
Eugene Campbell Barker entered the University of Texas as a freshman in the fall of 1895, and, with the exception of a few years spent in graduate school, remained with the institution until his retirement in 1950. During many of these years, Barker was Chairman of the Department of History and deserves credit for building a truly outstanding department.

Barker was a man of high character and determined loyalties. Although a casual acquaintance might never have known it, he was compassionate and generous. By every scale, he deserves to be remembered as a great teacher, a great historian, and a great man. One evidence of his stature is the fact that many historians trained at the University of Texas use Barker as their model.

Research and teaching were his major interests, but Barker was deeply concerned with the welfare of the institution. He was involved in some causes extensively—in the major issues and controversies which involved the University between 1915 and 1950. He was a diligent behind-the-scenes worker in defending the University against the attacks of Governor Ferguson in 1917. Several documents issued during that controversy were written by Barker even though his name does not appear on them.

Barker opposed the abandonment of the campus in north Austin for a new campus on the Colorado River. He also had a part in building a campus opposition which caused Governor Pat Neff to decline the presidency of the University when it was offered to him in 1923. He supported President Rainey in the initial stages of his dispute with the Regents, but finally came to believe that the welfare of the University demanded a new president.

Barker's position of leadership in the faculty is also indicated by the fact that he was seriously considered for the presidency on at least one occasion. It is just as well that the offer was never made because there are far more acceptable administrators than scholars.

In April, 1950, just a few weeks before his retirement, Barker was present for the dedication of the Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center on the University campus. This tribute was great within itself. It becomes even greater in view of the fact that never before had the University dedicated a building or a function to a living faculty member.

The author has written a biography which will please the friends and associates of Barker and which deserves to be classified as good. The presentation is accurate and fair, and every attempt is made to avoid taking sides in faculty politics. This position is maintained even in discussing the New Deal which Barker was never able to look upon as anything other than a personal affront.

The book has a pleasing appearance and a good index. Both the text and the footnotes give evidence of careful research, and there are few errors. It is a pleasing biography of the Eugene C. Barker whom I knew.

Ralph W. Steen
Stephen F. Austin State University
In honor of Dr. Richardson's eighty years Hardin-Simmons University has published this attractively bound, fifty-one page synopsis of the man. Katharyn Duff has written an informative biography which belies its brevity by capturing the spirit of Professor Richardson and indicating his contributions to his cherished institution, his denomination, and his state. The reader will be impressed with the scholarly contributions to studies of the Southwest from a lanky, droll West Texan. Miss Duff is quite accurate in declaring that he is well received by all generations. To watch and listen as he combs sparse locks of hair with his hand while expostulating on the peculiarities of bees is to love the man. To read the listing of his works compiled by librarians Turpin and Gatlin, the listing of these directed, and that of his honors and awards compiled by Hardin-Simmons University's Director of Public Information Charles Richardson, is to be awed by his productivity. This volume will be useful as a bibliographical source for those interested in Texas or Southwestern United States history; it will be appreciated by those who know or would like to know Rupert N. Richardson.

Jerry M. Self
Nacogdoches, Texas


Knowing how and when to use the reference library is the key to efficient research. Helen J. Poulton, librarian and historian, offers The Historian's Handbook: A Descriptive Guide to Reference Works as a one volume signpost to the primary reference aids available to the historian in his search for bibliographic materials. After consulting the categorically listed resources, the researcher can quickly find the specific title for his purpose, thus eliminating many hours of combing the library for a reference book that fills his need. The handbook, it should be noted, is not an intensive study of the contents of reference books but is primarily a directory of where the student can go to find bibliographic information on a given topic.

Poulton does not pretend to catalog all materials useful in a particular area but rather selects and lists only basic reference tools; for example, the Directory of American Scholars is given as the standard work listing living American scholars while other sources are noted though not annotated. Abundant footnotes provide the complete publication data on each work. The major categories into which the author places reference materials include: libraries and catalogs, guides and manuals, encyclopedias and dictionaries, almanacs and statistical handbooks, serials and newspapers, geographical aids, biographical materials, primary sources and dissertations, legal sources, and government publications. The categories are subdivided into periods of history, such as
Medieval and Modern, and sometimes into countries in which case reference guides in the native language are provided.

This volume is not for casual reading but intends to be an informative, readily accessible handbook for exploring the library's many reference materials. Containing steps for researching a topic, from checking the card catalog to consulting government publications, the book proves most valuable to the student or amateur historical writer, someone who is not yet familiar or comfortable in using the wealth of resource material in print. Bound in paperback or cloth, The Historian's Handbook is a worthwhile addition to every writing historian's library.

Carolyn Koch
Lane City, Texas


The Bicentennial Era is expected to renew interest in our nation's history as well as in its patriotic societies. In keeping with that expectation this volume is intended to be to America what Burke's LANDED GENTRY OF GREAT BRITAIN is to England. THE HEREDITARY REGISTER includes hereditary organizations whose members have proven lineal descent from ancestors resident in the United States not later than the time of the American Revolution.

THE REGISTER contains a listing of many such hereditary societies. It is divided into two major portions. The first lists hereditary societies and gives data on their history, their purposes and objectives, their membership requirements, their current national officers, and their insignia. Only those societies have been included which require the applicants, in at least one class of memberships, to establish under the most rigid genealogical standards, their descent, generation by generation, from qualifying ancestors.

The second section contains biographical data on prominent officers and members of the societies listed alphabetically. The selection of persons included was done by an anonymous committee composed of past and present national officers of the nation's leading patriotic and hereditary societies. It is difficult to determine any criterion for the selection of those listed. Many included are not officers in the societies, either on the state or national level. Their prominence is not questioned, but it seems inappropriate to include a random sampling of chapter members and to omit most of the national presidents of the various societies. Only one-fourth of the National Presidents, Regents and Commanders were included. If THE HEREDITARY REGISTER wishes to rival Burke's LANDED GENTRY these National officers should be included because of the prominence of their offices, if for no other reason.

This volume will be an asset to public libraries because it contains an excellent description of the societies, their histories and their requirements. The requirements are occasionally incomplete, but space is limited. The listing of Hereditary Societies is lengthy, but several are conspicuous by their absence:
The Nation Society of Magna Charta Dames; Colonial Order of the Crown; The Society of Descendants of King William I, The Conqueror and His Companions at Arms; The Society of Friends of St. George and the Association of Descendants of the Knights of the Garter; Order of Washington; Society of Old Plymouth Colony Descendants; Plantagenet Society; and The Hugenot Society of the Founders of Manakin in the Colony of Virginia.

