. 187). Indeed, Richter strongly argues that the degree of "political interference" (p. 188) of the army's generals marked Texas' progress or lack of progress toward readmission to the Union. Perhaps the most surprising of Richter's interpretations concerns General Philip H. Sheridan. According to the author, "as much as Sheridan was in agreement with the goals of Congressional Reconstruction, he was not a party man" (p. 109). Richter convincingly concludes that General Charles Griffin was a solid Radical, who "for party reasons, had adhered to the hard line all along" (p. 106). On the other hand, even Richter admits that while Griffin, as a department commander, could concentrate on Texas, Sheridan and most other commanders of the Fifth Military District (Texas and Louisiana, with headquarters at New Orleans) "became so involved in Louisiana politics that [they] had little time for Texas matters" (p. 123, and see also p. 138).

Of all the army officers assigned to Texas between 1865 and 1870, Richter shows that the most influential was General Joseph J. Reynolds. But Reynolds vacillated, alternately bolstering Democrats or Radical Republicans, depending on which group seemed more likely to benefit his own political career. Meanwhile, under the supervision of Reynolds or General E.R.S. Canby, Texas gradually complied with the Congressional Reconstruction Acts of 1867, drafted a new state constitution, and gained readmission in 1870.

Readers will be disappointed that there is no bibliography in the book, but perusal of the endnotes clearly reveals Richter's meticulous research, especially in primary sources. A series of excellent maps shows the location of soldiers involved in Reconstruction. Regardless of interpretative disagreements, it is clear that Richter has written a major addition to Reconstruction historiography. Furthermore, the author provides an excellent detailed account of the U.S. Army's role in one state's military government after the Civil War.

Joseph G. Dawson
Texas A&M University

Nations Within A Nation. Historical Statistics of American Indians. By Paul Stuart. (Greenwood Press, Inc. Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881). 1987. Bibliography. Index. P. 251. \$45.00.

This book contains enough tables and statistics to satisfy the most enthusiastic proponents of quantitative analysis who argue the point that

history belongs to the sciences rather than to the humanities. I support the latter view, although I appreciate the painstaking efforts that went into an analytical study of the American Indians. But it is not a book for your everyday lover of narrative history.

Nations Within A Nation contains chapters and tables on land base and climate, health, education, employment, income, resources and economic development, and the activities of the federal government. Each section has an introduction on Indian affairs and an assessment of the available data prior to the twentieth century. This work is of particular value as a reference tool for scholars interested in tribal history.

W. Eugene Hollon
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Indian Life in Texas. By Charles Shaw. Foreword by James A. Michener. (State House Press, P.O. Box 15247, Austin, TX 78761), 1987. P. 204. Illustrations. Photographs. Bibliography. \$22.50 Hardcover; \$16.00 Paperback.

The author is a skillful artist with pencil and brush and an authority on the so-called outdoor type of Texas history. This "illustrated narrative" is based on archaeological and historical facts. "The results," he writes, "is not so much a book about Indians . . . as about people who happen to be Indians." (xi).

The experience of aboriginal life in Texas is divided into four sections: Prehistory; 1600-1836; 1837-1900; and the Twentieth Century. Each of the first three eras is more violent than the one preceding, while the twentieth century is still unfolding. Anglo settlers in Texas ultimately expelled the original inhabitants almost totally and sometimes brutally. Michener points out that Texas was the only western state to do this. The reservation Alabama-Coushattas that remain today are pitiful reminders of what is left of once powerful tribes of Caddo, Tonkawa, Karankawa, Lipans, and Comanches that held sway over the vast region between the Sabine River and the upper Rio Grande.

The last section contains forty-six pages of excellent black and white photographs of modern day Texas Indians by Reagan Bradshaw.

W. Eugene Hollon
Santa Fe, New Mexico

The Woodlands. New Community Development, 1964-1983. By George T. Morgan, Jr. and John O. King. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1987. Photographs. Bibliography. Index. P. 162.

