BOOK REVIEWS


Henry Putney Beers, for over thirty years an archivist, historian and editor with the U. S. Government, has written an excellent guide to the records for the Spanish and Mexican periods in the Southwest. His work is a skillful narrative history of the sources of the documents, the travails they endured passing through the hands of indifferent officials, the formation of archives and collections, and a straightforward key to the types of materials to be found in these depositories.

The author organizes his work into the regions of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California and a section on reference materials. Of special interest to students of Texana is his hundred-page assessment of the Spanish and Mexican records for this region. Beers' section on Texas is organized in much the same way as the sections dealing with other regions. He begins with a useful introduction concerning the "History and Government" of Texas from discovery to independence. Following this, the author proceeds through various categories of papers.

"Provincial Records," dealing with the Spanish period, covers the Bexar and Nacogdoches archives. Beers describes the types of documents found in these repositories and their strengths and weaknesses. He traces the sometimes bizarre history of these materials before they arrived in their present homes and reveals where copies and reproductions are to be found. The subsection "Departmental Records" deals mainly with governmental reorganization during the Mexican and Independence periods, and "Archival Reproductions" describes the papers concerning Texas which have been copied from Mexican and other archives and are available in Texas. Following this, Beers assesses "Documentary Publications" and "Manuscript Collections." These entries give way to "Land Records," "Records of Local Jurisdictions," and "Ecclesiastical Records." Each subsection reflects the author's loving attention to detail and accuracy.

Beers' work suffers from the shortcomings inevitable in such a work; as soon as it is published it becomes obsolete. Collections are constantly being reorganized, and cataloging and photocopying proceed apace. Perhaps this fact will spur Beers or someone else to provide a second edition of this work, so valuable to scholars working in the areas covered.

Beers delivers more than he promises. Certainly he describes the holdings of each collection accurately, and he painstakingly catalogs
the types and quantities of materials available. In addition, however, his work provides a useful summary of the development of each region, revealed through the often interesting and sometimes romantic history of obscure bundles of paper.

D. S. Chandler
Miami University (Ohio)


Samuel Bangs first came to Texas as a member of the 1816-17 Mina expedition that sought to overthrow Spanish rule in Mexico. A proclamation issued while the expedition docked at Galveston Island established his claim as the first Texas printer. Following capture at Soto la Marina he remained a prison laborer until his captors recognized the value of a printing press and operator. Bangs now became the apostle of the printed word in northern Mexico. Instinctively he created works of considerable taste with limited type and equipment. As a more significant legacy he sold printing equipment and trained pressmen to operate it. Few lives could match Samuel Bangs' for adventure, romance, triumph and despair.

In 1963 he was the subject of an important biography by Lota Spell, to which was appended a 359-item checklist. That list now has been vastly expanded, thanks to the unflagging investigatory zeal of Johnny Jenkins. Jenkins’ new work includes a terse but enlightening historical and biographical introduction, followed by an enumeration of 572 imprints. Each is given the fullest possible description, all known copies are located, and each is placed in its proper historical context. This new bibliography is an essential purchase for Western Americana collections.

Al Lowman
Institute of Texan Cultures


In the preface to this rather hapless little volume, Mr. Grisham says that “little has been written on San Felipe” and that he feels “it is time to round up the far-flung information and present it in a small, concise volume.” This premise is true, and such a round up should have provided an interesting hour or two. Unfortunately, this is not the case; there is not enough here to justify even these seventy pages.
Crossroads at San Felipe is a pastiche of paragraphs and stories containing references to San Felipe de Austin. Most of these snippets were found in high school history texts, high school contest papers, or in Texas history popularizations and paperbacks, as seen by the bibliography. The Southwestern Historical Quarterly and The Handbook of Texas are listed in their entirety, which is curious and not very clear; but some of the entries in that same bibliography are intriguing, and make one wish that they had been more heavily represented in the book.

The text of Crossroads at San Felipe seems jerky, compressed, and greatly influenced by Texas legend and myth. Most of the references to San Felipe have been published widely before; there is no new information offered. All of the maps, however, are good; clear and well labelled. Because of the scarcity of material, the author departs from his purpose about half-way through the book and then proceeds to include subjects not even remotely connected to San Felipe—the Texas Navy (both of them), Indians on the frontier, the Council House Massacre, Plum Creek, the Santa Fe Expedition, and as an appendix, Louis J. Wortham's list of the Old Three Hundred.