THE HEREDITARY REGISTER does a fine job describing some of the hereditary societies in America. A complete register will be a difficult task due to the proliferation of such societies in recent years. This is a valuable beginning, but only a beginning.

Carolyn Reeves Ericson
Nacogdoches, Texas

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These journals, reports and letters written by three priests, a sailing master and the commander of a Spanish frigate, offer an excellent opportunity for comparing descriptions of a certain event. There is always a problem of subjectivity in any historical analysis of a given situation, but it is one of particular interest for scholars of Spanish and Latin American history. All too often, from the time of the Spanish conquests, historians of other nations have made derogatory comment on Spaniards' character and treatment of Indians. The English, French, Dutch, and later the U.S., by making the Spanish look wrong, could justify their own intervention into these areas. In 1775, again France and England were locked in fierce struggle for world domination, and Russia under Catherine the Great had already shown an appetite for new colonies in this part of the world. Spain's California had never been safe from these nations and now the danger was greater than ever. Even the little group of colonies on the Atlantic were challenging the British Crown and, once independent, might become interested in this valuable territory.

Junipero Serra, soon after he arrived in Mexico in 1750, began to preach the necessity of founding colonies on California's coast that the Spanish might protect the Indians there. So for the Church as well as the Crown, knowledge of this Bay as a base for future operations was of major importance.

From the journal of Father Miguel de la Campa, we hear of Captain Manique's mental aberration and a shooting accident which wounded the second officer, Lieutenant Ayala. Though shot in the foot, he was given command of the San Carlos being equipped for the California venture. From this seemingly unimportant human interest event, the first man to set foot on the San Francisco shore was a sailing master and not the usual officer in command! Father Vicente Santa Maria takes up the narrative in a report to his superior which was sent to the Viceroy of New Spain, Antonio Maria Bucareli, in Mexico City. The first reconnaissance of the harbor by the sailing master, Jose Canizares, is described, but it is the customs, dress, and character of the Indians that fascinate
Father Vicente. His comments on their “friendly generosity”, their food, hair styles, and canoes, are sufficiently detailed to enable artists to make some excellent drawings, included in the book. The Indians’ attitudes toward their elders, their obedience, docility and hospitality were much respected by the Spaniards. The subjective values of a priest are interestingly shown by Father Vicente’s statement that; “What is certain is that they themselves, [these “unfortunates”] seem to be asking a start at entering within the fold of our Catholic religion.”

From the journal of Juan Manuel de Ayala, we have corroboration of all these accurate descriptions of the Indians’ character and customs. Again, we see Captain Ayala’s admirable personality in that he gives credit to his sailing master for his bravery and fine reports on the new land surveyed. Natural to an expeditionary ship commander, he described the harbor and its great strategic value. He also reports the first Mass said in this Bay and his reasons for naming certain islands. These accounts and those of Jose Canizares who included a map of San Francisco Bay, were remarkably well done.

The final section is an account by Father Crespi who had accompanied the Fages land expedition in 1772. They had seen and reported the Bay and therefore played an important part toward influencing the Viceroy of New Spain to send the San Carlos expedition. Here too, we have verification of a great deal of the valuable information given in the other reports, with more fine drawings and maps.

Viva L. Rainey
Centenary College of Louisiana


Although Robert Quirk states (p. 134) the “Southwest United States was Spanish longer than it has been American and its study forms a natural part of Mexican history,” he cannot devote a large amount of space to the separation of Texas from Mexico or to the Mexican War. These periods of special interest to Texas historians are treated in a straightforward manner in the text, pp. 58-60, 67-70, and the still unsatisfied reader is referred, (pp. 134, 143), to the standard works and the most recent English-language scholarship in the excellent, lengthy bibliographic essay.

However, the value of Robert Quirk’s essay lies in the store of information and interpretation that it presents the reader in such a brief form. Covering man’s development in the geographic area of Mexico from 7,500 B.C. through Luis Echeverria’s recent election to the Mexican Presidency, the essay constantly reminds the reader of the Mexican’s peculiar concern for his own history. After an introductory chapter delineating this concern for history and a chapter on the Indian cultures, the remainder of the book describes how Spanish, other European, and United States institutions and ideas have interacted with the original Indian cultures to produce modern Mexico.
Quirk's *Mexico* is a versatile book. A tourist or lay reader will find a great nation described in a factually informative style which stimulates curiosity about that country's past and present. The professional historian, particularly the Mexican specialist, encounters a good synthesis of new research and new interpretation combined with an extensive, useful bibliographic essay. The Texan will find a good brief history of that country which is now their southern neighbor, but, which for almost three hundred years, was their historical companion. Perhaps the best thing that can be said of Quirk's book is that it leaves one with the impression that a Mexican intellectual or historian would rate it an excellent book of its type—a short, synthesizing essay on Mexico's political and cultural heritage.

Thomas Schoonover
University of Southwestern Louisiana


*The Presidents of Mexican Texas* is the first publication of the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and The Presidential Museum. The booklet consists of two articles, "Two Cultures Meet" by University of Texas Regent Jenkins Garrett and "Texas and Her Mexican Presidents" by Odessa College Professor of History Kenneth D. Yielding.

Garrett's article, first delivered September 16, 1971, during the "Grito de Dolores" luncheon, is a comment on the Spanish and Mexican influences on the state of Texas. Some of the influences noted are the names of most rivers, physical features, and towns in the state. Additional Spanish and Mexican influences can be found in certain words in the English language, land laws of Texas, and the techniques of ranching which were adopted from the Mexicans to suit the environment of the plains.

The second article, "Texas and Her Mexican Presidents", studies the Presidents of the Republic of Mexico and their relationship to Texas. During the years that Texas was a part of the Republic of Mexico, that country had eleven presidents whose decisions and actions had "a profound and lasting effect upon Texas and Texans." Yielding begins with a description of the new Mexican government and follows that with short sketches of each of the eleven Presidents, with special emphasis on their actions which especially affected Texas.

This booklet is an excellent beginning for the publication activities of the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and The Presidential Museum. The study of both the Spanish influence in Texas and the period of the Republic of Mexico should never be lost under the impact of Anglo-American colonization. The space limitations of this booklet have, naturally, forced the authors to be brief and further study in these areas is needed. But this booklet would be of interest to anyone interested in Texas History.

