
Reviewed by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.

IN THIS BOOK, Professor Bellot, who has held for many years the chair of American history at the University of London, presents a review of recent contributions to the interpretation of American history. He is primarily concerned with the revolution in American historiography in the half century after 1890. His opening chapter describes the origin and significance of this revolution. Then, in half a dozen bibliographical essays, he reviews the impact of the revolution on historical writing about the mainland colonies in the eighteenth century, the Revolution and the Constitution, the settlement of the Mississippi Valley, the sectional conflict of the mid-nineteenth century, the years of “integration and reform” following the Civil War, and the “new complexities” of the twentieth century.

The revolution, in Professor Bellot’s view, was brought about by three main influences: the liberalization of the academic curriculum; the establishment of professional standards, which he associates particularly with Herbert B. Adams and Johns Hopkins; and the “adoption of a distinctly American in place of what had been an essentially European point of view,” by which he means, of course, Frederick Jackson Turner and what he calls the Middle Western school. The consequence was the outburst of historical energy which produced the indefatigable research, the detailed monographs, and the massive accumulation of knowledge of the last half century.

Professor Bellot himself shares, on the whole, the leading preconceptions of the Middle Western school. He stands for the monograph against the multi-volume narrative (he sees little use in Rhodes, Channing, or Parrington); for the professional historian against the amateur (the writings of Bernard De Voto, for example, or Matthew Josephson receive no mention); for the work of analysis against the biography (“they do not tell me what, as a rule, I want to know”). And he is primarily concerned with such questions as land policy, agriculture, and the tariff rather than with the issues of political, intellectual, and industrial history which have commanded increasing attention in the last decade. Thus his chapter on Colonial history contains no mention of the work of Perry Miller. The chapter on the Civil War accepts uncritically the view “that the war, at bottom, was not about slavery.” And it is surely out of proportion to write about the New Deal as if its central and decisive accomplishment were the passage of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act.

But within the limits of his preconceptions, Professor Bellot is crisp, thoughtful, and intelligent. He gets quickly to the point of historical controversies, sums up implications concisely, points out areas still to be covered, and contributes generally thorough and accurate bibliographical notes.

He is aware, too, that the historiographical epoch of which he is writing is over. In the end, he concedes, the frontier obsession and the monographic compulsion may have tended “to isolate and to atomize American history.” Under their spell, “the student turned inward, to the almost complete neglect of the external world; and, within the boundaries of the United States, devoted himself more and more to the history of some particular aspect or region.”

Mr. Schlesinger is associate professor of history in Harvard University. His own contributions to American historiography include the Age of Jackson, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1945.
But such a disease, Professor Bellot feels, carries its own remedy. The rise of social and intellectual history and the increasing maturity of diplomatic history all show that American historiography is entering its new phase with undiminished vitality.

The mature student should benefit greatly by a reading of American History and American Historians; and all American historians will be grateful for the opportunity to view the contours of our recent historiography through the eyes of so learned, intelligent, and sympathetic an Englishman.

GLOBAL FRONTIER

The Great Frontier. By WALTER PRESCOTT WEBB. (Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1952. xiii, 434 p. $5.00.)

Reviewed by Philip D. Jordan

Professor Webb, scholar and interpreter of the American frontier, has an engaging habit of flinging out new ideas that always are provocative and that sometimes result in heated controversy. His most recent volume, extending the Webb concept of the national frontier to global dimensions, is as stimulating and contentious as was his The Great Plains, a work that set historians to bickering among themselves and resulted, happily enough, in some clarification of their thinking.

To Mr. Webb, the frontier was not exclusively a manifestation of historic processes within the United States. There was, he writes, another frontier — a "Great Frontier." This superior frontier is defined as embracing all the areas, together with their land and varieties of natural wealth, which were discovered at the opening of the sixteenth century. Set against the Great Frontier was the "Metropolis," and this Metropolis means to the author the whole community of western Europe without regard to political divisions. After defining and discussing the characteristics of the Great Frontier and the cultural Metropolis, Mr. Webb sets himself the task of determining and evaluating the impact of the one upon the other. He asks the question: What did the Great Frontier do to the Metropolis? And he answers that the prosperity of the modern western world, from 1500 to 1900, was the direct result of a "sudden, continuing, and ever-increasing flood of wealth" from the frontier "precipitated on the Metropolis," bringing a business boom such as the world had never known before and probably can never know again. This four-hundred-year boom carried with it, and as a part of it, the development of democratic institutions, the rise of individualism, and the growth of capitalism.

Whether this boom continues for a brief spell or comes abruptly to a halt, Mr. Webb feels that western civilization is bound to change. Of one thing he is certain: prosperity can no longer stem from frontier conditions. And if there be no substitute for the frontier, then society may degenerate.

The picture painted of this progressive decay is not pleasant. Rural life, it is suggested, would tend to become more important and city life less alluring. Society might become somewhat more medieval in character, and new ideas would have to be formulated to make that type of existence more tolerable. Indeed, Mr. Webb says, historians and philosophers of the sorry future would view the "Age of the Frontier" as an "aberration, a temporary departure from the normal, a strange historical detour in which men developed all sorts of quaint ideas about property for all, freedom for all, and continuous progress." He predicts that if this happens — if the bubble bursts — governments will grow stronger, there will be a tendency toward socialization or toward absolutism, the individual will tend to lose his identity in growing corporate life, food and clothing will continue to increase in price, famine will afflict overpopulated countries, and capitalism of the nineteenth-century type will decline.

Apparently Mr. Webb can find no "new" frontier as vigorous as the old one. The most plausible candidate comes from science and technology, but the tendency is "to overrate what science can do." Readers of The Great Frontier will agree that the hypothesis set forth is stimulating, but they may differ as to the worth of the conclusions and may complain that the author knows too much about the frontier and not enough about world geography and world economics.