Mr. Grisham's conclusion is interesting, considering his beginning premise; but it perhaps excuses the dearth of information he presents. For he points out that we know what happened in San Felipe—and "what happened in San Felipe is more important than what happened to San Felipe."

Marjorie Williams
Austin, Texas


The American frontier experience abounds with legendary accounts of heroic actions and superhuman accomplishments. Nowhere is this romanticized image more pronounced than in the field of law enforcement where marshals and sheriffs confront the forces of evil in a "high noon" shootout that inevitably leads to the triumph of the man in the white hat. At the heart of his dime novel and cinematic portrayal are the treasured beliefs that the frontier was an eternally violent locale and that tough but fair law officers of the Matt Dillon-type brought peace to even the most lawless of towns.

Frank Richard Prassel, Director of the Law Enforcement Training Center at the University of Arkansas, challenges these assumptions by
illustrating the complexity of law enforcement in the Trans-Mississippi West. To begin with, he concludes that this nation’s violence was not a product of the frontier environment but rather reached back into the European origins of American settlement. Furthermore, marshals and sheriffs represented only a single dimension of frontier law and order. Equally important were the collective services of state rangers, railroad investigators, private detective groups, Indian police, army officers, National Park Service rangers, Border Patrolmen, and even vigilante groups. Prassel also deflates the heroic mystique of figures such as Wyatt Earp and Wild Bill Hickok, as well as questions the notion that the diverse enforcement agencies brought law and order to the West. In truth, antiquated police methods and ineffective laws prevented efficiency and certainly allowed a significant number of guilty parties to escape prosecution.

In chronicling the efforts of these various agencies, Prassel has assembled an impressive array of sources. The bibliography provides sixteen pages of monographic and journalistic accounts, as well as newspaper articles, government documents, and theses and dissertations. Most convincing, however, is the author’s utilization of local court records, police dockets, private papers and even interviews with persons active in early twentieth century law enforcement.

If The Western Peace Officer can be faulted in any way, the criticism would rest upon its brevity. A text of only 256 pages cannot do full justice to all the types of agencies that the author identifies (two pages devoted to bounty hunters, four pages to the Border Patrol, two pages to park rangers, two pages to the Northwest Mounted Police, and three pages to the Mexican rurales), but Prassel has well presented the best overview of western law enforcement yet attempted.

Michael L. Tate
University of Nebraska at Omaha


Henry Brown is not one of the American West’s better known outlaws or lawmen, since he was for the most part of his life a drifter and outlaw-gunfighter, not an unusual occupation for his day. The last couple of years of his life were spent as a lawman and respected citizen, until he returned to his earlier ways. He has been neglected until now by American historians as well as western history buffs, but Bill O’Neal, in an interesting biography, has changed that.
O'Neal’s biography of Brown is written in a straight-forward style. Born in Cold Spring Township, twenty miles south of Rolla, Missouri in 1857, Brown left the Rolla area and headed west at the age of seventeen. The following year he is said to have killed his first man, the first of possibly nine. After working for John Chisum briefly and finding cowpunching unrewarding, he joined forces with Billy the Kid. He was a participant in the Battle of Blazer’s Mill, New Mexico, in 1878 when Dick Brewer and Andrew “Buckshot” L. Roberts were killed. From 1878 until he became assistant marshal of Caldwell, Kansas in July, 1882, he worked at several odd jobs as a cowboy, but continued his outlaw ways. Once he became assistant marshal, he gained the respect of the community by enforcing law and order in the frontier town, so that when the marshal resigned he was elected marshal. For the next sixteen months, he was a model western lawman. However, he was plagued by personal problems and returned to his outlaw ways when he robbed the Medicine Valley Bank in Medicine Valley, Kansas, killing a man in the process. He was captured by a posse shortly after the robbery-killing and was killed by a mob as he tried to escape from jail.

O'Neal's volume fills another chapter in the history of the American West. The book is written in a readable manner and holds the attention of the reader. History buffs, as well as western historians, will find the volume worthwhile reading.

Bill Ledbetter
Cooke County College (Texas)


Dr. James Currie utilizes extensive research materials to give a detailed account of Vicksburg and the surrounding plantations during the period of federal military occupation. He contends that Vicksburg and the entire Warren County area were an enclave from the fall of the city through Congressional Reconstruction in Mississippi. He points out that this area was different from the rest of the state largely due to the concentrated U. S. presence there—first as an enclave of Union territory in the midst of the Confederacy and subsequently due to continued U. S. occupation throughout the remainder of the 1860’s. Currie concludes that although the status of enclave did indeed affect the area during the time period, its long-term effects have been negligible.