The idea of a rational community is at least as old as the ancient Greeks and all cities express planning to a certain extent. It makes sense

to organize the streets, sewers, electric wires, houses, and other facilities for the benefit of people and goals of society. The idea has survived and was expressed in the Urban Growth and New Community Development Act of 1970. George Mitchell, an oil millionaire, used this law to help finance his north Houston suburb and hoped "to transplant the entire cross-section of the Houston population into The Woodlands." (p. 146). He wanted low, medium, and high-cost housing, shopping areas, recreation facilities, schools, businesses, churches, and medical services all organized in a pleasant wooded environment. To a large extent Mitchell succeeded, but not without serious governmental and financial problems.

John King and the late Tom Morgan, University of Houston professors, provide a taut, short history of the project. They give a clear explanation of the law, the breakdown during the Nixon administration, and the reason that The Woodlands prevailed when all other projects under the enactment failed. It was mainly through Mitchell's financial strength and administrative ability. The authors used the corporate records, interviews, and newspaper sources well. It is a fine case history.

David McComb
Colorado State University

The Search for Emma's Story. By Marian L. Martinello with Ophelia Nielsen Weinheimer. (Texas Christian University Press, Box 30783, Fort Worth, TX 76129), 1987. Illustrations. Photographs. P. 223. \$12.95 Paper.

"Emma kept no diary." Neither have most other women. The challenge of women's historians is to reconstruct the lives of those "ordinary" women who usually leave behind little in the way of documentary evidence or artifacts.

But Marian L. Martinello, a Texas Sherlock Holmes, has provided a model for humanities detective work, an inspiration and a methodology for the beginning humanities researcher who wishes to document and breathe life into his or her subject.

Martinello has told the life story of Gillespie County farm woman Emma Beckmann, an early twentieth century woman of German ancestry whose entire life was spent in the hill country. She has provided not only a portfolio of evidence, she has constructed imaginative scenarios of sample days in the life of Emma Beckmann.

The "signpost artifacts" Martinello based her project upon included Emma's wedding portrait; her dowry wish list; a Watkins Company vanilla bottle; and a Victorian frame house. In addition to the use of signpost artifacts, Martinello provides a detailed step-by-step outline to assist others in researching a life story. They include the careful selection of the person to be studied; working with a collaborator; the use of personal papers,

photographs, personal recollections, court records, maps, and newspapers; and how to organize the data and interpret the evidence.

While Martinello's fictionalized versions of Emma's daily life portray Emma as a traditional woman with little apparent interest in the world of ideas, it would also be possible, given the same evidence, to infer that Emma might have been interested in temperance, suffrage, women's club activities, or World War I. But because so much of women's lives are spent in life-cycle activities and in the chores of daily living, it is often difficult to document their community activities if they are not leaders, or their feelings and aspirations if they leave no diaries or letters.

Ruthe Winegarten
Austin, Texas

Separate Pasts. Growing up White in the Segregated South. By Melton A. McLaurin. (University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA 30602), 1987. Photographs. P. 164. \$13.95.

Although *Separate Pasts* was written by a professional historian, it is not a standard history of Southern segregation but instead is Melton A. McLaurin's intensely personal recollections and reflections on his experiences in the last generation to spend its teenage years "Growing Up White in the Segregated South." Southern white readers over forty years of age will remember similar persons they knew and experiences they had. All readers will gain new insights into the ways that personal, inter-racial relationships caused many whites to question and reject segregation.

McLaurin sets the scene by describing his family and the small, eastern North Carolina town, Wade, where he grew up. In the rest of the book, he evokes his relationships with Bobo, Street, Betty Jo, Sam, Granddaddy and Viny Love, and Jerry and Miss Carrie — the black men, women, and young people he knew while working in his grandfather's store. Dealing openly with his feelings and beliefs, he makes his narrative powerful, but not patronizing or preachy.

McLaurin writes well, with a novelist's flair for setting, action, characterization, and dialogue. His scholarship is not obtrusive, but gives the stories added dimensions as he compares Wade's inhabitants to historical or fictional characters.