Janet L. Jelen
Norman, Oklahoma

This facsimile edition of Dr. Wislizenus' account of his 1846-47 journey through Northern Mexico is the forty-fifth title in the Beautiful Rio Grande Classics series of basic source books in American History. A reprinting of the doctor's 1839 Journey to the Rocky Mountains, appeared earlier in the series. The first edition was published in 1848 as United States Senate Miscellaneous Document No. 26, 30th Congress, 1st Session, at the instance of Senator Thomas Hart Benson from Missouri. The publication at hand is a facsimile of the original complete with reproductions of the map, geological sketch, elevation profile chart and botanical appendix which appeared in the original 5200 copy edition. There have been added a publisher's preface and a brief introduction by Armand W. Reeder.

A German liberal expatriate trained in medicine in Zurich, Dr. Wislizenus was practicing medicine in St. Louis in partnership with Dr. George Engelmann, who became well-known as a naturalist and botanical collector. The author, a competent geologist and naturalist himself, decided to undertake a journey from Independence to Santa Fe and from there to Northern Mexico and Upper California with his principal object being scientific. He desired to examine the geography, natural history and resource statistics of the region. "The intention, in short,... was to gain information of a country that was but little known" (p. 3).

The outbreak of war between Mexico and the United States caused Wislizenus to change his plans. At Santa Fe he decided to go to Chihuahua where the circumstances of the war again gave his journey a new direction. After being freed from an area detention, he joined Col. Doniphan's regiment as a surgeon for the march via Monterrey to Reynosa and thence by water to New Orleans. His account covers a fourteen-month period during which he travels 2,200 miles over land.

Interspersed with diary-like entries detailing distances traversed, places visited, people encountered and scientific observations recorded, are somewhat more detailed accounts of New Mexico and Chihuahua including boundaries, rivers, soil conditions, economic activities including agriculture, stock raising and mining, climate, history, manners and customs. There are descriptions of Santa Fe, Albuquerque, El Paso del Norte, Chihuahua City and Cosihuiriachi.

While Dr. Wislizenus' account of his earlier trip is pure Americana, this second volume is a mixture of southwestern and northern Mexican interest. Almost half the text data is his travels along the Santa Fe Trail in the company of the caravan of a Santa Fe trader. One is struck by the "business as usual" attitude prevailing in the New Mexico community during the early phases of the war between Mexico and her northern neighbor. The balance of the volume consists of the memoirist's record of his travels and residence in Northern Mexico as well as a day to day account, covering some twenty pages, of his experiences with Col. Doniphan's regiment. It was the latter account's timeliness rather than its proportion of the journal which accounts for the reference to it in the book's subtitle.

The writer is a perceptive observer and a careful and succinct recorder of what he has seen. He appears to have been more interested in plants, geological
formations and barometrical observations than in human and social affairs, but the latter are not ignored. There is an occasional glimpse of local history as he explains the origin of a place name or some recent events which had occurred there.

The facsimile edition is well-presented and printed, even including the sixteen-page signature which the publisher points out was badly "foxed" in the original from which they had to work. Students of American southwestern history will find the book an interesting added source book for readings in the history of the southwest while Mexicanists will welcome the easier availability of the observations of a keen observer of selected events in northern Mexico from late April through May 1847. While there are fuller and richer accounts, these memoirs represent additional raw material for the historian of that period.

Stanley R. Ross
Austin, Texas


Haldeen Braddy has assembled what he calls "a miscellany of folktale and myth" from his published papers. The result is a colorful, informative, and rather chaotic volume that varies considerably in its quality of scholarship and composition. Some of the essays are fascinating, some are superficial, and a number are repetitious. At times Braddy writes handsomely, effortlessly integrating Spanish and Anglo words, yet some of his essays are journalistic and hackneyed in style. The book is poorly organized giving little evidence that pains were taken to weave the essays into a consistent whole or weed duplicate materials.

The title attempts to spread a blanket over the whole collection, but a Missouri item on Jesse James and three folk tales from East Texas stand out like the proverbial sore thumb and serve to demonstrate what a huge gulf separates the cultures of East and West Texas. The East Texas reader will find here a few hunting yarns, a riddle, and a spook story from Sulphur Springs as well as a reminder that Pecos Bill was reputedly born in the Piney Woods of East Texas. The rest will strike him as alien indeed.

Braddy is no alien to the Borderland, however, and he interprets that area with relish and insight. While the Rio Grande separates two cultures it also creates a third culture populated by smugglers, addicts, prostitutes, law men, cockers, bull fighters, and old Villistas who recount endless legends regarding their hero. Braddy himself is ambivalent towards Villa, hating him and loving him in turn, and he adopts a similarly uncertain attitude towards those engaged in the nefarious drug traffic. He does not hide his admiration for the inventive and colorful jargon and life-style of the Pachucos and other underworld figures who haunt the Border, yet in another essay he acknowledges the great threat which the drugs so prevalent along this Border pose for civilized society. Folklorists will find a treasury of words, riddles, and tales here, and the historian will find useful essays on Villa, Pershing, the Mexican Revolution, and the society of the Border region.
In this day of Women's Liberation one should be grateful for the many vignettes of Border women which Braddy provides. Toreras such as "that paragon of female fighters, the non-pareil Bette Ford," effectively destroy stereotypes as well as bulls, and the vice molls such as notorious La Nacha (Ignacia Jasso), "Nellie the Booze Queen," and their legion of perdidas (prostitutes) and "runners" give ample proof that "Women's Lib" will not produce a millennium of virtue on the Border or anywhere else.

Author and editor have been guilty of more laxity and error than is usual in scholarly publications, and even the typesetters went to sleep (p. 187!), yet the book has many nuggets of value that makes it loud and clear that Mexico and the Southwest comprise a fascinating retreat from our standardized civilization.

Edward Hake Phillips
Austin College


This small monograph was written about one of the survivors of the Goliad Massacre, Isaac D. Hamilton, by his great-great-nephew, Lester Hamilton, former co-owner and managing editor of the Herald-Press in Palestine, Texas.

An interesting story is woven from affidavits by the survivor which are attested to by those closely associated with him, and which are on file in the Texas University and Texas State Libraries in Austin. The author readily admits that he verbalizes what must have been some of the thoughts of the survivor, however.