Beginning with the occupation of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863, Currie examines the problems created when the town’s prewar population of 4500 swelled to a temporary 50,000. Refugees from the Con-
federacy, masses of freedmen, as well as the military armies and occupation forces created almost insurmountable problems for Union commanders—problems in administration, sanitation and crime prevention compounded by inadequate housing and food supplies. Furthermore, Union attempts to restore loyalty were met by a proud populace who found the oath of allegiance unacceptable.

Currie discusses the difficult transition from slavery to freedom, amplified by the extremely large concentration of ex-slaves in the Vicksburg area. Within the enclave slavery was abolished, consequently many plantations were re-established using free labor, while others had to be abandoned when slaves left. He recounts the efforts of freedmen to obtain their own land and the difficulties experienced by ex-slaves in dealing with Northern plantation lessors. Currie agrees with previous studies which show the Freedman's Bureau as having only limited success in dealing with the problems of the ex-slaves.

The author's prize-winning chapter on Davis Bend relates a unique Union experiment to allow ex-slaves to farm the confiscated lands of Jefferson Davis and his brother Joseph. Using a wealth of manuscript materials, the author relates the story of a remarkable ex-slave, Benjamin Montgomery, who led freedmen to farm these lands profitably in spite of floods, army worms, tight credit, and the hostility of whites concerning free labor.

Post-war agriculture receives a good deal of Currie's attention, and since Vicksburg served as a major cotton shipping port, the problems affecting agriculture affected the city. He has thoroughly researched the crop lien system in Warren County and has found that most planters contracting debts from merchants could pay their accounts off at the end of the year. Although the Vicksburg area may well have been atypical of the cotton South after the War, Currie concludes that the crop lien system merits further investigation as being much more equitable than previous research has indicated.

Politics and freedmen were inseparably linked in Reconstruction-era Vicksburg, and the conflict over black-white status was the most enduring source of friction between native white citizens and U. S. authorities. Currie discusses the areas of controversy between military and civilian authorities caused by the new position of the Negro. He also examines the problems involved in the education of the freedmen and points out that the progress of black schools is almost an index of the course of Reconstruction in Vicksburg and throughout the state as well.

Currie's investigation into the economic aspects of the enclave shows that the last two years of the decade were vital in shaping the
future of the Vicksburg area. The city was in a strong position during this time, but her merchants did not take advantage of their virtual monopoly of the cotton and provisions trade in the southern part of the Mississippi Delta. As a result, Vicksburg lost its opportunity to become a vital trade center.

The work concludes with a brief epilogue which takes this Vicksburg history into the 1870s. The readmission of Mississippi into the Union had no appreciable effect upon the area with the exception of the removal of Federal troops. The city remained the lusty, brawling river town it had always been and was perhaps even wilder than before. Vicksburg's status as an enclave does not seem to have made a great difference politically, for after the overthrow of the Reconstruction government in 1875, Republican voting showed a precipitous decline. Currie maintains that long-term Union occupation does not seem to have been of any benefit once the troops were removed and that there is no indication of any lasting black-white cooperation as a result of the "enclave" status.

Currie's book is well researched and offers some materials which have only recently come to light. Although it will be of more interest to historians than to the average reader, it makes a solid contribution to the history of the period.

Mrs. Betty Davis
Longview, Texas


From September 29 to October 2, 1864, General U.S. Grant directed his "Fifth Offensive" of the siege of Petersburg. During this period, Grant repeatedly sent Butler's Army of the James and Meade's Army of the Potomac against the works defending Richmond and Petersburg. Dr. Sommers describes this offensive in incredible detail. The description of the events surrounding the Union thrusts against Lee is meticulously researched and documented. Twenty-two detailed maps help to clarify the numerous and often complicated troop movements. Eighty-eight pages of notes testify to the careful research that has gone into the preparation of this volume. Dr. Sommers, Archivist/Historian at the U.S. Army Military History Institute at the War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, has produced a highly professional and scholarly treatment of Grant's "Fifth Offensive."

Non-specialists may find *Richmond Redeemed* difficult. Detailed descriptions of marches and counter-marches, lost and seized opportunities, and discussions of tactics and strategy inundate the reader. The
exhaustive details tend to obscure the overall picture of what actually happened during those autumn days.