Separate Pasts would be effective in courses as a counterpoint to Richard Wright's *Black Boy* or Anne Moody's *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, but it should not be confined to classrooms. This personal book deserves a personal reaction. I believe that most scholars and general adult readers will join me in sharing this book with our children or other youngsters in the hope that they may understand, but never experience, such a society.

Robert G. Sherer
Wiley College

Breaking the Ice. The Racial Integration of the Southwest Conference.

By Richard Pennington. (McFarland & Co., Publishers, Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640), 1987. Bibliography. Index. P. 182. \$19.95.

Most football fans probably find it difficult to imagine a time when black athletes did not play in the Southwest Conference. Yet as Richard Pennington points out, the conference integrated its football teams in 1966 when John Westbrook, a walk-on, went to Baylor University, and Southern Methodist University awarded a scholarship to Jerry LeVias. The University of Houston, not a member of the conference until 1976, had recruited Warren McVea a year earlier. The conference in reality remained an all-white one until the early 1970s. In this well-written and interesting book, Pennington explains how the process occurred, and why it took so long.

The author devotes a little over a half of the book to the stories of McVea, LeVias, and Westbrook. He considers these athletes the ones who broke the ice. Each gets a chapter; and in each chapter the reader marvels and is appalled at the pressures society placed on these young athletes. Westbrook considered suicide, and LeVias and McVea frequently thought of leaving their respective schools. Chapter five chronicles the integration of the University of Texas team. It is titled rightfully: "And the leader comes in last." Pennington does not judge Darrell Royal as harshly as did some contemporaries and later historians. He sees the coach as trapped by an obdurate Board of Regents, a high-dollar alumni, and a winning record that combined to discourage any ground-breaking recruiting of black athletes. One result would be, of course, that the university had a reputation as a racist school well into the 1970s. The last chapter records rather hastily the integration of sports in the other conference schools, comments on the like process in the Southeastern Conference and the Atlantic Coast Conference, and then speculates briefly on why black people dominate sports and how racism still exists in athletics.

The book has some problems. The last chapter seems almost an after thought rather than a conclusion. Some may quarrel with an historical approach that chooses three pioneers to represent the integration process for all the conference schools. The book worked for this reviewer, however. I found Pennington's style of understated, moral outrage at the unfairness of segregation and the price the system exacted from those who challenged it to be compelling reading. The problems faced by the three pioneers probably were similar to those encountered by the first black athletes on all college campuses. Recent comments by a baseball club's general manager and a television commentator reaffirmed the institutionalized racism of the sports establishment. This book is a timely one that reminds us how far desegregation has come in such a short time and how far it needs to go.

Robert A. Calvert
Texas A&M University

The Year America Discovered Texas. Centennial '36. By Kenneth B. Ragsdale. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C., College Station, Tx. 77843), 1987. Photographs. Bibliography. Index. P. 325. \$18.95.

The idea for a Texas Centennial to mark one hundred years of Texas independence came at a convention of the Advertising Clubs of Texas at Corsicana in November, 1923. Thirteen years later, on June 6, 1936, at Dallas, the official opening of the Texas Centennial Central Exposition took place. When the event closed on November 29, attendance had reached 6,354,385. And "the Lone Star State would never be the same." (p. 306) The Centennial successfully advertised the state, featured United States industrial exhibits, dramatized Texas history, entertained visitors, and created new jobs and a feeling of optimism during the height of the Great Depression.

Ken Ragsdale views this time of patriotic fervor and concludes that "Excepting national tragedies, probably no event in the state's history touched the lives of so many people, both children and adults, as did the Texas Centennial." (p. 155) The study examines Texas in the Depression; the successful efforts to amend the constitution to use state funds for a centennial exposition; the fight among the big cities (Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, and Fort Worth) for the site; the difficulties and resignations among the various advisory groups and commissions; and the final event in Dallas (Dallas had the leadership and submitted the successful bid), plus a Frontier Centennial Exposition at nearby Fort Worth. The Centennial '36 was successful. Stanley Marcus writes in his foreword that 1936 was the "turning point in history" — the year America discovered Texas. The visitors "came, they looked, they liked it."

Much that took place we still have with us. Museums were erected, historical restorations were undertaken, and historical markers were placed throughout the state.