Standard works are utilized by the author, in a parallel account which comprises the middle of each chapter, to give the reader a running commentary of the other major facts of the Texas Revolution. Actually only forty-one pages deal specifically with the story of Hamilton. Contrary to publicity released by the publisher, there is a published account of at least one other survivor of the massacre at Goliad. J. C. Duval in his book, Early Times In Texas (originally published in 1892 by H. P. N. Gammel & Co., Austin and later in facsimile reproduction by the Steck Co., Austin, 1935) relates the adventures of Jack Dobell and his successful attempt to escape the massacre at Goliad. Unlike Hamilton, however, Duval was not wounded in his escape, which was in various other points similar to Hamilton's.

The prisoners of Goliad had been promised their freedom but instead were marched out of the fort and shot on Palm Sunday, March 27, 1836. Isaac Hamilton was severely wounded in the massacre but managed to escape detection of the Mexican soldiers. Later in the day he met three others who had also eluded their captors. The four escapees traveled by night and rested by day. The other three unwounded men took turns carrying Hamilton for several days before he insisted on being left behind so the others would have a better chance to survive.

Flashbacks are used by the author to inform the reader about the recruitment of Hamilton and others in Courtland, Alabama, and the events preceding Goliad.
Fannin's leadership abilities are called into question before the seige of Goliad and he is blamed for the predicament of his command.

Hamilton, struggling to survive with blood oozing from his wounded legs, managed to find a little food and to exist until discovered by Don Placido Benavides of Victoria who had been caught in the middle of the war between the Texans and Mexicans. While attempting to transport Hamilton in his wagon to Victoria, Benavides was discovered by Mexican troops and turned Hamilton over to them. Though very ill, Hamilton was harshly treated by the Mexicans after reaching Victoria. Finally, however, Panchita Alavez, a Mexican lady in sympathy with the Texans, aided Hamilton in escaping, which was easier at this time for the news of Houston's victory at San Jacinto had reached Victoria and caused panic throughout the Mexican command.

Later events in the life of Isaac Hamilton are likewise quite colorful and this interesting volume makes leisurely reading for the young as well as the older student of Texas history.

Ronald C. Ellison
Beaumont, Texas


Ann Raney Coleman was born in England in 1810, came to Texas in 1832, and died in the Lone Star state in 1897. Near the end of a lifetime of excitement and tragedy, she wrote her memoirs. With a clear mind she recalled the desperate flight of her family in the Runaway Scrape when a mass of war-refugee Texians fled from the oncoming army of Santa Anna. In panic her first husband, John Thomas, sold his Texas plantation at a loss. With her children, husband, and few remaining slaves, she began a new life in Louisiana when Thomas became overseer of a sugar planter's holdings. After his death in 1847, Ann Raney married John Coleman who not only dissipated what little property she had left, but who also treated her rather cruelly. The second marriage ended in divorce.

During a yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans she returned to Texas in 1853. Ann Raney Coleman (she reassumed her former husband's name after the divorce) worked during her later life as housekeeper and teacher. During the Civil War she was once more caught as a non-combatant in a war zone when Union troops shelled Lavaca.

There is much value in this little book for the researcher of social history, such as glimpses of slavery on a small plantation, and the strained relationship between a planter's wife and a female domestic slave who had been a member of the planter's household before his marriage. In addition, the hardships of civilians in the Texas Revolution and the Civil War are revealing. During the latter conflict, for example, Mrs. Coleman and other women constantly pressed local authorities to supply them with food and fuel. Often they were successful but usually they obtained such necessities through their own efforts. The Victorian Lady was delighted when a strong wind collapsed the nearby Baptist
church one night “as it was a very old building.” When daybreak arrived “we found ourselves in possession of a lot of lumber for firewood.” Insights into the insecure life and meagre salary of a frontier teacher are also found in this work. Finally, problems of Victorian marital relationships abound. Ann Raney’s first marriage was severely strained during the Runaway Scrape when her husband, after losing his plantation, lapsed into a severe mental depression. She divorced her second husband, and her only child to reach maturity, a daughter, was also divorced.

Using various manuscript collections and secondary works, the editor has supplied the reader with a plethora of footnotes which describe characters, towns, and events mentioned in the “journal.” King has also used footnotes to supply substantiating evidence in order to stress the historical veracity of the work. The only criticism which this reviewer would offer is that the subtitle appears to be a misnomer. “The Reminiscences of Ann Raney Coleman” would be more accurate. But most importantly, *Victorian Lady* captures the tragedy and the indomitable spirit of 19th century Texas.

Donald E. Green
Central State University of Oklahoma

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The audacious Louis Wigfall at Fort Sumter—on an unauthorized mission, in a small boat, with a white flag tied onto the end of his sword, demanding Major Robert Anderson’s surrender—such usually is the only image that one can conjure up of this complex southern politician. A secessionist twenty-five years before the Civil War, Wigfall worked as hard and as flamboyantly as any other man to create the Confederacy.

Originally a South Carolinian—in Wigfall’s early years he “could not remember anything good about his state’s relations with the federal government” (p. 7)—he fell into “social and political as well as financial” bankruptcy (p. 20) and therefore moved to Texas in 1846 seeking a new life, living first in Nacogdoches and then in Marshall. Taking advantage of turbulent conditions, and the John Brown incidents, he became politically prominent and led the Texans into greater and greater distrust of the North, ultimately into secession. He served Texas as a senator in both the United States and Confederate congresses. Then, after the Confederacy collapsed, he briefly returned to his adopted state, walking all the way from Georgia.

Probing Wigfall’s personality, King hammers hard at the point that Wigfall was paranoid and an aristocratic militarist “without the slightest identification with the ideas of liberty and equality.” (p. 156). In disposition, Wigfall mingled a devil-may-care zestfulness with a rather persistent death-wish. Finding no solace in religion, he believed that it might be a fiction, and shockingly once admitted that if he had any prospects of a happy life after death, he would commit suicide.
Thus, finding instantaneous self-destruction undesirable, Wigfall went about the business much more slowly and systematically; destroying as much of his world as he could, along with himself. Paradoxically, there seems little doubt that Wigfall consciously loved the South and the Confederacy. The trouble was that, like Jefferson Davis—with whom he at first enjoyed a close relationship, and then bitter enmity later—Wigfall could not bring himself to be revolutionary enough. He was one of the most able and thoroughly devoted of Confederate congressmen, yet he stood ready to sacrifice all rather than to yield on compromiseable points.

