

Some New Books in Review

The University of Minnesota, 1851-1951. By JAMES GRAY. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1951. xvii, 609 p. Illustrations. \$3.75.)

The publication of this substantial, well-illustrated, handsomely printed book is an appropriate part of the centennial celebration of the University of Minnesota. Like many another institutional history produced during the last few years for similar occasions, this study was commissioned by university authorities who stipulated, the publishers tell us, only that the history be limited to one volume and that it "be readable by any member of the huge university family or their friends." That James Gray was persuaded to undertake the task of preparing the volume offered assurance that the story would be presented with engaging skill by a man whose long association with the university, as student and as member of the faculty, had given him both wide experience in and a ready sympathy for the institution.

The publishers warn us that "every man is rightly his own historian," and the author, in telling *his* story of the first century of the University of Minnesota has confined himself largely to what can properly be called the internal history of the institution. The book is divided into ten unequal parts or "books" ranging in length from one to nine chapters. Seven of these parts are organized around presidential administrations. The first covers the founding of the institution and the early difficulties up to the coming of President Folwell; the last includes chapters which did not fit very well elsewhere — one on the library, one on athletics, and one on the budget. More than two-thirds of the book is devoted to the period after 1910.

The story is well told, vigorous, and sprinkled with anecdotes. Throughout, the author manages to convey a sense of the leading personalities involved in the growth of the institution. The enormous work of Pillsbury in bringing the institution back to solvency after its too great expansion in the early 1850's is sympathetically presented; the plans and personalities, the programs and perplexities and accomplishments of the presidents — Folwell, Northrop, Vincent, Burton, Coffman, Ford, and Coffey — are lucidly set forth; the appearance and growth of the schools and colleges receive due attention; and the gradual emergence and acceptance of the idea that the state university must carry forward a threefold program of teaching, research, and public service — an idea accepted quite generally by state universities — is presented in adequate detail.

What Mr. Gray sought to do he has done well and it represents an accomplishment of no mean proportions. It is accordingly somewhat unmannerly to complain that he ought to have done more, particularly so since we have already been told that each man is his own historian. Yet the author did set

out to write a history of a state university, and many persons interested in the growth of an institution so prominent as the University of Minnesota would have been pleased with something more than the somewhat restricted and parochial picture the author has given. Attention is for the most part so closely fixed upon the presidents and their satellites, their comings and goings, their plans and projects and difficulties, that the reader seldom sees beyond the president to the board of regents — except in a crisis or when the regents behave badly — or to those more distant rings of influence, the legislature and the people of the state. Thus what the university became is made to appear in large measure the result of what the presidents and the deans and the aggressive members of the faculty willed it to be. For example, in the chapter on the development of extension work — a prominent and important feature of the work of the university — attention is focused almost entirely upon what the president and the faculty did. President Vincent's earlier experience with the Chautauqua movement is mentioned, but virtually no attention is given to the attitude of influential and responsible groups in Minnesota toward this project, except by implication. It is mentioned, almost parenthetically, that the legislature of 1913 provided forty thousand dollars for this work. Such an appropriation is of course weighty evidence that the work had public support, but we are not told what the nature of that support was. Similarly, very little attention is given to the movement to bring the legislature to the point of assuming first a limited and then a larger responsibility for the financial support of the university. The author passes over this very important stage in the rise of the university with the statement: "In 1874 the legislature had begun to see what its relationship to the university must become and made its first regular allowance of \$19,000."

Admirable as this volume is in many ways it is to be regretted that it does not tell the history of the University of Minnesota in a broader perspective. After all, as a state university, it was shaped by powerful influences from the outside as well as from the inside, by a host of forces including the people of the state working either in interested groups or through the legislature and regents to become in fact what Folwell had proposed — a place where any person could find instruction in virtually any subject in which he was interested.

VERNON CARSTENSEN

Veien mot Vest. Vol. 1: *Utvandringen fra Norge til Amerika, 1825-1865*;
Vol. 2: *Utvandringen fra Norge, 1865-1915*. By INGRID SEMMINGSSEN.
(Oslo, Norway, H. Aschehoug & Co. (W. Nygaard), 1941, 1950. 528,
590 p. Illustrations.)

It is an interesting and quite understandable fact that the Norwegian migration to America, one of the most significant events in nineteenth-century Norwegian history, was studied and interpreted on this side of the Atlantic long before scholars in Norway gave the subject the serious attention it

deserved. In 1931 the Norwegian-American Historical Association published Theodore C. Blegen's *Norwegian Migration to America, 1825-1860*, a volume erected on foundations built by earlier American scholars, but which also made liberal use of new materials. Blegen analyzed migration against the background of Norwegian life, set high standards of scholarship for subsequent investigators, and gave his story its proper setting in the larger epic of America.