The most useful and interesting part of the study is the final chapter, "Richmond Redeemed," which contains Sommers' analysis of the strategy, tactics and generalship of the offensive. The assessment of subordinate commanders on both sides is interesting and provocative. The author's understanding of the qualities necessary for subordinate command is apparent and his conclusions valuable. When he assesses the actions of Lee and Grant, Sommers' conclusions are somewhat inconsistent. He characterizes those who have attacked Lee for not abandoning Richmond and Virginia as unfair and unrealistic. While he finds the fight to retain the Confederate capital proper, Sommers finds fault with Lee's methods. He criticizes Lee for "seeking another great victory through bold grand-strategic maneuver rather than in letting the Bluecoats defeat themselves if he could just maintain the tactical equilibrium (422)."

However, when he dispels the myth of "Grant the Butcher," Sommers' interpretation of Lee loses some of its credibility. He correctly describes Grant's war of attrition as "the nonrelaxing tenacity of strategic pressure. He fixed the Southerners in place—not on the battlefield but in the strategic arena—and wore them down in that context... and the very loss of strategic mobility resulting from being pinned in place was itself a major contributing factor to the decline of the Army of Northern Virginia (423)."

Lee, the consumate strategist, realized what the loss of strategic mobility meant to his Army and the Confederacy. Maintaining the "tactical equilibrium" would not defeat Grant's strategy. Sommers correctly judges that "the way to stop them was to wrest the initiative from them... (440)." To Lee, seizing the tactical initiative was not enough, he had to regain the strategic initiative. Only a bold strategic stroke, the hallmark of Lee's earlier victories, seemed to offer the hope of breaking Grant's hold on the Army of Northern Virginia, and it was that course that Lee attempted to follow in the fall of 1864.

Despite interpretative differences of opinion, Richmond Redeemed clearly demonstrates that battles are rarely fought the way commanders envision them. Subordinate commanders, as Sommers points out repeatedly, are responsible for executing the battle plan. If they are unequal to the task, even the best plan has little chance of success. Equally important, the indepth detail provided by the author illustrates the multitude of forces that influence events and frequently mean the difference between ultimate victory and defeat.

Tommy R. Young
Air Force Communications Command
Scott Air Force Base Illinois

In this little book (first published in The New Yorker magazine), Robert Penn Warren offers an impressionistic essay on Jefferson Davis and the Civil War. Using beautiful prose, Warren deftly guides the reader through his own boyhood recollections, concisely contrasts Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis as wartime executives, and pointedly asks a stubbornly persistent question: why did the Confederate high command fail?

Warren tries to succinctly answer "Who was this Jefferson Davis?" (p. 26). He concludes that Davis was a politician who had never grasped what used to be called the arts of politics. The author writes: "But the game of politics he had not learned (and never did learn): the deal; the nature of combinations; easy fellowship; compromise; the slipperiness of logic; humor; patience; generosity; the ready smile" (p. 47).

Touching the cord of memory of his growing-up days, Warren recollects a black man called "Old Jeff Davis." The author plays an ironic counterpoint of one Jeff Davis to the other. But this is by no means an anti-Davis book. Warren mixes fact, reminiscence, interpretation, and the description of ceremonies in 1979 on the occasion of Davis being given his citizenship back and calls on his readers to think, to reconsider it all.

Anyone interested in America's history will enjoy reading this book.

Joseph G. Dawson III
Texas A&M University at Galveston


The Apaches probably never numbered more than 6000 or 7000 at any one time, but it seems as if that many essays and books have been written about them. Indeed, another volume hardly seems necessary, yet James Haley manages to provide a whole new understanding about the famous Southwestern tribes as a people. Rather than present another dreary catalogue of raids and counter-raids, massacres of innocent women and children—although there is some of that—and extermination of Army troopers, the gifted young scholar writes mostly about Apache agriculture, myths, religious practices, courtship and marriage, medicine, and social mores.

The author states in the Preface that he does not write a history of
the Apaches from their standpoint because only they can do that. Nor
does he aim to ferret out new details so as to shed more light on an
already exhaustedly researched area. “Rather, this volume is intended
as a different perspective of known facts . . . of two fields of scholarship,
Apache history and Apache ethnology, that have heretofore been related,
but, puzzlingly, segregated.” (p. xiii). The writing of Indian history over
the years has evolved from what he calls an Old School into a New
School. Proponents of the first generally took the approach that the
“savages” had it coming to them for standing in the way of civilization
and the march of empire. Such works number in the hundreds, with
Colonel Wilbur Nye’s very readable *Carbine and Lance* serving as good
enough of an example.