King suggests that his biography of Wigfall is a "case study of the radical brand of southern proslavery leaders often referred to as 'fire-eaters.'" (vii-viii). Actually it points to the need for much more work on all the fire-eaters. Historiographically, it is mostly a return (perhaps justifiably) with refinements to the Revisionist "blundering generation" theory formulated by James G. Randall, but at times King seems overly insensitive to the sophistication of Allan Nevins' New Nationalist interpretation, particularly on the matter of racial adjustment.

The biography is excellent, both readable and noteworthy for its research, but it remains somehow disturbing. Most importantly, we still do not know enough about Wigfall's role in its context on the stage of history. Both personality and circumstance interact to influence events; their proportionate importance and relative interaction need investigation. I think King badly overplays his paranoia thesis in Wigfall's case, while leaving us hanging and pondering how, if at all, it might apply in other cases. If Wigfall was paranoid, then were all the fire-eaters similarly afflicted? Is paranoia what made a man become a fire-eater? In the present work King appears to imply this, and even that the whole southern people displayed some mental disorder.

On another plane, some of King's basic interpretations provoke disagreement. In spite of his disclaimer, one does sense a notion of inevitability in the picture as he paints it. Finally, King's alternatives are too simple. For example, "too many southerners," he says, "were like Wigfall in failing to understand how they could share in the industrial revolution, how they could prosper economically and survive socially by ending slavery and incorporating freed Negroes into southern society." (p. 116). That would have been asking an awful lot of mid-nineteenth century southerners, and just too much of Louis T. Wigfall.

Herman Hattaway
University of Missouri—Kansas City

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The title of this interesting book, as is seen, is taken from the common salutation of the letters written by O. C. Connor to his wife. It is the compilation of some forty letters spanning the years from 1852 to 1865. The letters have been meticulously edited by Connor, a descendant, although the relationship is not exactly established.
This work seems to have been largely genealogically inspired, but the dust jacket information claims that the book is of much research value to the historian. Certainly it will be of value to those interested in the early families and histories of Cass, Red River and Lamar counties. Further, it will be of some value to those doing research in the Trans-Mississippi Confederacy since most of the letters were written while Connor was serving in Walker’s Texas Division. Connor’s brief association with the headquarters staff of General Edmund Kirby-Smith offers an enticing glimpse into an obscure corner of the Confederacy.

The Connor letters offer a refreshing, unvarnished first-hand account of the rural life in north-east Texas and of camp life in the Confederate army. O. C. Connor came to Texas with his family and in 1852 married Mary America Aiken. He was a successful farmer who owned considerable land and seventeen slaves by 1860. With the outbreak of the Civil War Connor enlisted in the 19th Texas Infantry Regiment and was elected a Lieutenant in his company. His letters to America relate mostly to camp life, news of relatives, and instructions to her on how to manage the farm in his absence. This task she apparently performed quite well in spite of the home-front shortages and other hardships. Their slaves remained faithful and docile and kept the farm productive. In fact, it would appear that the relationship between the Connors and their chattels was almost family-like, a closeness that would continue after the war.

The editor, perhaps professionally bound, cites the last two letters as further evidence of the revisionist school of Reconstruction. He concludes that as far as the principals involved in the correspondence are concerned that Reconstruction was not as harsh as has been traditionally depicted. Without wishing to belabor the point, it might be noted that confined to the same microcosmic evidence one could conclude the same about the Civil War.

Perhaps the true merit of this book lies not so much in the epilogue or prologue but in the highly skillful manner in which the letters were edited. Dear America could well be the textbook example on how to go about this sort of thing. Connor’s research is exacting and thorough and the reader is left in little doubt about the proper names and places mentioned in the correspondence. Heavy use was made of census records and state and national archives. Perhaps a little more reliance on primary Civil War sources and less on Henderson’s work would have strengthened the book. But this is a minor point overshadowed by the contribution the book makes as a whole to the field of Texana. It is truly a pleasure to read.

Robert W. Glover
Tyler Junior College


In 1866 Congress authorized the creation of six black regiments—two of cavalry and four of infantry—to serve under white officers in the Regular Army. Three years later the infantry regiments were reduced to two—the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth regiments—and assigned to duty on the Texas frontier. In 1880
the Twenty-fifth Infantry was transferred to Dakota Territory, and the Twenty-fourth was sent to occupy posts first in Indian Territory and later in Arizona. In his study, *The Black Infantry in the West*, Arlen Fowler, a history professor at Eastern Illinois University at Charleston, reviews the history of the two black regiments during the period of the Indian Wars. As most of the enlisted men were illiterate and left no records, he bases his research primarily on War Department records, government documents, and a wide variety of published literature. Although it attempts to rescue the black regiments from obscurity and delineate their contributions to the winning of the West, his book lacks the dimensions and research to fulfill that purpose.

Fowler's study contains seven chapters. The first four describe the service of black infantry first in the Southwest and later in the Dakotas and Arizona. Primarily assigned to housekeeping tasks, the blacks were generally scattered in company-size units among several posts, where they were used for guards, escort duty, and construction work. When in the field they were often auxiliaries to the black cavalry, and only rarely were in combat. The author dwells on the privations the blacks suffered, the monotony of their duties, and the discrimination they endured. Less is said about the nature, abilities, and success of the white officers who trained, disciplined, and led them. In these chapters, it is interesting to note that J. Evetts Haley's works on Fort Concho and the military campaigns in West Texas (where both black cavalry and infantry figured prominently) were not cited, nor were contemporary Texas newspapers used as sources. The author emphasizes that the desertion rate was low, but does not present statistics on the re-enlistment rate. One wonders also about the marksmanship of the black infantry, and the frequency of their arrest and time spent in the guardhouse.

The remaining chapters are topical. Here the author discusses army education for blacks, army attitudes toward blacks, and the need for more studies of black military accomplishments. The chapter on army education is one of the best in the book. It emphasizes the role the chaplains played in starting schools for black soldiers, and in formulating policy for general army programs. Army attitudes toward black soldier varied considerably. General Ord, for example, declared that black infantryment were irresponsible and inefficient, and that extra officers were required for record keeping in their regiments. General Terry, however, found the black troops submissive, well behaved, and easily disciplined. Field and company grade officers serving with the black regiments generally praised their men.