It was Nordmanns-Forbundet (the International League of Norsemen) that took the initiative in urging the study of migration from a Norwegian point of view, a task finally undertaken by Ingrid Gaustad Semmingsen and subsidized by Nansenfondet (the Nansen Foundation) and Statens Forskningsfond (the National Research Fund). In 1941 the first volume of her ambitiously projected undertaking appeared. This book — written in a Norwegian which is a delight to read, liberally illustrated, and attractively printed — follows, almost chapter by chapter, the plan of organization of Dean Blegen's study, and adds little to what students already knew of the subject. It presents no new interpretation and utilizes many of the same materials as the earlier book. Nevertheless, it does give a somewhat more intimate glimpse of the changing Norwegian scene as revealed in the reports of the provincial governors and in other sources, and in general it is better attuned to a large Norwegian reading public than any work by a foreigner, however able, could possibly be. The chapter entitled "Den samfundsmessige bakgrunn for utvandringen" presents an excellent summary of conditions on both sides of the Atlantic encouraging emigration, of the factors determining the push and pull of the great trek. Its analysis of the cultural, social, and economic changes that created a movement of population to the cities and abroad is the work of one who knows her subject well and sees and writes clearly.

In 1940 the Norwegian-American Historical Association published the second volume of Dean Blegen's *Norwegian Migration*, which significantly bears the subtitle *The American Transition*. In this study the author turns his attention almost exclusively to the American scene and deals in masterly fashion with the Atlantic crossing, frontier experiences, immigrant folkways, language, religion, the press, education, and related subjects, leaving the way open, as if by tacit agreement, for someone in Norway to continue the story of migration beyond the Civil War period.

Mrs. Semmingsen has done just this in the second volume of *Veien mot vest*, which deals with the high tide of migration from 1865 to 1915. Her book is solid, scholarly, well-organized, and readable. It moves along unflinchingly without benefit of a competent previous study. Though she includes chapters on Norwegian migration to Australia and Africa, her main interest is focused on the exodus to North America. She wisely leaves the larger study of Norwegian-American life to American scholars, but gives a brief survey of settlement in the Middle West, the Great Plains area, the east and west coasts, Canada, and Alaska. Finally, she has attempted, though only tentatively, to show the effects of emigration on Norwegian thinking and on society gener-

ally. She has made liberal use of varied official statistics; reports of governors, consuls, agricultural, industrial, and social organizations; Norwegian and Norwegian-American newspapers; and some unpublished materials found both in America and Norway.

Mrs. Semmingsen is primarily concerned with long-term developments in both Norway and the United States during the years from 1865 to 1915. This was a period characterized by unparalleled economic expansion and social opportunity in America, and the Norwegian people knew it. By 1865 emigration had its own traditions; Minnesota, for example, was better known in some districts of Norway than were other parts of the native land. Letters, books, the press, and various agents continued to inform the people of conditions in the New World. The crossing had become easier, safer, and faster with the coming of the steamship. Before 1865 families and groups of families, in which the parents had reached full maturity and felt a compulsion to leave, accounted for a large percentage of the total emigrant group; thereafter the migration became one increasingly characterized by the exodus of young people, especially men from the country, who weighed the opportunities on both sides of the Atlantic and made their choice in favor of America.

This determination to emigrate is seen to be a free one, especially if one considers the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. Norway itself experienced a remarkable economic expansion after 1865; this improved the condition of workers in both town and country. Its society was democratized and its people developed both independence of spirit and considerable mobility. A growing, self-assertive, and well-informed population naturally contributed to progressive developments in the homeland; it also put strong pressure on the national economy, which, despite its growth, advanced at a pace much slower than that of the United States. Furthermore, both in agriculture and in industry, Norway, now linked as never before with world economy, felt the pinch of competition; certain of its industries declined or were forced to make radical alterations. In this age of change, accompanied by a disintegration of traditional attitudes and time-honored social distinctions, a feeling of dissatisfaction with the homeland grew. America was viewed as a place which offered greater rewards for labor, a fuller measure of opportunity, and a social structure even more flexible than the Norwegian.

Most readers will appreciate the broad sweep of Mrs. Semmingsen's books, her familiarity with Swedish, German, and British emigration, and her comprehensive knowledge of both economic theory and social history. Minnesotans will be interested in her many references to this state and her use of materials in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society.

KENNETH BJORK

Indian Forest and Range: A History of the Administration and Conservation of the Redman's Heritage. By J. P. KINNEY. (Washington, D.C., Forestry Enterprises, 1950. ix, 357 p. Portrait, map. \$4.50.)

Students of the public lands, forest products industries, Indian policy, and forestry will breath a sigh of relief as they turn the pages of *Indian Forest and Range*. For years scholars working in these areas have recognized the perfunctory treatment given to the lands in Indian reservations and have freely noted this limitation in their studies. Since Indian reservations formed but a small part of larger studies and the quantity of source material is vast, it has been impossible to give the subject fair treatment.