Mr. Jordan is professor of history in the University of Minnesota. His latest book is Uncle Sam of America.
IN NO SENSE of the term was there a discovery of America by Columbus in 1492, unless one wishes to give credit for a rediscovery in each century, in which case we will say that America (Greenland) was discovered in the sixth century by the Irish under St. Brendan; in the early tenth century by Gunnbjorn; and in the late tenth century (continental North America) by Bjarni Herjulfsson; in the eleventh century by Leif Ericson; in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries by various Norsemen; in the fourteenth century by Paul Knutson and Henry Sinclair; in the fifteenth century by Columbus, if the Portuguese did not reach Newfoundland or South America a few years before 1492; and at the beginning of the sixteenth century by Vespucci, who first realized that South America was part of a New World,” so says Mr. Pohl in his Lost Discovery.

The writer claims that he has found sufficient evidence in eighteen years of study and analysis of the sagas and accounts of Herjulfsson and Leif Ericson’s journeys to prove that they did land on the shores of America. The apparent factual information uncovered in analyzing these records may be conjectured with; but the personal detective work of uncovering physical evidences is indeed a fascinating epilogue to the numerous studies that have been made. Laying these aside as background material, it is very interesting to note from Mr. Pohl’s description how closely some of the evidence compares with the “finds” made in Minnesota. Numerous artifacts have been found and identified as early Norse relics; some may have been left in place by Norsemen, and others could have been carried great distances by the Indians or others using them.

Be that as it may, we have the benefit of H. R. Holand’s discovery of permanently fixed mooring stones in the region where the Kensington rune stone was found. Mr. Pohl’s detailed description of the mooring sites on the east coast and his finding of actual chiseled mooring holes in solid rock has indeed enhanced the theory that the Norsemen were there. It was the custom of the Norse to moor their ships and after boats by this method. The absence of trees or other objects along the coast, as well as along the treeless waterways of western Minnesota, made it impossible for them to shore their watercraft safely in any other manner. The mooring holes found where Mr. Pohl logically concluded them to be on the east coast are a little more than an inch in diameter and are “halfway between round and triangular with the angles rounded.” This description fits exactly that of holes found along the reconstructed route of Norse travels in western Minnesota. I have seen several, each situated on a site where there was a particular and logical reason for anchoring a boat. These are real artifacts; no one has carried them away. At least they present remarkable evidence of Norse exploration, and they further reduce speculation regarding the authenticity of real evidence and clues uncovered in Mr. Pohl’s research concerning the “lost discovery” of America.

CIVIL WAR IN PICTURES

Divided We Fought: A Pictorial History of the War, 1861–1865. Hirst D. Milhollen and Milton Kaplan, picture editors; Hirst D. Milhollen, Milton Kaplan, and Hulen Stuart, caption editors; David Donald, author of the text and general editor. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1952. x, 452 p. Illustrations. $10.00.)

Reviewed by Harold Dean Cater

IT IS A PARADOX that Mathew Brady, the County Cork Irishman who, in a linen duster, photographed the Civil War, should have ruined himself financially by the venture and yet left behind a mass of glass plates which money can hardly buy today. A professional photographer who had only the capricious wet plate to work with and who could no more than dream of the distant day when the light-
ning shutter and other inventions would help
perfect his art, Brady was a pioneer. With a
staff of assistants he himself had trained, he
toured the battlefields carrying equipment so
cumbersome that a modern photographer
would consider the job an impossibility. Yet he
achieved results which his successors have
scarcely approached. Others, like Brown, Lytle,
and Cook, while less spectacular in their ac­
complishments, helped make this the best-
photographed war. Campaign “sketch artists,”
like Forbes and the Waud brothers, who
worked for the weeklies published by Leslie
and Harper, likewise made important contribu­
tions to the pictorial record.

A ten-volume Photographic History of the
Civil War published in 1911 was a monumental
attempt to present the story photographically.
The forty years that have since elapsed, how­
ever, have been marked by radical improve­
ments in photoengraving — improvements that
make it possible in the present work not only
to catch the remarkable quality of Brady’s
original negatives, but to reproduce the clean
lines of the artists’ drawings. Many of the latter
were included among the pictures assembled by
two members of the Library of Congress staff —
Mr. Milhollen and Mr. Kaplan — who first gath­
ered together the thousands of known Civil
War pictures and then launched an extensive
search that resulted in the discovery of many
never before reproduced. Of those collected,
fewer than five hundred photographs and
drawings were used. When combined with Mr.
Donald’s accurate and highly readable text,
with its extensive quotations from eye-witness
accounts, a perfect illumination of text on pic­
ture, and of picture on text, results.

As might be expected, there are aspects of
the war for which good pictures were not
found. This is true of the campaigns of the
West, of Lee’s surrender, and of such individu­
als as General Benjamin F. Butler, although
strangely enough the text includes an intriguing
contemporary description of him. Almost en­
tirely lacking also are pictures of Minnesota
units and soldiers. The famed First Minnesota
Volunteer Infantry, for example, is represented
only by Gardner’s photograph of some of its
deathless dead stretched upon a battlefield. Oc­
casionally picture and prose do not quite com­
plement one another, as in the case of a formal
photograph of the dauntless Pickett alongside
a text that incongruously mentions his “wond­
rous pulchritude.” But these are tiny flaws
in a notable book.