Fowler's book contains a foreword by William H. Leckie (author of *The Buffalo Soldiers*), four photographs pertinent to the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth regiments, chapter notes, a bibliography, and an index. The text is remarkably free of typographical errors. Samuel Maxey's middle initial (p. 122) should be B., instead of D. Historians will welcome this book, for it calls attention to the great need for additional studies of the black contributions to Western military history.

Harwood P. Hinton  
University of Arizona

In 1877 the relatively stable, affluent port town and trading center of Jefferson, Texas was undergoing changes that were to lead to her eventual decline. The centuries-old Great Raft, a series of permanent logjams, had been removed from Red River in 1874. This lowered the water level of Cypress Bayou and hastened the decline of Jefferson as a port town. The extension and re-routing of certain railroads to the west, after 1876, also contributed to her long-range economic problems. Nevertheless, radical Reconstruction had come to an end and Jefferson, like much of the country, was optimistic, aggressively materialistic, and caught up in the prevailing economic and transportation revolutions. It was a time when traditional public and private morality were at a low ebb. Scandals rocked the Grant administration, flamboyant railroad builders made the headlines, and the last West was being conquered and settled.

It was in this milieu that Jefferson’s and East Texas’ most famous murder and murder trial took place. The “Bessie Diamond” story has elements of both a melodrama and a Greek tragedy. It concerns a handsome gambler from a wealthy family (Abe Rothschild), and a beautiful, bejeweled prostitute (Diamond Bessie), who for reasons unclear, end up in January of 1877 in Jefferson, Texas, traveling under the name of Mr. and Mrs. A. Monro. When Bessie is found murdered, Abe is charged. There are three indictments, a change of venue, appeals, two trials and all the legal maneuvering that sensation and money bring to such cases. It was natural that a folklore of myth and legend would grow up about the murder and court proceedings. Jefferson annually presents a play The Deadly Jewels of Diamond Bessie: A Historical Tragedy, commemorating the famous trial. Traylor Russell, a prominent East Texas attorney and local historian, grew up listening to the many contradictory stories. This book is his attempt to separate fact from fiction. The book is organized from a lawyer’s frame of reference, rather than as integrated narrative history. Although Russell presents much of the folklore (from interviews), plus various East Texas newspaper accounts, the larger part of the book is reproduced evidence from copies of court records presented at various legal proceedings. For example, each indictment is reprinted verbatim, and approximately one-third of the book is made of appendices of parts of transcripts from these legal proceedings.

The general reader would probably like a more integrated narrative account of the famous case, but this book is for those people of the region who know the story. It is for those who want all the evidence possible—the name of every judge, lawyer, clerk of court, witness and juror. The author has served these people well, for it is a reference book on the case. The ten photographs and the inside cover map—montage of 1877 Jefferson make this little book of local history both useful and attractive.

Hubert H. Humphreys
Louisiana State University, Shreveport

I knew what a broadax, a puncheon, and a froe were before I read this book. A "stealing stick," however, was not only outside the range of my experience but it also brought up a different image every time the words passed through my mind. The problem was that I was thinking of "stealing" as a modifier when it was really a verb. That is, one "steals stick" from somebody else. He who does this, by the way, casts himself in the same category as one who "rides a saw."

Judge Whitfield Davidson discusses "stealing stick" in the first section of his book by that name, which deals with the folklore and old-time customs in East Texas. Log-rolling was one of those customs, and a log-rolling was had when somebody wanted to clear some ground for cultivation. He sent the word out that the job was to do, and at an appointed time his friends, kin, and neighbors showed up to help him do it. The job was to get all the brush and timber in a pile so it could be burned. To get the logs to the brush pile the men had to take them there on hand spikes, which are hickory poles 5 or 6 feet long. A crafty hand-spIKE manipulator could steal a little stick by getting the log a few inches closer to his partner than it was to him, thus throwing the burden of the weight on the other man. Stealing stick was usually done good-naturedly, like playing a joke on a friend. If the title has any further significance, I couldn't find it. From what I gathered of Judge Davidson from reading his book and talking to him on the phone, he neither stole stick nor rode the saw during his long life.

Judge Davidson was ninety-one when he wrote Stealing Stick, and I guess it was his tribute to a rich life. He was born and raised in rural Harrison County, Texas, and that's the part of East Texas he writes about. He passed the Texas bar exam in 1903 when he was twenty-seven and politicked his way from county attorney through state senator to lieutenant governor under Pat Neff. He spent most of his life on the bench and has been a U.S. District Judge since 1936. He'll be ninety-six this year, and he has just finished another book.

Judge Davidson divides his book into three parts. The first part deals with the folklore of pioneer East Texas, and in a way it's a how-to book for prospective pioneers. He discusses clearing land, planting, building, and many of the survival details of early East Texas life, as well as the songs the settlers sang and the games they played. He looked back on this simpler, less-cluttered life with a natural nostalgia. He had survived in it and had risen to the top of its pecking order. He couldn't do anything but love it and the values it now romantically represents. The values were those that the McGuffey Readers hammered into their young audiences—industry, respect for elders, kindness towards one's fellow man, ultimately a sense of service and duty. Davidson calls these the pioneer virtues and implies that modern education is sadly lacking in its neglect of the McGuffey Reader approach. There's a possibility that he's right.

The second part of Stealing Stick is a collection of courtroom tales and anecdotes that Judge Davidson remembered from his career. They are interesting and sometimes humorous, but have obviously lost something between the telling and the writing down.
The last part of the book has a section on Charles A. Culberson, evidently Davidson's lifetime hero, and brief accounts of the Diamond Bessie murder case and the Regulator-Moderator War.

*Stealing Stick* is easy to read. Judge Davidson wrote it in a leisurely style with no great attention to historical or sociological details. He told these tales easily because they were a part of him. They all have the smell of the county courthouse about them. This is the sort of talk you could hear if you had the time to sit on the bench in the courthouse hall or had coffee with the lawyers and clerks and the other county employees. Judge Davidson's life was intimately associated with courthouse and county seats and he shares some of these pleasant times with us.

Francis Edward Abernethy
Stephen F. Austin State University


Jules Verne Allen was not only a working cowboy at the beginning of this century, he was also one of the earliest professional singers of cowboy songs, an avocation which he performed over radio stations in Texas, California, and New York, and on Victor Records where he bore the title of "the Original Singing Cowboy" (several years before Gene Autry and Roy Rogers made similar claims). This little volume bears some significance, then, for two reasons: it is an authentic introduction to cowboy life and lore by a native-born Texan who lived the life of which he spoke, and it is a useful, though admittedly impressionistic, vignette of an early folk entertainer. The book should be of interest, therefore, to students in a wide range of disciplines.