Well prepared for his task by years of experience with Indian lands and by several pieces of basic research in the field, Mr. Kinney has headed squarely into the subject. From the mass of records in the Indian office, he has extracted the information that most of us need. His study is prefaced by observations of Indian forest use in Colonial times, but the period from the 1850's to the present forms the heart of the book. He deals with the first agreements made between the Indians and the lumbermen for the harvesting of timber on Indian lands; with the evolution of government regulation of the sale of timber; with the experiments in seeding, selective cutting, Indian logging, and conservation.

The problems in research were indeed complex. Although the study is chiefly administrative, Mr. Kinney does not ignore nagging questions of morality posed by scholars and the public. The timber on Indian lands was a prize, particularly when the supply of merchantable timber decreased in relation to the demand. Indians on reservations wanted all the money they could get through the sale of the timber. And in general, Indian agents wanted the Indians to sell timber under controlled conditions in order to improve the standard of living on the reservations. In such a situation, there were inevitable injustices to all who were involved in the transactions. These injustices are studied in detail, and then reduced to their proper place in the narrative.

The book is fully documented. Even the sections drawn largely from personal experience have citations to manuscript or printed sources. The author has not used extensively trade journals, newspapers, or personal papers, but those who have handled such sources can add little basic information to that presented in the book.

Over half of *Indian Forest and Range* has direct interest for Minnesotans. The index reveals dozens of familiar names, like Dorilus Morrison, T. B. Walker, Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, Bishop H. B. Whipple, Knute Nelson, John Lind, and William T. Cox. The book closes with a map of "Indian Tribes, Reservations, and Settlements in the United States."

LUCILE KANE

Agricultural Discontent in the Middle West, 1900-1939. By THEODORE SALOUTOS and JOHN D. HICKS. (Madison, University of Wisconsin Press, 1951. 581 p. \$6.75.)

In these times of high prices and agricultural prosperity it is difficult to recall the bitter days of the 1920's and 1930's, when frustration and despair swept rural areas and agrarian radicals frightened sober men with their fiery preachments. But the story is here, and it is thoroughly documented. Moreover, it is related in such detail that future studies will add little by way of new information. This volume is a tribute to the meticulous research of two able historians who have devoted years of study to farmers' organizations. It will undoubtedly join the senior author's *Populist Revolt* as a useful, even indispensable, addition to the bibliography of the Middle Border.

Initial chapters are excellent summaries of the historical background and regional setting out of which the twentieth century organizations developed. Here the authors briefly review the familiar story of the organized farmers since the era of the Patrons of Husbandry. Equally important, these chapters submit agriculture of the period to economic analysis and provide a thematic structure for succeeding chapters. Clearly, Middle Western farmers were thoroughly indoctrinated in antimonopolism, in the physiocratic faith that agriculture was the basic industry in the economy, and in the belief that they had not been receiving a fair share of the national income. They were devoted, moreover, to the use of government power to protect their interests. Farmers are pictured as small capitalists, determined to protect their investments and anxious to secure a fair return for their labor. This is perhaps correct from the viewpoint of economic analysis, but the authors should have made it equally clear that the farmers thought of themselves as producers. Capitalists were the grain dealers of Minneapolis or the money lenders of Wall Street.

J. A. Everitt's American Society of Equity is the first organization studied by the authors. Obsessed with the plan of achieving price controls through gigantic holding movements, Everitt sought to bolster prices through Equity action, but failed. Though the organization quickly splintered into numerous smaller groups, the authors discover a close kinship between Everitt's ideas and the later McNary-Haugenism, "ever-normal granary" and parity concepts.

A contemporary of the Equity, the loosely organized Farmers' Union, also attacked the problem of low prices and agricultural distress. Its solutions, however, were quite different, for most of its members urged co-operation as the answer to the farmers' dilemma, while others believed that federal assistance was necessary. The Union taught farmers that they could live in the capitalist system by applying the "practical business methods" of co-operative buying and selling. This reviewer, however, finds the conclusion that "the emotional and strongly phrased language employed in condemning the existing order was but a means used by the Union for selling itself to depressed farmers who did not respond to other appeals" an over-

statement which ignores both the doctrinaire position and temperaments of many Union leaders.

It is the Nonpartisan League, however, which attracts greatest attention, for two chapters trace the growth, expansion, and decline of this third party irruption into Northwestern politics. These chapters demonstrate qualities of detachment and objectivity which distinguish the entire volume.

A. C. Townley's dynamic role is carefully weighed against the evidence, as are the League's reforms in North Dakota. The Socialist background of the organization is emphasized, as well as the dramatic and effective methods of mass propaganda and high-pressure salesmanship perfected by the League. The League reaped where the Society of Equity had sown, and it harvested votes where deep-seated grievances made farmers ripe for a party which promised that government ownership of vital marketing and credit institutions was the answer to their problems. Despite bitter charges of "red Socialists," "free lovers," "sweet-mouthed flatterers," and "anarchists," the League dominated North Dakota and invaded neighboring states and provinces so effectively that long after the party collapsed, "League sentiment persisted in the minds of hundreds and thousands of farmers." The authors conclude with the observation that "mass movements are of temporary duration unless founded upon an economic organization that functions every day of the year."