The book opens with a full-page photograph
of Lincoln standing erect, wise and proud, as
if saying “This was my war.” The final picture
shows the victorious Union armies in a grand
review on Washington’s Pennsylvania Avenue.
Unlike the photographs, the drawings repro­
duced are not masterpieces; but these hurried,
dramatic sketches give variety and, even more,
relief to the static photograph, and they con­
vey much of the shock and the boredom, as
well as the magnificence, of the tragedy. Some
touch a subject and provide an atmosphere
that otherwise would be lacking. One by
Forbes shows northern soldiers going into biv­
ouac on a hillside with the smoke from count­
less campfires rising quietly in the twilight. It
may well have been nostalgia like that here
pictured which inspired the Civil War songs.

Modern color photography is one of the tri­
umphs of recent years. It is, however, only one
more tribute to Brady’s achievement that the
story he labored to record can still be pictured
best in black and white.

**AMERICAN MARTYRS**

On Freedom’s Altar: The Martyr Complex in
the Abolition Movement. By Hazel Catherine
Wolf. (Madison, University of Wiscon­
$3.75.)

Reviewed by Frank L. Klement

“THE BLOOD of the martyrs,” wrote a Chris­
tian theologian, “is the seed of the Church.”
Tertullian’s classic statement, written early in
the third century, applied to the American abo­
lition movement as well. Zeal and faith, gener­
ating a martyr complex, insured the triumph of
Christianity and altered the course of world
history; in like manner, the courage and zeal
of the abolitionists contributed to the success
of their movement and played a basic role in

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Mr. Cater is director of the Minnesota His­
torical Society. He is the author of Henry
Adams and His Friends.

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directing the current of American history in the 1830–65 era. The subtitle which Miss Wolf selected aptly expresses the theme of her book—it is the idea around which her summary of the abolition movement is centered. Although the abolitionists could venerate only three martyrs—unless they could include Lincoln as one who gave his life on “freedom’s altar”—Garrison, Weld, and the lesser lights were as willing to suffer for their cause as those whose blood blessed the crusade.

The opening chapter treats but briefly the American background in which the martyr complex developed. “The abolitionists’ attitude,” writes Miss Wolf, “came from the integration of the martyr concept with a new humanitarianism,” promoted and preached by the Finney revivalists. The second chapter sketches the contributions of the earliest anti-slavery advocates. William Lloyd Garrison earns a chapter for his work as prophet, moralist, and crusading zealot. That crusade, then, moved forward in earnest, expanding its scope and intensifying its influences. Elijah Lovejoy, who became “the first martyr,” is the subject of a chapter which the reviewer considers the best in the book. Charles Turner Torrey, Maryland minister and antislavery editor, was the second; and his martyrdom also earns him a chapter. Prudence Crandall, Theodore Weld, James G. Birney, and others suffered persecution in the best “martyr tradition.” By the late 1840s the antislavery movement was strong enough to make a semisuccessful “appeal to ballot and statute,” and political abolitionists jousted with the strict moralists of Garrison’s stamp. Later, John Brown stalked on to the abolition stage; his martyrdom climaxed the crusade (Although dead, Brown spoke in thunderous tones!) and returned antislavery “to the realm of a moral crusade.” Northern soldiers, in abolitionists’ eyes, became minor martyrs, and President Lincoln, assassinated, became “the Great Martyr.”

This book presents the best brief account of the abolition movement now in print. The theme is novel yet plausible, and the volume is an important addition to any bookshelf of works concerned with the antislavery movement. Literary artists may claim that the style is staid and the work too academic. Recognized scholars will point out that Miss Wolf failed to consult any manuscript collections. Minnesotans may complain that their noted abolitionist, Jane Grey Swisshelm, has been ignored; she too possessed the martyr complex and had her press destroyed and the type thrown into the Mississippi because of her antislavery attitudes. But those who read On Freedom’s Altar will recognize its worth and value as well as its scholarship.

The footnotes are grouped in the back of the volume. A twelve-page bibliography is appended, and the index is adequate. Fourteen appropriate illustrations are included.

MOVING AN ARMY

The Northern Railroads in the Civil War, 1861–1865. By Thomas Weber. (New York, King’s Crown Press, 1952. xii, 318 p, $4.00.)

Reviewed by Carlton C. Qualey

IT IS SURPRISING that such an important subject as the operations of the railroads in the Civil War should have had to wait so long for adequate treatment, but Mr. Weber’s able monograph goes far to cover northern operations. The book is not a history of all railroad operations in the North from 1861 to 1865, but it is rather a history of the railroads as they were touched by the Civil War. The author interprets the latter approach broadly, however, to include the impact of the war on the regular operations of the northern roads as well as to those operations having to do directly with transportation and supply of the Union armies. The extensive bibliography and detailed documentation attest to the conscientiousness of the author. Although one sometimes loses sight of the woods for the trees, the detail is necessary and useful in a study covering a previously underworked field.

The book opens by orienting the reader to the railroads in operation or being constructed in the North at the opening of the Civil War, and goes on to the story of the almost incredible lack of organization of transport during the first months of the war. The credit for pulling this situation into manageable order is given to such men as Daniel McCallum of the Erie, who became military director and superintendent of railroads, Herman Haupt of the Pennsylvania, the amazing trouble shooter who

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served during part of the war as chief of construction, and Lewis B. Parsons of the Ohio and Mississippi, who had charge of western operations based at St. Louis. These men and many others cut through the maze of problems and obstructions caused by heterogeneous railroad construction with varying track gauges, lightweight iron rails, poor rolling stock, and undeveloped liaison for transfer of payments.

The book deals with the railroad systems by regions, both in the major areas and the immediate theaters of war. The quarrels between the government and the operators are aired, especially for the New York-and-Washington artery, and the gradual negotiation of working arrangements as to uniform rates, draft of railroad labor, taxation, military passes, and allocation of new rolling stock and other equipment is described. There is an exciting chapter on the railroaders accompanying Sherman into Georgia, and a concluding chapter on railroad contributions to the science of war and the war's contribution to the science of railroading. Almost nothing about the beginnings of railroads in Minnesota is included, but there are some accounts of the Milwaukee and St. Paul, the Burlington, and the Northwestern lines. There is an adequate index, but no illustrations. One wishes a few maps had been included to help the reader through the mazes of lines and operations.