The first part of the book is a rather disorganized, anecdotal assemblage of facts about cowboy and trail life, interspersed with poems sent to him by admirers, and vignettes and jokes concerning cowboy activities. Contemporary women liberationists should be pleased with Allen's essay on "successful ranchwomen." Part II is composed of five pages of brand diagrams augmented by a brief commentary on the history and utility of cattle branding. Part III, a "cowboy dictionary," contains terms native to the roundup, cattle drive, and cattle industry, as well as a brief glossary of Spanish words used in range and cattle work.

For the student of music and folklore, Part IV should prove to be most interesting. In a section entitled "Songs of the Range," Allen presents both the words and music to thirty-seven songs which were popular with the cowboys. Allen correctly makes much of the Southern origins of both the cowboy and his song, but underemphasizes the wide-ranging origins of his musical repertory. The selections demonstrate that the cowboy ballad did not always spring full-blown from the mind of the individual cowboy. The songs chosen include the Sixteenth Century ballad, "Barbara Allen," the Northern music-hall song, "Buffalo Gals," the Blind Andy Jenkins' composition, "Billy the Kid," as well as
such cowboy "standards" as "The Chisholm Trail." Because of the song section, as much as for any other reason, the Naylor Company is to be commended for its reprinting of this idiosyncratic little book.

Bill C. Malone  
Visiting Associate Professor of History  
Tulane University


Alexander Phimister Proctor was born in Canada in 1860, spent most of his ninety year life in the United States, and enshrined much of our history and wildlife in his excellent sculptures. Among his many works are The Rough Rider, Pioneer Mother, The Circuit Rider, and Mustangs. The latter, a large bronze, was installed in 1948 at the University of Texas. Proctor received professional recognition in the form of numerous medals and awards. In addition to being a fine artist Proctor was an avid outdoorsman. At the urging of family and friends he wrote this autobiography which is edited by his daughter and introduced by Vivian A. Paladin, editor of Montana: The Magazine of Western History.

Unfortunately, the book is disappointing. An unnecessarily large portion of the work deals with Proctor's hunting adventures in frontier Colorado and other parts of the West. While there can be little doubt that the author enjoyed—or endured—a colorful and active life, the chronicle of narrow escapes is somewhat pointless and, after a time, rather tiresome. It may be true, as his daughter asserts, that Proctor’s “tall tales delighted his friends”; yet, there seems little need to publish them.

Happily, the second half of the book has more merit. Proctor discusses his work and presents, with wit and humility, a narrative of some of his triumphs and near triumphs. As an artist Proctor felt he should strive to capture true beauty which he defined as follows: “First on my list is the baby, fresh from nature’s hand. Next comes the lovely woman and the physically perfect man. Last but not least are the animals, especially the wild ones.” The author was largely successful in projecting realism and a life-like grace into most of his work. Yet the depth and sensitivity that a man who produced such sculpture must have possessed often fails to surface. The reader learns too little of Proctor’s impressions on art, on his times, or on the notable men, such as Theodore Roosevelt, with whom he was acquainted. Only occasionally may the reader catch a fleeting glimpse of Proctor the man, and the glimpses are widely scattered through loosely connected anecdotes. The introductory promise of a “remarkable tapestry of humor, danger, honesty, artistic striving, [and] love” is not kept. The material clearly possesses this potential; regrettably the potential is largely unfulfilled.

On a more positive note the book is enjoyable even if not especially illuminating. The work contains an appendix of photographs of Proctor's work
which provide a much more adequate commentary on the sculptor than do the more than 200 pages of text. The reader seeking a few hours of pleasant diversion will be satisfied with the work. The historian hoping for an insightful acquaintance with Proctor will find the book unrewarding.

Robert E. Zeigler
San Antonio College


During the early 1930s newspaper-reading and radio-listening Americans, however much they might have to struggle for their livelihood in the Great Depression, could at least thrill to the exploits of an elite group of aviators who continually attacked and overcame existing records for high-altitude and long-distance aircraft flight. The most famous of this band of flyers in the immediate post-Lindbergh period was chunky, Texas-born and Oklahoma-reared Wiley Post. Like a number of his contemporaries, Post essentially taught himself to fly on the midwestern barnstorming circuit in the 1920s. For Post learning to fly meant overcoming the loss of an eye in an oilfield accident. By 1930 he had won a highly publicized cross-continental air race and had perfected his skills to such an extent that he was ready to undertake some of the boldest adventures in the history of flight.

A friend thought that Post "came as near to being a mechanical flying machine as any human who ever held a stick." The mating of Post with his Lockheed Vega named Winnie Mae—a sleek high-wing monoplane, surely one of the most esthetically pleasing aircraft ever built—made for an extraordinarily effective symbiosis of man and machine. Financing his aerial exploits was nearly always problematical for Post in an era before lavish federal expenditures on aeronautics, but with sporadic backing, mostly from Oklahoma oilmen, Post was able to outfit his Winnie Mae for a succession of daring projects. In 1931 the thirty-two-year-old Post and Harold Gatty, his even younger navigator, became international heroes by flying around the world from New York in less than nine days. Their flight provided empirical support for long-held theories regarding the disruption of biological rhythms in rapid travel over great distances. Two years later Post accomplished an even more dazzling feat when he equipped his plane with a gyroscope and radio compass and circumnavigated the globe alone, shaving nearly a full day off his record. For the next two years Post concentrated on developing a practicable full-pressure flying suit so that he could operate in the stratosphere at higher speeds. Late in 1934, wearing such a suit, Post took his aircraft to a reported altitude of 50,000 feet. But Post's pioneering career came to an end on August 15, 1935, when he and the beloved humorist Will Rogers, in a new hybrid and aerodynamically unstable Lockheed monoplane, crashed into a shallow lake near Point Barrow, Alaska. Both were instantly killed.
Mohler, a physician and medical official with the Federal Aviation Administration, and Johnson, of the history department of Stephen F. Austin University, have provided a succinct, information-packed, and generally readable account of Post's career. Throughout the authors emphasize flight technology, especially the numerous modifications Post ordered over the years for his *Winnie Mae* and his careful work to perfect his pressure suit. Post emerges as a man who, despite a scanty formal education, became a brilliant technician who single-mindedly and incessantly struggled to fly faster and farther.