Treatment of the American Farm Bureau Federation is disappointing. The Farm Bureau, as the authors admit, is unquestionably the most powerful and most representative of all the farmers' organizations. It is disturbing, in view of these facts, to discover that the Bureau receives far less attention than the Nonpartisan League and no more than the Equity or Farmers' Union. The Bureau's emphasis upon co-operative enterprises, its effective political pressure on Congress (the more effective pressure on state legislatures and state colleges is not mentioned), and its unique ties with the county agents and agricultural extension services actually meant that in many states farm policy and Farm Bureau policy were synonymous.

Professors Saloutos and Hicks conclude their study with descriptions of the experiences of the Farm Bloc, the McNary-Haugen agitation, the Federal Farm Board, and the New Deal programs for agricultural relief. In spite of an emphasis upon descriptive narrative rather than upon economic analysis, the problem of adjusting agriculture to our modern industrial economy emerges as a basic theme in American life. The magnitude of the problem is suggested by the fact that in February, 1933, the general level of farm prices was the lowest on record, actually only forty-nine per cent of the prewar average. The New Deal farm programs devised to meet this crisis were clearly the product of a generation of planning, agitating, and arguing on the part of farm organizations. If the AAA and other programs represented compromises which made complete success impossible, past events, as well as the complexity of current problems, made such a fate inevitable.

The authors view the entire parity program as "a form of economic appeasement to the farmers" which promised "no equivalent benefits to the millions of unorganized consumers, the countless white-collar workers, school teachers, pensioners, widows and others who lived on fixed incomes. . . . Nor did it promise to make possible a very effective use of our natural resources." Perhaps farmers achieved through political action what they had failed to receive through hard work during the previous century.

PAUL F. SHARP

Federal Records of World War II. Vol. 1: *Civilian Agencies*; vol. 2: *Military Agencies.* (Washington, The National Archives, 1950, 1951. xii, 1073, iii, 1061 p. Paper, \$2.50 each.)

This two-volume guide represents a unique undertaking in records description. The material covered consists of thousands of cubic feet of wartime records stored in the National Archives building as well as in other places. The first volume is devoted to records of civilian agencies with functions relating to the war effort; the second deals with records of military agencies.

Roughly, they cover the years from 1939 to the completion of demobilization after Germany and Japan surrendered six years later. They were planned as guides to record materials that would be helpful to individuals engaged in research and to governmental branches responsible for national defense today. Although no attempt was made to describe the records in detail, the information provided on various subjects should enable researchers to recognize groups containing desired information.

Descriptions of the organization and functions of the civilian and military agencies during the war reveal the subject content of each record group. Many subdivisions are grouped under seven chief agencies, branches, and departments in the first volume, and under four in the second. Those wanting additional information on war agencies will welcome the bibliographical notes appearing at the ends of many of the record descriptions. Various typographical devices are used to indicate the relationship between units of particular agencies and their major and minor divisions. The number of cubic feet occupied by each record group and their locations in 1949 are given. There is a table of contents in each volume and a complete alphabetical index in the second.

Among the many individuals who labored on these volumes is Mrs. Solon J. Buck, long familiar to readers of this magazine. The National Archives has rendered an important service to American scholars by publishing descriptions of these recently created records so promptly after the close of World War II.

ROBERT M. BROWN

This Is Detroit: Two Hundred and Fifty Years in Pictures. By M. M. QUAIFFE.

Edited by WILLIAM WHITE. (Detroit, Wayne University Press, 1951. x, 198 p. Illustrations.)

Detroit is celebrating the two-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of its settlement, and to honor the event, one of its adopted sons, Dr. Milo M. Quaife, historian of the Lake States and for many years secretary and editor of the Burton Historical Collection, has prepared a volume in the new visual idiom integrating textual and pictorial history.

Detroit is one of the oldest settlements beyond the Eastern seaboard. It has, however, all the characteristics of a young and vital metropolis. It may well be that the rigors that accompanied its growth made it strong and tough enough to accept the challenge of the industrial age. Dr. Quaife divides his pictorial biography of the city into two parts. The first deals in chronological sequence with the political and cultural development of the first two hundred years. It highlights the settlement under Cadillac, difficulties with Indian tribes, the transition from French and English government to American statehood, cultural and political leadership, pertinent phases of the Civil War, and the leisurely life before industrialization. The second part provides a cross section of the new dynamic Detroit in the last fifty years. It shows the new face of the city and its people, the development of its most noteworthy industry, the growth of public utilities and services. One particularly lovely section is devoted to ships and the river. Homely touches round out the history. Among them are pictures of a hokey-pokey man, of ice-skating in the nineties, and of Nancy Martin, who used money she earned selling chickens and vegetables to establish Harper Hospital.