PRACTICAL FORESTRY


Reviewed by Stewart Holbrook

THE INCREASING interest in practical forestry among lumbermen all over the United States is a tribute to the early professional foresters of forty and more years ago. They were prophets crying in the wilderness of ignorance and apathy. Logging operators termed them all "professors," than which nothing could have been more damning. Their number was small. A few of them were strident prophets whose fanaticism tended to antagonize the very people they needed most if forestry was ever going to get outside the cloisters.

David Mason was not and is not among the fanatics, even though he entered the United States Forest Service at a time when lumbermen were just beginning to play their parts of chief villains—real devils with cant dogs for horns and a long, vicious, curling band saw for a tail. The early foresters were also subject to much stupid abuse by lumber interests.

Mason later transferred to the timber valuation section of the bureau of internal revenue; then taught at the University of California. In 1921, he and partner Carl Stevens set up as consulting foresters with headquarters at Portland, Oregon, is a professional writer who has to his credit several books relating in whole or in part to Minnesota or to some aspect of forestry.
land, in the Oregon that was about to become the leading state in lumber production. Since then Mason's work has taken him over much of North America, and into foreign parts. He has been most successful in what is now an accepted profession, but thirty years ago was little known and even less regarded.

Now his diaries of the period 1907-50 have been published by the Forest Products History Foundation. In them one can trace the slowly emerging concept of sustained yield logging and many other technical advances, along with comments on labor relations in the lumber industry, the hectic times of NRA, and many other things connected with forests and lumber. This book is not for the layman, but it should be of no little interest to foresters and lumbermen. It is illustrated and has an excellent index.

**MINING THE VERMILION RANGE**

*Iron Millionaire: Life of Charlemagne Tower.*

By HAL BRIDGES. (Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1952. xiii, 322 p. Illustrations. $4.75.)

Reviewed by Grace Lee Nute

How Charlemagne Tower managed to elude biographers for sixty years and more is a mystery. At present Mr. Bridges has the field completely to himself, but it is reasonably sure that such a state of affairs will not last long, now that he has pointed the way and cleared away the brush. *Iron Millionaire* reveals that Tower had elements of greatness in his not-too-complicated constitution, and that he pioneered in several notable directions.

The book has many virtues and a few defects. It is a succinct, well-written, rather dramatic, sympathetic, but candid account of a man who in his seventies developed a mining kingdom—the Vermilion Range—that much younger men thought too complicated and risky to consider seriously. Faced with the mountainous piles of records that the meticulous Tower kept from earliest youth, Mr. Bridges has maintained his sense of balance and constructed a well-proportioned biography of a man born in the vicinity of Utica, New York, trained classically at Harvard, guided professionally by prominent New York City lawyers in his legal studies, and instructed in business matters by a Utica millionaire owner of a coal lands empire in Pennsylvania.

The period for which Tower's own papers suffice to tell his story ends soon after the Civil War, when he had made his million and a half in coal lands. With 1870 or thereabout the epoch begins when the author should have supplemented the Tower collection with data from the papers of men like Governor Ramsey, Ignatious Donnelly, and William R. Marshall of Minnesota, Jay Cooke of Philadelphia, and many lesser individuals. If he had consulted these manuscripts and the files of Duluth, Superior, and Twin Cities newspapers for the late 1860s, he would have made the step from coal to iron in Tower's career a very easy and natural one. In other words, at that time Jay Cooke had plans to do almost exactly what Tower did do ten years later. In addition to developing the Vermilion Range, building an ore railroad, and erecting a modern ore port at the end of Lake Superior, Cooke planned to make that port (Duluth) the great steel-making center of the United States. In his plans Cooke had the assistance of Ramsey, Donnelly, Marshall, and others, including the very man who was responsible for sending George Stone to Tower in 1874.

Mr. Bridges is vague about the discovery of iron ore in northeastern Minnesota, emphasizing the oft-repeated and generally believed story that George R. Stuntz found iron ore and told Stone, who thereupon "persuaded" Tower to embark on the very hazardous business of exploiting the area. Because Cooke and Tower had their Northern Pacific conferences verbally, leaving no written record in Tower's papers, Mr. Bridges has failed to ferret out the long and complicated chain of events and personalities that brought about the discovery and use of iron in northeastern Minnesota. When Cooke induced Tower to invest heavily in Northern Pacific bonds, he almost surely explained to Tower his own plans for Minnesota. Otherwise, why should Tower have been so willing in 1874 to take the unsupported word of a Northern Pacific employee that George Stone had something worth Tower's while to com-
municate? Cooke had utilized this man, Samuel Wilkeson, in 1869 to kill Henry M. Rice’s rival project for a railroad to Lake Superior. It was Wilkeson (whose letters are in Tower’s papers but were not adequately utilized by Mr. Bridges) who brought about the meeting between Stone and Tower.

Moreover, it was Wilkeson’s son who revealed to the world through the columns of the *New York Times* the story told by Mr. Bridges in the dramatic chapter entitled “Six Millions, or Else.” Defending Tower vehemently, the *Times* article recounts how he was “hijacked” by a group of Chicago and New York capitalists, including John D. Rockefeller, H. H. Porter, Marshall Field, and Cyrus McCormick, and forced, completely against his will, to sell his Duluth and Iron Range Railroad. Mr. Bridges makes no attempt to whitewash Tower and gives adequate proof that the “robber barons” flayed by Wilkeson had the law on their side when they forced Tower to “stand and deliver.”