The bibliography of this readable and entertaining history shows evidence of years spent doing research in all parts of the state. Ken Ragsdale's writing indicates that he enjoyed doing the research and the writing for *Centennial '36*. Texas readers and others will have a grand treat when they read about "the great 1936 birthday celebration."

Dorman H. Winfrey
Austin, Texas

The Five States of Texas: An Immodest Proposal. By Donald W. Whisenhunt. (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 23069, Austin, Texas 78735), 1987. Maps, Index. P. 98. \$9.95 Hardbound.

In this small but tightly-wound treatise, Don Whisenhunt addresses with satire and intelligence a concept that has intrigued most of us ever since Congress accepted Texas as a state with the condition that Texans could, if they desired, divide themselves into five separate states.

While there are probably some professional Texans who would rather swallow a Yankee's Volvo than make Texas anything smaller than it is, Whisenhunt carefully lays out an interesting case why Texans has grown too big and needs to be split apart like a Redneck cutting open a melon.

I especially liked this handling of East Texas.

He suggests that the present southeastern corner of the state be made the new State of East Texas, and that those of us living in this area be given Houston, Beaumont, Orange, Port Arthur, Lufkin, and Nacogdoches, among other cities and towns. I'd buy that concept in a Sour Lake minute if we could make Diboll (my old home town) the state capital. I don't think Arthur Temple would object.

Whisenhunt says the most compelling reason for dividing up Texas is the cost savings possible to the taxpayers. He contends the present size of Texas makes government costly and wasteful.

But, somehow, I'm reminded of Bob Murphey's story about the old East Texan who said he was in favor of dividing the country's wealth among all the people.

"Why, Uncle Jim, it wouldn't do any good," reasoned his nephew. "All of the folks with a little extra drive and ambition would work hard, make more money, and get rich again. And the lazy folks would spend their money, and pretty soon they'd be poor again."

"You don't understand," said Uncle Jim. "I want to divide it up every Saturday night."

Don Whisenhunt's book is entertaining, thoughtful and offers an interesting look at why Texas pride runs so deep — and why we'll probably never become more than a single state.

Bob Bowman

Bob Bowman & Associates, Lufkin, Texas

The Life of a Document. A Global Approach to Archives and Records Management. By Carol Couture and Jean-Yvel Rousseau. (Vehicule Press, P.O. Box 125 Place due Parc Station, Montreal, Canada H2W 2M9), 1987. Tables. Bibliography. P. 357.

The Life of a Document (originally published as *Les archives au XX^e siècle*) brings together the principals and techniques of both records managers and archivists. This alliance, so natural in theory, is often missing in practice because of the different backgrounds and underlying values of the respective practitioners. The result is a loss of historical materials as well as efficiency.

Couture and Rousseau, archivists at the Universite de Montreal, advocate a "global approach" whereby the two professions complement one another to bring about the best of both worlds. There are no break-

throughs here in either records management or archival practices. The authors have, however, produced a work that should bring about a better understanding of each profession with the other. Although few members of our association will read this work, all are affected by the issue.

Paul R. Scott
Texas State Library

Essays on Walter Prescott Webb and the Teaching of History. By Dennis Reinhartz and Stephen E. Maizlish, Editors (Texas A&M Press, Drawer C., College Station, Tx 77843), 1985. Photographs. P. 98. \$17.50.

For more than twenty years the Walter Prescott Webb Memorial Lectures have been held at the University of Texas at Arlington. The theme for the 1984 lectures, "Walter Prescott Webb and the Teaching of History," examined the impact Webb had on the historical profession both as a teacher and as a writer. Once before, in 1975, the lectures were devoted to Dr. Webb, and these were published in *Essays on Walter Prescott Webb* (1976).