Various chapters of American history are frequently re-evaluated
to suit the social trends currently in fashion, i.e., *Bury My Heart at
Wounded Knee*. This has particularly been true in the case of Indian
history whereby members of the so-called New School have been anxious
to prove that the Indians were the real heroes of the frontier, while the
whites were the villians. Haley maintains that the notion that the white
man took the land away from the original owners is somewhat simple­
minded. He points out that where the Indian’s claim to a given parcel
of land today is based upon right of heritage, the chances are that he
originally took it from some other Indian tribe, just as the white man
later took it from him. But New School scholars have tended to vilify
white conquest of Indians, while accepting Indians conquering Indians
as part of the natural order.

The author strives to be scrupulously fair to both sides, while
emphasizing the decisive role played in 19th century Apaches affairs by
individuals such as General George Crook and Indian agent John Clum.
On the other side of the coin is Mangus Coloradas, Cochise, and
Geronimo. The scholarship, insight, objectivity, and readability that
Haley brings to his second book makes *Apaches* one of the most fresh
and exciting works that has appeared about Indians during the past
several years.

W. Eugene Hollon
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Prindle chose a little-known topic, the Texas Railroad Commission, operating in a "city [Austin] far from the beaten paths of national policy." He shows no ideological bias or moral indignation and even challenges academia orthodoxy. "For fifty years, certain economists, political scientists and journalists have attacked the Texas Railroad Commission as an enemy of the consumer and a threat to national security." Others, of course, defended it. "But from the perspective of the 1980s," he writes, "the Commission's faults seem less grave and its virtues seem more substantial than we might expect." (p. 135) For an academician, his interpretation is unusual.

Because the Commissioners were elected and not appointed, their natural constituency was the small producers or independents. And wanting to keep the wealth generated by the oil industry within the state, the Commission favored the independents. Such action encouraged conservation and promoted entrepreneurship. But the independents lost much of their protection in the 1960s with the major producers' importation of oil. That, plus the new consumer interest in the industry generated by the oil shortage has changed the political nature of the Commission. "When examined in a long-run perspective, the substance of Railroad Commission policy making gets fairly high marks." (p 201)

It would appear, however, that the future favors the majors who can make huge contributions to the Commissioners' campaigns. An alternative to the general problem would be a federal take-over.

Prindle should be commended for tackling a difficult subject and explaining it clearly. His sources seem skimpy, but he had to rely on personal interviews. His work will help those interested in modern Texas history and resource management.

D. Clayton Brown
Texas Christian University

Ambush: The Real Story of Bonnie and Clyde. By Ted Hinton as told to Larry Grove. (Shoal Creek Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 9737, Austin, TX 78766), 1979. Illustrations, Appendices, Index. p. 211. $12.50.

A remarkably fresh perspective on the saga of Bonnie and Clyde is given in this 211 page volume. Ted Hinton was a lawman who tells his story with the same power and purpose which enabled him to arrest the careers of two of the southwest's notorious villains. The story of
Bonnie and Clyde has been told and retold for the past forty-plus years, but Hinton brings to the reader a version which reveals inside facts which only he could know.

As one of the six lawmen who was involved in the capture of these legendary outlaws, Hinton tells his version from the perspective of one who grew up in the same Dallas neighborhoods as Clyde Barrow. He knew from personal experience the code of conduct which made Bonnie and Clyde capture the imagination of a law abiding public of the 1930s. The book is made even more readable because it provides vivid descriptions of Dallas and the southwest during the depression years. Hinton uses his personal recollection of this era to form a background to the story which would justify action taken in the ambush of Bonnie and Clyde not revealed in other writings of book length.

The six officers who set the ambush for Bonnie and Clyde near Gibsland, Louisiana on May 23, 1934 all agreed at that time to withhold some facts about the ambush. In 1977, only Hinton remained of the original six. He set at work to furnish the record with facts about this incident which have heretofore been unknown. All those who have been excited by accounts of the infamous Bonnie and Clyde will welcome his revealing story.

Hinton uses this book, completed only months before his own death, to refute much of the misinformation which has become part of the legend of these two folk heroes. The reader is indeed fortunate to receive the benefit of the writer's extensive private files which were used to produce the manuscript for this book. After reading Hinton's work, a reader has a better understanding of the southwest of the 1930s—a region and time which produced the subject of this book.