By and large the book is a model of historical accuracy. Whatever sins there are, are those of omission rather than commission; and except for the story of the discovery of iron and for Cooke’s earlier schemes, even the omissions are not serious.

**NOVELIST’S LETTERS**


Reviewed by John T. Flanagan

NEW YORK CITY saw the birth in 1919 of a new publishing firm, Harcourt, Brace and Howe (later Harcourt, Brace), and Sinclair Lewis, because of his close intimacy with Alfred Harcourt, chose this firm to publish his own books. For twelve years the connection endured to the mutual profit of the partners; *Main Street, Babbitt, Arrowsmith,* and *Elmer Gantry* came out with the Harcourt, Brace imprint, and it was only after Lewis won the Nobel Prize in 1930 that he decided to sever his ties and seek another publisher. The letters that Harrison Smith has printed here from the publishing firm’s files are chiefly correspondence between Sinclair Lewis and Alfred Harcourt, and they relate largely to the genesis, development, promotion, and marketing of Lewis’s major novels. Lewis’ letter of January 21, 1931, which virtually closes the volume, presents the novelist not only at the peak of his fame but with his greatest creative work already behind him.

As a whole these letters reveal Lewis’ business acumen, his faith and skill in advertising, his loyalty to his old friends, his eagerness for self-promotion and for financial returns, his industry and self-centered prosecution of the job at hand, and his restlessness. Many of his suggestions about publicity and advertising were valuable to his publishers, even though he himself was no shrinking violet. He spared himself no pains in collecting data, interviewing and mentally photographing, rewriting, and, if necessary, cutting down the bulk of outsize manuscripts. He was rarely through the galley proofs of one novel before another plot seized his creative fancy and immediately demanded release through the printed page. Sometimes his imagination could not be reduced to artistic order, so that we do not have his proposed novels about a university president, a labor leader, and westward expansion with possibly the figure of James J. Hill included. But the letters demonstrate his meticulous documentation of the worlds of the businessman, the bacteriologist, and the evangelist.

Lewis’ sense of reality is also evident throughout the correspondence. Intellectual content is almost completely missing here, as from his novels. People and scenes and dialogue fascinated Lewis, not ideas. He refers to other authors, many of whom he knew personally, and he seems to have read their books from Conrad and Wells to Tarkington and Ca-bell. But he makes no comment about artistic methods or theories and rarely discusses characters other than those of his own invention. If he does not discuss the progress of his own novels or their sales figures, he gives a detailed travelogue of his wanderings, which were as likely to include Germany and Italy as California and Minnesota, and which clearly imply

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a temperamental compulsion never to remain in one place for more than a few weeks.

The correspondence shows another aspect of Lewis — his carefully planned road to success. He wrote potboilers and did hack work (which included most of the five novels preceding Main Street, except possibly The Job); he produced stories for the Saturday Evening Post and Collier's with amazing rapidity and benefited by large purchase prices; but always he wanted success as a serious novelist. He had his eye on the Nobel Prize long before he won it, and constantly prodded his publisher to get his name before the jury of award. Artist and theorist of fiction he was not, but skilled journalist, mimetic reporter, humorous satirist, and creator of living characters he was to a superlative degree. At least this is the portrait confirmed by his letters to his business associate and advisor, Alfred Harcourt. Lewis' letters to others, to his father and brother in Sauk Centre, to his two wives, to such friends as William Rose Benet, Carl Van Doren, and H. L. Mencken, might reveal a different picture.

HOME-GROWN ORCHESTRA

Music and Maestros: The Story of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra. By John K. Sherman. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press. 1952. xiii, 357 p. Illustrations. $3.75.)

Reviewed by Frances Boardman

A FIRST DIP into Mr. Sherman's Music and Maestros gives assurance that the volume, commissioned to mark the fifty years of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra's existence, is not destined for the sheltered life of the average documentary work. Instead of settling decorously down on a reference library shelf, with only an occasional sortie to a researcher's desk, this history of Minnesota's showiest and most widely known cultural manifestation is already launched on a popular career. For the author, while carefully discharging his duties as a historian and, on occasion, as a statistician is imaginative enough to have recognized in his assignment rich possibilities for the mutual entertainment of himself and his readers, and the result is a consistently lively, readable narrative, as well as a solidly informative one.

Mr. Sherman, for a number of years arts director of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, has had full opportunity for scrutinizing the orchestra's fortunes, past and current, and he has made the most of his vantage point. For example, he knows, as the general public never can know, the all but incredible extent to which the survival of such an institution depends upon continual efforts at solution of the ancient poser involving collision of the immovable obstacle — in this case a grim dollar-and-cents accounting — with an irresistible force in the form of human emotions in great variety, and of especially high combustibility.

Nor is this emotional factor operative only on the professional side of the footlights: counting heavily in the diplomatic problems that confront the sponsors of the enterprise is the army of aficionados. These, by and large, tend to divide into two camps, marked by an almost ferocious loyalty to, or resentment of, the man on the podium. If he is a newcomer, he is likely to evoke either a frenzy of delighted excitement over a fresh, attractive talent, or an indignant "So-we've-come-to-this!" attitude.

With these things in mind, it becomes clear that the chronicle under discussion was written by an intrepid man, for he has bravely undertaken to assess the services of each of the five permanent conductors who have led the organization during its lifetime: Emil Oberhoffer, Henri Verbrugghen, Eugene Ormandy, Dimitri Mitropoulos and Antal Dorati. There is room for dissent, as there should be, concerning his conclusions, but there is no doubt that the analyses have been thoughtfully and seriously approached. In the light of that fact, they may be usefuly studied.