The illustrations, complete with citation of sources, consist of reproductions of old maps, documents, lithographs, paintings, and particularly rare and excellent photographs. They are well arranged and provided with scholarly but lively descriptive captions, so that they create for the reader a concrete and absorbing image of the city and its past. The book will appeal to regional historians, to students of urban development, and especially to the people of Detroit, who will not be able to lay it down until the last page is reached.

HERMINE MUNZ BAUMHOFFER

Haven in the Woods: The Story of the Finns in Wisconsin. By JOHN I.

KOLEHMAINEN and GEORGE W. HILL. (Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1951. ix, 177 p. \$2.50.)

This excellent case study deals with the Finns of Wisconsin, but it also treats more largely the entire Finnish immigration to the United States, and constitutes, despite its brevity, the best analysis of the subject now available. Its value is enhanced, also, by the fact that the experiences of the Wisconsin Finns were by no means unique, but can be generalized fairly reliably to apply to most of their countrymen, at least to those who settled on American farms.

Mr. Kolehmainen, the historian of these authors, graphically depicts in the opening chapter the economic privation existing in Finland in the 1880's and thereafter which caused the flow of Finns to the United States. He traces in the next chapter the immigration of many of them to the mines, forests, and factories of the Middle Western states, especially Minnesota and Michigan, from which some eventually found their way to farms in the cutover regions of these states and Wisconsin. The inducements which prevailed upon them thus to settle on the soil, to escape disliked industrial employment, and to respond to a love for the soil, are described in vivid and telling detail.

Mr. Hill, a rural sociologist, then reports on their farming experiences among the boulders, swamps, and stumps of northern Wisconsin, where they have been frequently defeated by these adverse conditions. Their children today show little stomach for such struggles as they faced, and are abandoning farming. In the fourth and final chapter, Mr. Kolehmainen tells something of social and cultural movements among the Finns, including temperance, church activities, socialism and trade unionism in an earlier period, and, more recently, consumer co-operation and communism. The last two had important centers of conflict among the Finns of Superior, Wisconsin.

The authors, themselves native-born children of Finnish parents and now members of college faculties, write with commendable objectivity in a clear, flowing style. Their documentation shows wide reading in the available published literature and in periodicals and newspapers, most of which are published in Finnish.

JOHN SIRJAMAKI

A Merry Briton in Pioneer Wisconsin: A Contemporary Narrative Reprinted from Life in the West. (Madison, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1950. vii, 108 p. \$2.00.)

This slender little volume is both informative and interesting. It reprints in part a volume entitled *Life in the West*, published in England in 1842 and now very rare. The identity of the author of this delightful travel narrative has never been established, but that he is indeed "a merry Briton" is apparent from the very first paragraph. Obviously an accomplished writer with an easy colloquial style, the unknown visitor set down a readable, humorous, and historically valuable account of life in Wisconsin Territory in 1841.

Early that summer, seven years before Wisconsin was to become a state, the author arrived at the Racine wharf to begin his explorations of the settled parts of the territory. Leaving his "portmanteau and carpet-bag" on the dock "to the tender mercies of the winds and grasshoppers," he shoulders his umbrella and marches up to the hotel. There he retires for the night well pleased with the pretty settlement of Racine. He is rudely awakened, however, when "a vast piece of the ceiling" and part of the wall of his room fall on him. Thus prodded, he decides to move on, and subsequently visits the young settlements of Madison, Milwaukee, Mackinac, and Green Bay. No

similar accident befalls him, but the trials of travel in a pioneer land beset him constantly. No phase of frontier life escapes him. He comments on the country, the people, their dress, speech, and habits. Even the animals and insects are not overlooked in his observations.

Perhaps the most interesting portion of the book is its climax. The sight-seeing tour ends at Wolf River, where the Menominee Indians have gathered to receive their annuities from the government. He describes in useful and vivid detail the grounds, the proceedings, and those present, especially Chief Oshkosh. Then, with the remark that he "had seen quite enough of the Indians," he is off again for we know not where.

JUNE D. HOLMQUIST

Replete with information about persons and events of significance in the Minnesota story, as well as that of the Lake Superior area, is a booklet by Hamilton N. Ross dealing with the history of *The Apostle Islands* (1951. 24 p.). That explorers and traders bound for the upper Northwest usually stopped in this group of twenty-three islands which cluster about the Bayfield Peninsula on the south shore of Lake Superior is apparent to the reader of the booklet. Such names as Radisson, Groseilliers, Du Luth, Le Sueur, Alexander Henry, and Jean Baptiste Cadotte figure prominently in the story of this picturesque region. After 1816, when the American Fur Company took over the trading post at La Pointe on Madelaine Island, traders and missionaries who later were to help develop the Minnesota country became active there. Among the missionaries were Sherman Hall, Frederick Ayer, William T. Boutwell, and Father Baraga. The fur trade attracted, among others, Truman and Lyman Warren, Ramsay Crooks, Charles Oakes, and Julius and Marx Austrian. After the fur trade declined, the latter three settled in St. Paul. Commercial fishing both at La Pointe and at Grand Portage during the American Fur Company's regime receives some attention. How significant LaPointe was in the history of the North Star State is emphasized by Mr. Ross, who points out that it "was the only port of call at the west end" of Lake Superior until Duluth and Superior were founded in the 1850's. A valuable feature of the booklet is a series of nine carefully prepared maps on which are located missions, trading posts of the North West and American Fur companies, portages, and the like. One map locates the portage between the Brule and St. Croix rivers, over which numerous explorers and traders passed in their journey to the Minnesota country.