In the present volume, *Essays on Walter Prescott Webb and the Teaching of History*, historian Jacques Barzun in "Walter Prescott Webb and the Fate of History," considers Webb's contribution to the study of history and examines the direction historical studies have taken since Webb's death. Elliott West explores ". . . New Ways to Teach [the History of] the American West," and Anne M. Butler and Richard A. Baker examine the Webb "Legacy." Dennis Reinhartz writes about "Teaching with Maps," a tool Webb considered essential for the classroom and his published works. Llerena Friend provides a beautiful postscript on Webb (she was a student, a colleague, and a co-worker with him on the *Handbook of Texas*), and George Wolfskill provides a fine sketch of Webb as a teacher, writer, and friend. This nineteenth volume is valuable Webbiana and a welcome companion to the 1976 *Essays*.

In their "Legacy" essay Butler and Baker state that the late Walter P. Rundell had "emerged as the foremost authority on Walter Webb" (p. 75). In the classroom Webb always cautioned students not to use such terms as "the best," "the first" etc. Use "one of the . . ." he insisted. Butler and Baker should learn this Webb dictum when they write in the future. Butler and Baker also write that "no one knew the subject [on Walter Webb the educator] better" than Walter Rundell (p. 76). What about C.B. Smith, Joe B. Frantz, W. Eugene Hollon, George Wolfskill, Llerena Friend, and Necah S. Furman?

The statement (p. 6) that *The Great Plains* "was twice a Book-of-the-Month Club selection" should have mentioned that it was an "Alternate Selection."

Dorman H. Winfrey
Austin, Texas

At Home in Texas. Early Views of the Land. By Robin W. Doughty. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1987. Bibliography. Index. P. 164. \$17.95.

This book surveys the literature written to attract settlers to early Texas between 1821 and the Civil War. Two themes are emphasized by Doughty. First, Texas, as seen by Stephen F. Austin, was a wilderness to be tamed and civilized through sweat and perseverance by a special type of settler — Southern aristocrats. It was at once a physical and spiritual challenge. For some, the prospect represented a “New Canaan.”

When land speculators began promoting Texas, a second theme emerged. The land became a “garden,” needing only tilling and care. Success was virtually assured, if these spiels were to be believed.

Idyllic views of the land flowed from many sources, notably Mary Austin Holley and William Kennedy. Detractors, too, were vocal, if generally ineffective.

Doughty’s book is a good survey of the literature of the period. More attention, however, could have been given to the views of those who actually worked the land. A closer examination also could have been made of the practice of exhausting a piece of land and then moving west. That, however, may be more an economic than intellectual issue.

The book is worth reading and is a sound contribution to the literature of Texas.

Mike Kingston
Dallas, Texas

The Japanese Texans. By Thomas K. Walls. (Institute of Texan Cultures, P.O. Box 1225, San Antonio, TX 78294), 1987. Photographs. Appendix. Sources. Photo Credits. Index. P. 254. \$14.95 Hardbound; \$8.95 Softback.

Among the ethnic groups living in Texas, the Japanese ranked as one of the smallest. Only three Japanese lived in Texas in 1890; by 1980 the total reached 10,502. This history recalls the struggle by the Japanese-Texans to live and thrive in the Lone Star State, a struggle beset with prejudice, resentment, government surveillance, and interment during World War II. Because their numbers were so small, the Japanese-Texans never wielded economic or political power nor did they have a cultural impact as was the case with Germans or other immigrants. Still, their history is important, and Walls shows how they worked to achieve economic success. The author focused on individual entrepreneurs and families, letting their life story in Texas serve as the story of the Texas Issei and Nisei.

The book is based on oral history, family histories, and official records. Walls includes the general history of American-Japanese relations in order to keep the story of the Japanese-Texans in the perspective

of world events. For an understanding of one part of Texas' ethnic history, *The Japanese Texans* is recommended.

D. Clayton Brown
Texas Christian University

Bluegrass Breakdown. The Making of the Old Southern Sound. By Robert Cantwell. (University of Illinois Press, Box 5081, Station A, Champaign, IL 61820), 1984. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 309. \$19.95.

This book is a bold and imaginative attempt to explain the meaning and cultural underpinnings of a major American musical art form. Above all, it is an exposition of what bluegrass means to one man. Cantwell's perception of and love for bluegrass music are almost mystical. His interpretation is laced with much analysis taken from literary criticism, numerous insights taken from cultural anthropology, and an abundant use of musical theory. While he does give some good history of bluegrass music, it is Cantwell's theoretical forays which are bound to be most provocative to the reader.