The extra-musical aspects of the undertaking constitute a substantial part of its value, since, of necessity, it incorporates considerable discussion of the social and economic evolution that has been the core of Minnesota's life during the past half century.

Bearing the imprimatur of the University of Minnesota, the volume is attractively printed and covered, copiously illustrated by pertinent photographs, and comprehensively indexed.
BUILDING A DIOCESE


Reviewed by James L. Connolly

THE HISTORY of any diocese is necessarily involved. It has to take up events of educational, economic, and social significance, and deal with a variety of institutional and personal records. The scope of interest is bound to be encyclopedic, the scene kaleidoscopic and varied. Often enough in attempting a full presentation of such material the historian does his work piecemeal, studying each parish and institution separately, and thus achieving a conglomerate result. Monsignor Reardon has indeed attempted something of that nature. But he has adopted the more important and appealing presentation of a history built around the great personalities that contributed to make it. His book deals with the pioneers and builders of a great religious establishment in Minnesota. The central figures of the narrative are the bishops and archbishops of St. Paul. The story is that of their zealous faith, sacrifice, and ingenuity in meeting the challenges of a constantly changing world.

While the author disclaims proficiency as a historian, his work exemplifies a mind alert to incidents and sharp in appraisals. Given the paucity of source material for the early years of the diocese, Monsignor Reardon has with remarkable persistence and perspicacity spun from shreds and fragments an unusually fine account of the administrations of Bishops Cre­tin and Grace. Of chief import is his presenta­tion of facts and argumentation to lift almost from oblivion the career of St. Paul's second bishop, whose modesty and retirement had much to do with launching the prestige which was early enjoyed by Archbishop Ireland. With the latter the author deals in understand­able partiality. The episcopate of John Ireland covered almost half of the hundred

years dealt with in this diocesan history. Possessed of an adventurous spirit, he did not hesitate to cross frontiers and venture into difficult or even forbidden areas. This enterprise made him the rallying point of many plen­ders of special causes. For example, he demanded equal rights for the Negro as early as 1891, when his voice was as one in the wilderness; and in 1903 he consented to speak on behalf of Jewish minorities protesting inhumane treatment at the hands of the Russian government. Hardly a phase of national or local need that did not gain from him some important contribution. A great international figure, he was at home in the capitals of the Old World. His name and authority were respected from Rome to Washington. He brought the world into the Northwest, and the pioneering spirit into every arena and forum.

The Monsignor's appraisals are invariably frank. His is something of a pragmatic history. It is not limited to chronology and events, for he is interested in causation and effects as well. Thus in the various controversies, educational, social, and political, that heightened the career of Archbishop Ireland we are not left in doubt as to where righteousness sat. This, while somewhat unusual in a day given to "let the facts speak for themselves," is nonetheless refreshing, adding a welcome variety for those of us who like to moralize. It is always valuable to secure the opinion, while living, of those who can say of the things they describe: "quorum ipse magna fui." And this is true of some of Monsignor Reardon's judgments on the events of the past fifty years.

For Archbishop Dowling as educator and builder, for Archbishop Murray presiding with great competency over a rapidly expanding diocese, the events are too recent, the detail too involved, and the associations too intimate for close analysis and estimate. Much material has been gathered, however, to facilitate the study of the happenings in the Diocese of St. Paul in our own day.

This history is impressive for content. It has been well conceived and well executed. The format is noteworthy. The chronological index of parishes will prove very useful. The listing of priests ordained and prelates consecrated has practical value, as has the naming of those who have served their country as chaplains from the Civil War to World War II. It is an impres-

BISHOP CONNOLLY, now of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, formerly was actively associated with educational institutions in the Diocese of St. Paul and was a member of the Minnesota Historical Society's council.

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sive honor roll. The index makes the volume serviceable to libraries and schools. All in all, this is a very creditable work, done by a competent hand.

**FARMERS' COLLEGE**

*Farm and College: The College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin. A History.*

By W. H. Glover. (Madison, The University of Wisconsin Press, 1952. xi, 462 p. $5.00.)

Reviewed by Merrill E. Jarchow

ALTHOUGH CONCERNED with Wisconsin and published in celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the university of that state, this volume has more than local significance. Both in method of approach and in content it makes an important contribution to the literature dealing with that "peculiarly American institution," the land grant college. As the title implies, the approach is not narrowly institutional. Nearly a quarter of the text is devoted to aspects of Wisconsin agricultural history—pioneer farming, the rise of a commercial system, the early history and work of various farm organizations—in order to explain the particular background and circumstances which gave rise to the college of agriculture; and much of the remainder deals with the "inter-action of farm and college" in the evolution of modern, scientific farming.

The story will sound rather familiar to Minnesota readers because many of the developments in agriculture and agricultural education in Wisconsin parallel those in Minnesota. Similar transitions from a subsistence, pioneer system, through one based largely on wheat farming, to a mature economy stressing dairying and diversification occurred in both states. The university of each state at an early date offered courses in agriculture without many takers jumping to the lure. Critics threatened to secure the separation of the agricultural work from both universities, but without success in either case. Wisconsin had its Professor Henry, Minnesota its Professor Porter. The decade of the 1880s was a critical as well as a productive period in the history of both schools. While it witnessed Granger and Alliance attacks on the colleges, it also saw the establishment of short courses, farmers' institutes, experiment stations, and experimental farms. Finally, after fitful starts and numerous setbacks, both colleges won accepted places in the educational patterns of their respective states, and through their teaching and research findings made immeasurable contributions to agriculture and the life of farm people.