The criticisms to be made of Mohler's and Johnson's book are fairly minor ones. There are too many typographical errors (especially for a Government Printing Office job), footnotes are played annoyingly at the end of chapters, and there is no index. And while their volume is essentially technological history and not biography, the reader still longs for some effort to explain Post and others of his breed, the first generation of aviators who consciously combined advanced aeronautical and aeromedical knowledge with their own lonely adventuring spirit. But Mohler and Johnson have written a good solid account, based largely on personal interviews with Post's acquaintances, and they have included a collection of exceptionally helpful illustrations. All in all they have made a worthy contribution to the Smithsonian Institution's Annals of Flight series.

Charles C. Alexander
Ohio University


*Preston Smith* is a subjective political biography that is generally laudatory toward its subject. Written by a member of the governor's campaign staff, the work is based mainly on interviews and author Jerry D. Conn's personal observations. The focus of the study is Smith's successful 1968 gubernatorial campaign.

While not nearly so valuable as it might have been, *Preston Smith* is nevertheless an interesting work. Conn is a politically knowledgeable writer, and he provides some revealing glimpses into the functioning of Texas politics. Conn stresses the importance of Smith's laborously accumulated card file of personal contacts in putting together a state-wide campaign organization. Lacking charisma, Smith relied heavily upon developing personal relationships, including visits to countless towns to call on leading citizens and even the mailing of individually typed letters to the 47,000 families in Texas named Smith, asking "don't you think it is about time one of us was governor?" (p. 100). In keeping with this strategy, Smith's aides encouraged their candidate to avoid specific issues. As one advisor stated, "You don't complicate your race with anything except the big, few basic points on which you base your entire platform," which in Smith's case were "efficiency in government" and "experience" (pp. 57, 58). Only after entering the 1968 Democratic gubernatorial runoff primary against liberal Don Yarborough did Smith's staff see "the obvious political advantage to be gained from waging the fight on philosophical lines." At this point Smith
became more outspoken in defense of conservatism and strove to keep "Yar­borough in his liberal box" (pp. 128, 129). In all of their statewide races, 
Smith's aides relied heavily upon the results of professional opinion polls in 
developing the proper image for their candidate.

Smith himself emerges from the book as an ambitious and hard-working 
conservative. Born poor, Smith worked his way through college and entered the 
motion picture business in Lubbock in time to benefit from the wave of World 
War II prosperity that swept through Texas. After achieving moderate wealth, 
Smith entered politics, working his way up through both houses of the state 
legislature, into the lieutenant governor's chair, and ultimately into the governor's 
office. He does not appear to have gained much philosophical insight from his 
experiences; indeed, Conn's description of Smith quite unintentionally conjures 
visions of Jasper B. Shannon's "county-seat governing class."

Preston Smith has numerous weaknesses, not the least of which is the 
printing (four separate pages in the reviewer's copy that should have contained 
print did not, contributing to a certain lack of stylistic continuity). But for 
political buffs, the work is well worth examining.

Numan V. Bartley
Fellow, Woodrow Wilson
International Center for Scholars

Jimmy Banks, *Money, Marbles and Chalk*. Austin (Texas Publishing 
Co., Inc.), 1971. $6.95.

Texas politics and politicians are rarely dull or uninteresting, and therefore, 
any book dealing with the subject makes some contribution to an understanding 
of the political processes in the state. However, it is doubtful as the publishers 
claim that *Money, Marbles and Chalk* is the most important work ever written 
about Texas politics. It is certainly not a scholarly work in the sense of foot­ 
notes and extensive bibliography, but deals in a narrative and anecdotal style 
with Texas politicians from James (Pa) Ferguson to the current crop of candi­ 
dates for governor and senator. The title of the book, so the story goes, comes 
from a dinner party held four years ago at which time President Lyndon B. 
Johnson called aside Ben Barnes (the speaker of the Texas House) and told him: 
"Ben, I just want you to know, that I'm for you—money, marbles and chalk."

Jimmy Banks, the author of the book, now edits the Sunday supplement 
"Texas Star," and has had extensive experience observing the Austin scene. For 
16 years he was the capital correspondent for the *Dallas Morning News* and 
served on the staffs of Governors Price Daniel and Allan Shivers, and in this 
book salutes the latter as "perhaps the greatest governor of all time." In addition 
to using newspaper articles in his book, Banks interviewed many of the people 
he writes about which makes it all the more informative, entertaining and some­ 
times surprising.

Chapters are devoted to such outstanding political figures as John B. 
Connally, Ben Barnes, Lyndon B. Johnson, Preston Smith, Ralph W. Yarborough,
John Tower, George Bush, Allan Shivers, Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr., Dolph Briscoe, Price Daniel and many others who have dominated the Texas political scene. The author’s explanation as to why these few men have played such commanding roles in Texas politics is somewhat simplistic but revolves around the fact that they have been dynamic personalities. Texas voters, while traditionally Democrats, like strong leaders they can believe in and follow.

The author’s likes and dislikes of individuals show through in his book. Thus, his heroes besides Ben Barnes include John Connally, Allan Shivers and Dolph Briscoe. The villains in the book are Preston Smith and Ralph Yarbrough. One chapter alone is devoted to the controversy in the 1964 race for United States Senator in which Billie Sol Estes was reported to have given $50,000 to Ralph Yarbrough. This was denied by Yarbrough, but Banks includes a report by Investigator O. N. Humphreys, Jr., then an intelligence officer for the Texas Department of Public Safety, that “transfer of money did, in fact, take place.”

In view of the closeness of President Johnson and John Connally, it is particularly interesting to note the Connally estimation—not altogether favorable—of LBJ’s White House years:

“I had a very deep concern that Johnson was going too far too fast, not in terms of what was wrong or in terms of whether a program was good or evil. But I felt he was generating too many programs that were easily conceived, fairly readily passed and very, very difficult to administer.”

Money, Marbles and Chalk is a rich smorgasbord of biographical material about political figures and major campaigns in the state. The appendix lists all Texas governors, United States Senators from Texas, Attorneys General, Lieutenant Governors, House Speakers, Secretaries of State and Treasurers. The book lacks a philosophical or analytical framework for an understanding of Texas politics and has no conclusions or evaluations. It is largely a collection of vignettes, lengthy quotations, and personal evaluations of political figures by the author. But it is written in an interesting style and gives some insight into the state’s recent political history.

Irving Dawson
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