History Here and There

"INTEREST AND ACTIVITY in local history has not just grown or expanded during the past decade, it has literally exploded." Thus writes Henry D. Brown in an article entitled "Historical Renaissance in Detroit," appearing in the summer number of *American Heritage*. There he tells of the founding and growth of the Detroit Historical Society, and reports on the dedication, on the occasion of Detroit's two-hundred-and-fiftieth birthday, of the Detroit Historical Museum. Most of the exhibits there, Mr. Brown points out, have "been conceived to demonstrate the development of the American way of life as it has taken place in Detroit."

"History is, in its essence exciting; to present it as dull is to my mind, stark and unforgivable misrepresentation." This is the opinion expressed by Catherine Drinker Bowen in the *May Atlantic*, where she discusses "The Business of a Biographer." More specifically, she reviews her own experience in writing her last book, *John Adams and the American Revolution*. How she chose her subject, how she conducted her research, how she selected and discarded material, and, above all, how she wrote her narrative are revealed by this able historian and biographer. Every writer of history can profit from her experience; all should attempt to meet the standards she set for herself. After learning the facts of Adams' life as recorded in earlier biographies, she decided it would be her task "as biographer to make the facts live." Much, she knew, would depend upon her "manner of research," upon her "laborious work . . . in research libraries, hour after hour and day after day." She resisted the temptation merely "to dig out and reveal hitherto unpublished material" and to "spend precious hours copying some incident which, while it may have been historically 'new,' was patently not biographical news." She decided that "whatever did not stand as illustration of Adams's character or Adams's part in forming the American States, must be thrown out." After adopting a narrative method, she studied the conversational idiom of Adams' day, though she used dialogue sparingly. And in writing, Mrs. Bowen had a motto: "Will the reader turn the page?" Book sales prove that he is doing so. Some of the secrets of the writer's success can be learned from a reading of the present article.

The first number of *Midwest Folklore*, published in April by Indiana University, is rich in material for the area defined in its title. Minnesotans will be especially interested in Daniel G. Hoffman's article on "Robert Frost's Paul Bunyan: A Frontier Hero in New England Exile." That the Paul Bunyan tales are "descended from earlier yarns of the swaggering frontiersman and the shrewd Yankee peddler" is the belief of the author. He suggests also that they "were originally created to offset fear of the wilderness and the

hazards of logging." More recently, the oral tales of the lumberjack have "inspired a growing literature" intended for a far wider audience than the original occupational group. Included in this literature is what Mr. Hoffman thinks is the "first poetic use of the Bunyan material"—Robert Frost's poem entitled "Paul's Wife," which appeared in the *Century Magazine* in 1921. Some old-world customs transplanted by one significant Minnesota nationality group receive attention in an article by Aili K. Johnson in the same issue. He writes about "Lore of the Finnish-American Sauna," telling how it is constructed, of its use as a "sanctuary devoted to ritual cleansing, healing and birth," of its social aspects, and as a place for the entertainment of guests. The writer also records some of the stories that are told about the *sauna*.

Trees and Men is the title of an address presented by F. K. Weyerhaeuser before a meeting of the Newcomen Society of England in St. Paul on May 18, 1951, and later published as a booklet (32 p.). Mr. Weyerhaeuser reviews the story of his family's lumbering activities, first in the upper Mississippi and Chippewa valleys and the Lake States, and later in the Pacific Northwest, and he tells of the economic problems that have transformed the nature of the industry. The Weyerhaeuser firm's beginnings as Frederick Weyerhaeuser and F. C. A. Denkmann became business partners at Rock Island are recalled, and the story of the organization of the Mississippi River Logging Company in 1880 is outlined. The latter, according to the writer, represented "one of the earliest mergers of substantial size in American industrial history."

George Catlin, Seth Eastman, Alfred J. Miller, John Mix Stanley, Frank B. Mayer, and Carl Wimar are the "Painters of the Amerind" discussed by Virgil Barker in his informing survey of *American Painting: History and Interpretation* (New York, 1950. 717 p.). Although the writer has overlooked such artists as Peter Rindisbacher, J. O. Lewis, and Karl Bodmer, to say nothing of the early illustrators who pictured the native Americans, he provides a useful survey for the general reader. The pictures of these men were intended to satisfy the curiosity of city dwellers "who would not see the real thing." The same was true, in Mr. Barker's opinion, of the panorama painters; the work of both groups represented a "craft of reporting rather than an art for spiritual sustenance." The author devotes a chapter to "The Popularity of the Panorama," discussing the origins of the moving panorama and the accomplishments of some of the men who painted them. Among the latter are John Rowson Smith, John Banvard, Henry Lewis, and John J. Egan—four of the artists who produced pictorial records of the Mississippi River, which, the author declares, was the "subject of all the most famous panoramas" of the midcentury.