Considering this similarity of development and the geographic proximity of the two states, it is not surprising to learn that a number of Minnesota products, people, and events exercised notable influence in Wisconsin. Peter Gideon's famous Wealthy apple "was eagerly snatched up by the Wisconsin Horticultural Society and was soon established at the head of its list." The success of the Wealthy had much to do with the growing interest in horticultural matters at farmers' institutes. These institutes, established by law in Wisconsin in 1885, were enthusiastically supported by W. D. Hoard of *Hoard's Dairyman*, who visited a Minnesota institute at Montevideo in 1884 to confer with his brother Hiram, who organized the affair, and with O. C. Gregg, later superintendent of the Minnesota institute system. Professor R. A. Moore, who took charge of the short course at Wisconsin in 1894 and who four years later launched work in agronomy, a field heretofore neglected at Wisconsin, gained much of his inspiration from observing the work of Willet M. Hays at Minnesota.

Likewise, the work of Andrew Boss in the field of farm management stimulated similar work at Wisconsin. Naturally the relationship between the two colleges was not a one-way street. The stream of ideas, discoveries, people, and methods flowed from Madison to St. Paul as well as in the opposite direction. The well-known dairy leader T. L. Haecker, for example, taught at Wisconsin before going to Minnesota, and many graduates of Wisconsin's department of agricultural education found positions in the secondary schools of Minnesota.

The cause of agricultural education is well served by the publication of *Farm and College*. A scholarly volume complete with footnotes, bibliography, and index, it is logically organized and readable. Particularly impressive is the coverage of the research work of the col-

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MR. JARCHOW, author of a history of Minnesota agriculture to 1885, is dean of men at Carleton College, Northfield.
lege in the physical and biological sciences and of the work of the extension service. Perhaps the average undergraduate student has not been allotted as many pages as this reviewer, a dean of students, would give him, but he may not merit any more than he has received. A number of illustrations would add interest and understanding for the average reader. But these suggestions are, as the reviewers say, minor and do not in any way detract from the value of an excellent study. I hope that Minnesota's college of agriculture will be fortunate enough to have a history written in as thorough and competent a manner as Mr. Glover's book.

WILD HORSES


Reviewed by Richard M. Dorson

THIS QUONDAM FAN of Mr. Dobie finds his enthusiasm thinning. With the laudable intention of picturing the Spanish horses who freely roamed the western plains few will quarrel. Mr. Dobie seeks to capture the personality, generally and individually, of these mettlesome animals, to trace their historic appearance in the New World, describe their ways, and estimate their impact on American range lore. He is not concerned with economic but with human facts, and assembles the more graphic experiences recorded in western autobiography and range literature, with occasional personal recollections of his own.

Heroic rides on mustangs, Indian use of the mustang, methods of corralling wild mustangs, the control of mares by the stallion leader are discussed and illustrated with anecdotes. Where in his previous books of a similar nature Mr. Dobie could find and present folk humor about the longhorn cattle, and Indian tales about the coyote, the Mustang rarely enters legend, save for the recurrent motif of the pacing white stallion. Thus this book contains less folklore than usual. In attracting interest to animals important in southwestern culture, Mr. Dobie certainly merits praise, and his approach could well be duplicated for other regions. A meaty work awaits writing about the brown bear of the Appalachians, who enters so prominently into pioneer incident, sporting yarn, and comic fiction.

Impatience with this book comes from the feeling that the formula behind it has started to fray. The style is mannered with too obvious tricks: the insertion of colorful-sounding Spanish words; the obiter dicta on life and morals (loving a woman more than a horse is a sign of juvenility; I would say loving a horse more than a woman is a sign of senility); the rewriting of prosaic incidents into Dobiesque romance, with horses nickering in the moonlight and mustangers swaying in their stirrups. (See, for instance, the imaginative reconstruction of Aubry's ride, p. 281–284.) How much of these heightened accounts are Dobie and how much the source the reader cannot tell without checking. In dealing with the Mustang Mr. Dobie's romantic sentiments get their fullest opportunity, for "the Mustang was the most beautiful, the most spirited and the most inspiring creature ever to print foot on the grasses of America." Democracy and Mustangs coincide, since the Mustangs stood for freedom and rebelled at captivity. But Mustangs too were romantic, belonging to a youthful vigorous period unspoiled by "complex civilization," and so their daring chase "was freedom even while quelling freedom."

Perhaps the lack of sustained drama in his story, or in many of the author's remarks about wild horse habits, impelled him to overplay his hand. Too much purple prose too often gives The Mustangs the air of a meretricious super-Western.

VOLUME 33

EACH volume of *Minnesota History* henceforth will consist of eight issues, published quarterly during a two-year period. Thus volume 33, when completed, will contain eight numbers published in 1952 and 1953. The present issue is number 5 of volume 33, continuing the numbering begun when the illustrated format was adopted in the spring of 1952. By using this system, the editors hope to avoid producing a volume too tall for its bulk. Indexes will appear every second year, rather than annually as in the past.
Reading HINTS for Minnesotans

WHOLESALING CENTER
A STUDY of Wholesaling in the Twin Cities by Edwin H. Lewis has been published by the University of Minnesota Press as number 15 in the university's Studies in Economics and Business (48 p.). Although the approach is largely statistical, the author does include interesting and valuable sections on the "Historical Development" of wholesaling, its growth as a specialized field, and the relation of Twin City wholesalers to the general trade of the Northwest. The author treats his subject under two general headings—"The Wholesale Structure of the Twin Cities," and "Hardware Wholesaling in the Twin Cities."

COUNTRY MERCHANT
THE DIARY of Daniel M. Storer, Shakopee storekeeper, is among the sources used by Lewis E. Atherton in an essay on the "Midwestern Country Town — Myth and Reality," which appears in the July, 1952, issue of Agricultural History. From this manuscript record in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society, Mr. Atherton concludes that to Storer "the social and intellectual code of Shakopee was as right and natural ... as was food and sleep."