There are two very well organized appendices in the book which will be of use to the reader interested in historical research. Appendix A lists those unfortunate persons killed by the Barrow gang. The twelve victims are given by date, name, occupation and place of the killing. In Appendix B, Hinton gives a chronology from his records of the career of Bonnie and Clyde. The major events of their careers are reported with special attention to the details of each major crime. The careful research and personal glimpses of this book merit the attention of anyone interested in the history of criminal behavior during the depression era.

James O. Standley
Stephen F. Austin State University

A biography of primitive artist H. O. ‘Cowboy’ Kelly, this book is much more. It chronicles the events of his life accurately, but also captures the spirit and flavor of his times and the atmosphere of the various locales where Kelly lived.

Kelly won considerable fame in the last years of his life for his paintings which affectionately depicted scenes of his youth and of a way of life that he sought to cling to. Though most associated with Texas, Kelly was born in Ohio and finished two years of high school in Marquette, Michigan, before the family moved to Pennsylvania. It was here at age sixteen at the turn of the century that Kelly had his first job on a farm. Despite a couple of attempts at a career as a machinist’s apprentice, most of Kelly's life was spent on farms and ranches. A varied and eventful life it was, full of defeat and hardship, but lived with hard work and an optimist zest and few regrets.

The old ways appealed to Kelly. He loved horses and seemed to think that tractors and automobiles were a temporary aberration in American life. The book eloquently relates the adventures, misfortunes and tribulations of Kelly through Arizona, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas. Kelly had experiences as farmer, horse trader, ox drover and dust bowl refugee. His frustrated effort to hold together a farm in the dust bowl during the 'thirties is an especially poignant chapter.

Though he painted and drew all his life he did not attach much importance to it. Painting was, like harmonica playing, just something he did because it gave him pleasure. He began painting seriously only when poor health and financial problems left him with little else to do. His paintings were of things that he remembered with affection. Ohio farms, hog killings, blacksmith shops, pleasant villages—scenes where the sky is always blue, the people happy and the livestock well-fed. He quickly found that interest in his work extended far beyond his friends. He became well known for the unaffected honesty of his comments and observations as well as his paintings.

William Weber Johnson has done a masterful job of capturing the essence of the man and his times. He has researched the man's life thoroughly, but tells it with the warmth and affection that came from personal acquaintance with Kelly before his death in 1955.

The book contains a sensitive and moving foreword by Tom Lea. First published in 1960, the current edition contains seventeen color reproductions of Kelly's paintings that were not in the original edition.

Reesman S. Kennedy
Stephen F. Austin State University
Thomas Moran (1837-1926) has been applauded as the greatest Western landscape artist of the late nineteenth century. In watercolor and in oil, he conveyed with controlled line and brilliant color the grandeur and beauty of the untrammeled mountains and canyons of the vast Rocky Mountain wilderness. English-born Moran was reared in Philadelphia, where he was apprenticed as an illustrator. In 1871 he accompanied the Hayden Expedition to the Yellowstone, and produced "field watercolors" that proved highly influential in Congress’ decision to create the first national park there in 1872. His career launched, Moran soon had wealthy patrons clamoring for oil paintings. Few were interested in his watercolors, however, considering them primary sketches for larger productions. Strangely, it was not until after his death that his watercolors attracted attention as art in themselves.

Thomas Moran: Watercolors of the American West was prepared by Carol Clark, curator of paintings at the Amon Carter Museum of Western Art at Fort Worth, Texas, to accompany a Moran exhibit held there in May-July of 1980. Clark provides an excellent overview of Moran’s career, describing his early life, training and travels; influences on his work; and patrons. Her chapter, “Moran and Nineteenth-Century Watercolor Aesthetics,” is a highly perceptive discussion of Moran’s techniques and style. A selection of Moran’s watercolors highlights the volume. Featured are ten color plates, fifty black and white reproductions, and four photographs. About one half of the watercolors depict places in the Yellowstone National Park, some ten portray missions and towns in Mexico, and the rest are selected sites in the Lower Colorado River Basin and neighboring states. Several are unfinished sketches with Moran’s scribbled notes readily visible. All reflect the work of a careful, inspired artist.

The appended material is of special interest. In a catalogue raisonné, Clark presents detailed information on 295 watercolors by Moran. Following the catalog is an extensive bibliography, an exhibition checklist (80) items, a list of collectors, donors, and collections, and a general index. Art historians, museum curators, and patrons of Western art will find this volume both stimulating and valuable.