The elusive English edition of Henry Lewis' *Das illustrierte Mississippithal* is discussed and bits of evidence pointing to its possible publication are presented by John Francis McDermott in the *Papers* of the Bibliographical Society of America for the second quarter of 1951. Professor McDermott sug-

gests that an advertisement in the *New York Daily Tribune* in the spring of 1854 might have been prompted by an English version; that the "bilingual irregularity of the picture captions" in the German edition gives evidence of publication in English; and that the Midwestern flavor of the text obviously reflects American authorship. He notes, however, that attempts to identify George B. Douglas, whose name appears on the title page as the author of the text, have ended in failure. Could it be that Douglas was Lewis himself, writing under a pseudonym? To his bibliographical note, Professor McDermott adds a list of "known library holdings" of the rare German edition in America.

The National Archives has issued as numbers 24 to 28 of its *Preliminary Inventories* five publications that will facilitate the use of federal records in its custody. They make available descriptive lists of the records of the *United States War Ballot Commission*, compiled by Robert W. Krauskopf; of the *Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion*, compiled by Homer L. Calkin; of the *Bureau of Aeronautics*, compiled by William F. Shonkwiler; of the *Selective Service System, 1940-47*, compiled by Richard G. Wood; and of the *Retraining and Reemployment Administration*, compiled by Thayer M. Boardman. The longest (156 p.) — number 25, which is the second noted above — describes almost two hundred cubic feet of records of highly important government authority during World War II. The arrangement is similar to that of other *Preliminary Inventories* released since 1941, with a brief introduction outlining the history and function of the agency. The records themselves are arranged by groups and then broken down by series of numerical listings. Additional information is contained in appendixes, and a table of contents serves as an adequate guide for the user. Number 7 in a series of *Special Lists* published by the National Archives is one of *Documents Relating to Special Agents of the Department of State, 1796-1906* (229 p.). This manual describes the documents in greater detail than the *Preliminary Inventories*, and it treats the records as individual documents rather than in groups. R.M.B.

TELLING THE MINNESOTA STORY

To judge the suitability of the Crow Wing River, Leaf Hills, and Otter Tail areas as places of residence for members of his tribe, Oshkosh, "the last great sachem of the Wisconsin Menominees," journeyed into the Minnesota country in the summer of 1850. That visit and the trip to Washington that followed are described by Katharine C. Turner in one chapter of a book entitled *Red Men Calling on the Great White Father* (Norman, Oklahoma, 1951). Under a treaty of 1848, Oshkosh and his people "ceded all they owned in Wisconsin for \$400,000 and a tract of land on the Crow Wing River above St. Paul, where they were to remove within two years if the land proved suitable." But when the Menominee chief finally saw the proposed Minnesota reservation, he found a land devoid of game — a land which he considered entirely inadequate for the needs of his people. True, the Winnebagoes were

already established there, and they were able to show their red brothers from Wisconsin fertile fields of corn, oats, potatoes, and vegetables. But the Menominees were not interested. They wanted game and wild rice; in their estimation "corn growing was for women." Furthermore, they objected to lands located in the very path of the ever-hostile Sioux and Chippewa. And so Oshkosh and the other Menominee leaders traveled to Washington to voice their objections before President Fillmore himself. A "canny orator," Oshkosh made a plea to remain in Wisconsin that touched the president; the poorest land in Wisconsin, he said, was better than that in the Crow Wing region. His appeal was not in vain, and the Menominees obtained a reservation on the Wolf River in Wisconsin. Much of the narrative here presented by Mrs. Turner is based upon colorful reports and letters in the National Archives.

With the problems of local historical societies clearly in mind, Miss Lucile Kane, curator of manuscripts for the Minnesota Historical Society, has prepared three useful *Service Bulletins*. The first, *A Guide for Collectors of Manuscripts* (15 p.), tells what should be collected and preserved and how manuscripts should be cleaned, arranged, accessioned, and catalogued. The second provides a list of *Selected Subject Headings Used by the Manuscript Department of the Minnesota Historical Society* (19 p.), and the third deals with *Interviews and Reminiscences* (8 p.). All have been issued as mimeographed booklets, which can be obtained from the society free of charge while the very limited supply lasts.