The book can best be described as a great leap into the dark. As such it is sure to evoke controversy, and I suspect that it will convince only a few. Cantwell stresses two major cultural forces as the chief well-springs of bluegrass music. One, the Afro-American, is easy to document, for country musicians of all stripes have always exhibited a familiarity with and a debt to black musical styles. The other presumed influence, the Celtic, is a much more shadowy phenomenon. We know of course that the Scot-Irish and other so-called Celtic people came to the South in great numbers, and that a great many of them made music, some of which is clearly evidenced in fiddle and dance tunes and in some of the surviving ballad material. Celtic music, however, intertwined with other forms of music for such a long time in both southern and early British history that it is dangerous to speculate about its surviving identity. Cantwell is correct in arguing that at some point in history these two styles came together and found an easy accommodation. But German, Cajun, and Mexican styles, to cite only three examples, made dramatic inroads into southern musical culture. Cantwell's greatest insight, and one which I think will stand the test of time and analysis, is his argument that Country music drew heavily from blackface minstrelsy and has continued to demonstrate that influence to the present time, particularly in the old-time based forms such as bluegrass. That influence, like that of the Afro-American, is easy to document — in fiddle and dance tunes, songs and ballads, comedy, and even in the cork-face style of costuming. More important, Cantwell notes that bluegrass music has functioned as a minstrel form. That is, just as blackface minstrelsy introduced to American life a white man's version of black culture, so has bluegrass promoted a pristine conception of southern rural and/or mountain life.

I think Cantwell errs, or at least greatly exaggerates, when he stresses the mountain aspects of bluegrass music. It is true that many of the early

bluegrass musicians came from either the mountains or surrounding hill country, and that some of the songs which comprise the bluegrass core repertory came from mountain sources. Nevertheless, the roots of bluegrass lie in the rural South, and in the wide range of musical choices long available to its people. Furthermore, many seminal musicians, including the Father of Bluegrass, Bill Monroe, were born and reared well outside the Appalachians. It should also be recalled that while bluegrass is one of the musical forms favored by mountain people (whether at home or transplanted in Detroit), it is certainly not the only one. Appalachian mountaineers have reached out in many musical directions, as can be heard in the widely disparate performances of such people as Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton, Don Gibson, Roy Acuff, Jimmy Dickens, Keith Whitley, Chet Atkins, and Ronnie Milsap.

Whatever the limitations of this book, and there are some, one still has to give both the book and Cantwell very high marks. The book is provocative and challenging. It is, for the most part, factually accurate, and may very well be correct in its theorizing. But one still awaits the proof.

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Texas Myths. Edited by Robert F. O'Connor (College Station: Texas A&M Press), 1986. Notes. Index. P. 248. \$17.95.

In 1985 the Texas Committee for the Humanities set forth for investigation a central theme entitled "Myths of Texas." Out of a two-day conference on the subject a number of papers emerged. In turn, TCH Associate Director Robert F. O'Connor collected this material, asked other scholars for singular essays on their fields of expertise, and then edited their works. *Texas Myths* is the result.

Whenever sixteen authors address a single subject, a "mixed bag" of credits and debits usually occurs: *Texas Myths* is no exception. For instance, each author defines, sometimes at length, his or her understanding of myth. The first two essays, which deal with theory, are technical, academic to the point of unreadability, at best esoteric. The next section, entitled "The Clash of Cultures on the Texas Frontier," is both readable and informative, the best essays being those by Bill Newcomb and Bill Goetzmann. And the concluding essays on "Historical Myths about Nature, the Individual, and Social Life" are also uneven but, overall, informative, with Sandra Myres, C.W. Smith, and T.R.Fehrenbach topping the list.

Texas Myths will be disappointing to some readers. While many of the authors have written interestingly and well, three or four essays incorporating more concisely the different aspects of Texas myths would have been more satisfying and equally beneficial.

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