Harwood P. Hinton
University of Arizona
The Population of the South: Structure and Change in Social Demographic Context. Edited by Dudley L. Poston, Jr., and Robert H. Weller. (University of Texas Press, Box 7819, Austin, Texas 78712), 1981. Preface, Tables, References, Author Index, Subject Index. p. 307. $25.00.

This collection of ten essays focuses on demographic change in the South during the period from 1950 to 1975. The authors generally use the one hundred years or so since Reconstruction for historical background, but their primary concern is with developments over the third quarter of this century and especially those during the five years following the census of 1970. There are discussions of fertility, mortality, and migration; examinations of the demographics of urbanization and industrialization; and assessments of southern population change from economic and political perspectives. Some of the presentations are marred by sociological jargon that tends to confuse rather than clarify, but the overall result is useful and thought-provoking.

In general, the essays support one broad conclusion about patterns of demographic change in the modern South: Since 1950, the region's population has rapidly become more similar to that of the nation as a whole. For example, southern fertility and mortality rates, once much higher, no longer vary notably from those elsewhere in the United States. Also, the system of metropolitan areas and industrial development in the South shows growing similarities with the rest of the country.

The essays, however, also raise a very broad and speculative question: Does the present convergence of southern demographic characteristics with those of the nation as a whole mean conformity in the future, or is this development simply a temporary similarity that will be followed by a new divergence in the last quarter of the century? Obviously no one can answer with certainty, but most of the essays conclude that significant demographic differences will continue to separate the South and other regions. This belief is based on such factors as the rapidity with which change has come (since the South's demographic characteristics have changed more rapidly than those of other areas, the end result will be different) and the diversity of the South's population (Native whites, Negroes, and in-migrants differ demographically; thus the changing composition of the southern population will determine its convergence or divergence from national norms.). For that matter, of course, as several of these essays remind us, much of the fabled growth of the post-World War II South has been limited to a few states such as Florida and Texas and a few metropolitan areas such as Houston and Atlanta. Perhaps only certain areas of the South are primarily responsible for the region's demographic convergence with the rest of the nation. Large expanses of the rural South may be little changed.
Finally, these essays raise the question of whether or not convergence of the South's population is a desirable goal. Surely it is, if it means a smaller proportion of southerners below the poverty level, improvements in education, and broad cultural advance. But if demographic changes related to urbanization and industrialization mean unplanned growth and unconcerned exploitation of resources, then convergence will soon bring the problems that afflict many older metropolitan-industrial areas today.

The Population of the South suggests that our region, which has lagged far behind the rest of the United States for generations, is in some ways now catching up. There even appears to be a chance that the "New South" dream which proved so empty in the 1880s will become a reality in the 1980s and beyond. This remains to be seen.

Randolph B. Campbell
North Texas State University


Jesse T. Moore interprets the founding of the National Urban League (1911) as a sequential development in the efforts of American Negroes to acquire equal rights. Thus, the author devotes two introductory chapters in this monographic study to a survey of changes in Negro life from 1830 to 1910, familiar material to scholars but required reading for the uninitiated who would understand the significance of Moore's research.

Founded two years after the more publicized National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the bi-racial National Urban League (NUL) is viewed by the author as "an authentic product of the Progressive Era" (p. 54). Whereas C. Vann Woodward wrote a chapter on "Progressivism—For Whites Only" in his Origins of the New South, such was not the case in the North. Moore notes that "by 1909 the urban white occupational elites and Negro professionals were in agreement that national interracial organizations seemed the best hope of protecting and expanding Negroes' political rights and advancing their economic and social status" (p. 46). He views the social service goals of the NUL and the political focus of the NAACP as compatible, even though a cooperative spirit between the two groups was notably lacking between 1920 and 1940.

Fortunately, the Progressive spirit had earlier brought about the
merger of antecedent organizations and sympathetic whites to form the NUL under the leadership of Dr. George E. Haynes, who in his initial thrust sought primarily to train Negro social workers to serve urban newcomers of their race. What with the mass migration of untrained Southern Negroes to Northern industrial centers beginning in 1914, and the rapidly rising influence of Eugene K. Jones in the NUL, vocational guidance became increasingly emphasized.