Minneapolis in the boom days of the 1880's is the scene of the so-called "pioneering" experiences of Mary Alves Long, whose autobiography has been published under the title *High Time to Tell It* (Durham, North Carolina, 1950). She presents a picture of a family accustomed to North Carolina plantation life, transplanted to the fast-growing Northern city on the Mississippi. "Nobody in Minneapolis seemed to have any doubts of success," she writes. "Who could help believing in a town where so much building was going on?" How members of the Hall family shared in the city's prosperity as one became a lawyer, another a real-estate dealer, a third a fashionable dressmaker, and the author a teacher is described in a series of chapters. Among subjects of special interest touched upon are living conditions in the 1880's, campus life at the University of Minnesota, which the author attended for three years, and teaching standards in the Minneapolis public schools of the period.

Contemporary pictures of *The Dakota Bark House* in the Minnesota country are reproduced in a folder containing four *Indian Leaflets* recently published by the Science Museum of St. Paul (1951). The illustrations are drawn from Hennepin's map of the area, from Seth Eastman's water colors, from sketches by J. Dallas published in *Harper's* magazine in 1858, and from original drawings by Robert O. Sweeny. Each is accompanied by a descriptive note. The Dallas and Sweeny items are reproduced from books and pictures in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society.

As number 4 of its series of "American Mysteries," *American Heritage* includes in its summer issue an article on "The Nesmith Cave Mystery" by June D. Holmquist of the Minnesota Historical Society. From newspaper files and other sources in the society's collections, Mrs. Holmquist has reconstructed the story of a hoax which caused considerable excitement in old St. Anthony in the late 1860's.

WHO'S WHO IN THIS ISSUE

Dr. DONALD F. WARNER is associate professor of history at Macalester College, St. Paul. He is the author of an unpublished study of the Canadian annexation movement prepared as a doctoral thesis at Yale University, and he has contributed articles and book reviews to the *Canadian Historical Review*, the *Beaver*, *Agricultural History*, the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, and this magazine.

Mrs. EVA L. ALVEY RICHARDS of Seattle is the author of *Arctic Mood*, a book published in 1949 in which she relates her experiences as a teacher among the Eskimos in the interior of Alaska. In sending her present memories of life on the Mesabi to *Minnesota History*, she reported that she lived at Burnett from 1893 to 1898, when her father took his family to the Pacific Northwest. Those years, Mrs. Richards recalls as "among the happiest I have known; certainly the richest of my childhood." In a book now in preparation, she will tell of the St. Louis County iron mining frontier of the 1890's—"of the deep silent forest; the great muskeg stretches; of the wild life, the deer, moose, grouse, and countless birds; and above all the Indians with whom I played and traveled up to the rice lakes." Additional sections from this still unpublished narrative will appear in future issues of this magazine.

Mr. MICHEL BENISOVICH of New York is the author of numerous articles on art published in American, British, German, Dutch, Swiss, Scandinavian, and South American journals. He has been associate editor of the *Modern Language Journal*, and he has prepared material for broadcasting by the Office of War Information and the Voice of America. The articles on Peter Rindischbacher which Mr. Benisovich located in a Swiss newspaper have been translated from the original German by Miss ANNA HEILMAIER, a talented linguist and a member of the staff of the James Jerome Hill Reference Library of St. Paul.

Dr. HERMANN E. ROTHFUSS, whose survey of early German theatrical activity in Minnesota is completed in this issue, is associate professor of German in Western Michigan College of Education at Kalamazoo. He is the author of recent articles published in the *German Quarterly* and in *Monatshefte*.

Dr. CARL L. LOKKE is chief of the foreign affairs section in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. He found the Roosevelt letter here published as a result of his interest in Alaska, where he lived as a boy. There, he reports, "I met both Mr. Borchsenius and Judge Moore. The former visited us in the Kougarok at least twice. His long name was practically a household word with

us." He recalls too a meeting with Judge Moore in Nome in 1907. Although Theodore Roosevelt's letters are now being published under the editorship of Elting Morison, Mr. Lokke expresses doubt that the editor has "combed the Minnesota Historical Society for Roosevelt letters." In any case, he feels that this bit of correspondence "has sufficient importance to warrant separate publication."

Among those contributing book reviews to the present issue are Professor VERNON CARSTENSEN of the history faculty in the University of Wisconsin, who is co-author with Merle Curti of a two-volume history of that school; Dr. KENNETH BJORK, professor of history at St. Olaf College, Northfield, and author of *Saga in Steel and Concrete*, a study of Norwegian engineers in America; Mrs. HERMINE MUNZ BAUMHOFER, a member of the staff of the United States Air Force Motion Picture Film Depository at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio; Dr. PAUL F. SHARP of the department of history and government in the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at Ames, who is the author of *The Agrarian Revolt in Western Canada*; and Professor JOHN SIRJAMAKI of the sociology faculty in Yale University, whose article on "The People of the Mesabi Range" appeared in the issue of this magazine for September, 1946. Three members of the society's staff also are represented by reviews. They are Dr. ROBERT M. BROWN, newly appointed state archivist of Minnesota; Mrs. JUNE D. HOLMQUIST, editorial assistant; and Miss LUCILE M. KANE, curator of manuscripts.



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