Moore's contention is that the NUL leadership rose about the well-known Washington-DuBois controversy of that period. Moreover, the NUL concentrated neither on the industrial training offered at Tuskegee nor on the "talented tenth" in which DuBois placed his faith. Instead, NUL strategy sought "to convince people of a need for change, and to impart to the urban masses middle class values" (p. 54). NUL, however, would fail to attract the Negro masses who favored racial separatism and would flock to the Black Nationalism banner of Marcus Garvey in the 1920s.

Policies of the federal government and the American Federation of Labor, as well as the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and the economic depression following World War I, defeated NUL efforts to challenge "white racism" and to remove "from the minds of the Negro migrants a residual slave psychology during the years 1921 and 1940" (p. 68).

A. Philip Randolph's call in 1941 for an all-Negro march on Washington "radically altered urban Negroes' search for equality" (p. 110), and suggested to some NUL members that white participation in their organization should be diminished. Shortly thereafter, World War II brought forth a more challenging issue—segregation in the armed forces. At war's end Urban League Executive Secretary Lester B. Granger allegedly exaggerated his, albeit "enormous," role in the desegregation process.

President Truman's ensuing civil rights program and the increasing urbanization of the American Negro encouraged some NUL members to demand more forthright action on the part of their leaders and the diminution of the organization's traditional social work orientation. Moreover, internal dissension increased in the 1950s because the Board continued to be "overwhelmingly white" (p. 167).

Secretary Granger's expectations of advances in equal rights during the Eisenhower years failed to materialize. "While Eisenhower endeavored to minimize the extent of the administration's involvement in civil rights, he was at the same time fully aware of the growing political importance of civil rights" (p. 195).

Moore contends that the founders of both the NUL and the NAACP were ideological descendants of Frederick Douglass who, like
they, recognized that the struggle to destroy institutional racism would require a pragmatic approach and a protracted struggle. While noting that a conservative leadership inhibited the NUL's adjustment to rapid change, the author finds the League's contributions to interracial understanding commendable. He declares that NUL's "approach to correcting the glaring inequities in American life has been that of intelligent discussion rather than of inflammatory discourse, and of calm analysis rather than hate" (p. 212).

Inasmuch as the role of the well-publicized NAACP is more familiar, this volume represents an important addition to our knowledge of the struggle for racial equality in this country. Moore concludes this study with the appearance of the "New Guard"—Whitney M. Young, Jr., and his successor, Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. Hopefully the author will pursue his topic and discover that the successes of Young and Jordan represent in large measure a fulfillment of the dreams of their predecessors.

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Black Victory: The Rise and Fall of the White Primary in Texas.

With Black Victory Professor Darlene Clark Hine of Purdue University makes a significant contribution to the history of civil rights, to black history in general, and to Texas history. In a chronological and very logical way Hine surveys the full development of the white primary and the subsequent strivings of Afro-Americans to overthrow that kind of racially discriminatory primary. Divided into ten chapters of equal importance, the book proves to be thorough and informative. Moreover, the preface and afterword place the book in perspective.

Hine first discusses the major nineteenth century decisions of the United States Supreme Court wherein the court strictly limited its interpretations of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments. The effect was to consign blacks to second-class citizenship and disfranchisement. Chapter two covers the rise of the white primary in Texas. The next chapter identifies the black participants in the ensuing battle over the white primary—black Texans and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

The remaining chapters deal for the most part with white primary cases which went before the courts. Covered are Nixon v. Herndon
(1927), *Nixon v. Condon* (1932), and *Grovey v. Townsend* (1935. Also developed are chapters on the white primary cases coming out of Virginia, Arkansas, and Florida (1928-1930) and on the NAACP legal struggles (1936-1941). In the final chapter Hine ably covers *Smith v. Allwright* (1944) and the fall of the white primary systems (1944-1952). The chapters all reflect the Supreme Court’s slow and laborious progress toward giving the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments the breadth and scope its framers intended. As Hine concludes so well, the Smith decision in its implications had far-reaching effects on race relations, particularly in the South. The Smith case was a great historical watershed from whence came the beginnings of the Second Reconstruction or the modern civil rights movement. “The political and social advances of blacks,” says Hine, “could not have occurred without the changes that came in the wake of the overthrow of the Democratic white primary” (p. 233).

*Black Victory* is an almost flawless volume in regard to both research and writing. Above all, the author constructs a clear “path” through the maze of history leading up to and beyond the Smith decision —the ramifications of which are significantly gauged. This volume is must reading for scholars interested in southern, Texas, black, recent, and constitutional history. It is well worth having, and Hine is to be congratulated.

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