CAPITAL MOVES WEST
IN PREPARING an article on "Hersey, Staples and Company, 1854—1860: Eastern Managers and Capital in Frontier Business," Lucile Kane has drawn upon an important collection of manuscript records in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. The firm, organized in 1854 to conduct a business in Stillwater, Miss Kane points out, "became the largest owner of pine-lands in the St. Croix Delta, a leading producer of logs and lumber in an area that ranked first in lumber exportation in Minnesota, operator of the finest mill in the Territory, wholesaler and retailer of logs and lumber, part owner in boom companies, dam companies, and a general store, and later, promoter of railroads and banks." The operations of the company and the activities of its resident partner, Isaac Staples, are traced in some detail in this narrative.

MESABI'S FIRST
IN ITS ISSUE for November 22, Skilling's Mining Review calls attention to the sixtieth anniversary of the first shipment of iron ore from the Mesabi Range. According to this account, the ore was transported in "ten wooden cars of 25-ton capacity" running from the Mountain Iron mine to Superior, Wisconsin. From that point it was shipped to Cleveland in a whaleback barge. The bill of lading for the shipment is reproduced in facsimile with the article.

LOGGING BY RAIL
A FORMER member of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society's Forest Products History Foundation, William G. Rector, contributes an account of "Railroad Logging in the Lake States" to the December issue of Michigan History. The Minnesota country, especially the St. Croix Valley, is the setting for about half of the narrative.

RAILROAD BUILDER
A ST. PAUL railroad builder, A. B. Stickney, is labeled as a "Spokesman for Progress" in the title of an article by Frank P. Donovan, Jr., and W. B. Davids appearing in the December issue of Railway Progress. Among the achievements of this pioneer of railroading noted by the authors are the building of the Chicago Great Western road and the founding in 1882 of the St. Paul Union Stockyards.

WRITING LOCAL HISTORY
THE NORTH DAKOTA Institute for Regional Studies, which was founded at Fargo in 1950 to collect and record the state's story, has published a booklet by Leonard Sackett entitled Call Back Yesterday (16 p.). In it the author undertakes to explain "How to Preserve and Write the Record of Our Regional Heritage"—in other words, how to go about writing local history. After emphasizing the point that "History Begins at Home," Mr. Sackett tells who should write local history, what it should include, how to collect and organize material, and how to get it published.
CARE OF STATE RECORDS

THE ROLE of the Minnesota Historical Society in "The Development of an Archival Program in Minnesota" is stressed by Robert M. Brown in the American Archivist for January. How the society promoted the preservation of state records, sponsored legislation providing for their care, provided space in which they could be stored, and co-operated in making inventories are related by the writer, who is now state archivist. He reviews the steps leading up to the establishment of the Minnesota Archives Commission in 1947 and surveys its accomplishments since that date.

MIDWEST TREES

IN HIS newly published work on American Trees, Rutherford Piatt follows a regional arrangement, devoting one of seven sections to the Middle West (256 p.). This area "might well claim to be headquarters of the Great American Woods," writes Mr. Piatt, for its states "form a huge mixing bowl of trees." There are to be found "the greatest number of species and the most broadleaf trees of any forest of America." An especially useful feature of the book is a "Guide to the Quick Identification of Trees." Both this work and Robert S. Lemmon's recently issued book on The Best Loved Trees of America (254 p.) have been added to the library of the society's Forest Products History Foundation.

RED RIVER SETTLERS

A DESCRIPTION of "Settlers at Red River" in 1837, written by Alexander Ross, sheriff of Assiniboia, is reprinted from his book on the Red River settlement in the September Beaver. Here is a detailed and lively word picture of the costumes, manners, homes, and habits of the half-breeds whose annual pilgrimages to St. Paul were long a feature of Minnesota life. With the narrative appear two sketches by Peter Rindisbacher, the Swiss artist who spent some years in the settlement. One shows three settlers, and the other pictures the first Fort Garry in the early 1820s.

SELKIRK COLONY

A FICTIONAL treatment of the Selkirk theme is to be found in The Strange Brigade: A Story of the Red River and the Opening of the Canadian West (Boston, 1952). The author, John Jennings, dramatizes the invasion of the land of the traders north and west of Lake Superior by agricultural colonists from Scotland. Although many of Mr. Jennings' characters are historical figures, his hero and heroine are imaginary members of the Selkirk group.

SIOUX SINGERS

"SOME DAKOTA SONGS" recorded by members of an archaeological expedition on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota in the summer of 1947 are the subject of a brief article by Walter M. Hlady which appears in North Dakota History for April. The writer gives the music and the text of three songs used in connection with a Sioux victory dance held to celebrate the successful termination of World War II. He also gives the words of a song composed and sung in honor of a member of the expedition by an Indian who had his people's ability "to make up songs on the spur of the moment."

SIOUX WAR BONNET

BERNARD S. MASON'S Book of Indian-Crafts and Costumes (1946), recently added to the society's library, fills a need for a work that describes and pictures many of the colorful articles worn and used by the red men. Since the emphasis is on the Indians of the woodlands and the plains — represented in Minnesota by the Chippewa and the Sioux — the book is of special interest for this area. These the author describes as "the roamers of the northern wildwoods, the wigwam Indians, the masters of woodcraft, the canoe Indians; and the riders of the prairies, the tepee Indians, the hunters of buffalo, the horse Indians." Appropriately, Mr. Mason opens with the feather war bonnet of the Sioux — "the most picturesque hat ever worn." Thanks are due to him for giving emphasis to the fact that this headdress, so often associated with Indians in general, is a Sioux contribution. What goes into such a bonnet and how it is made is explained in great detail by the writer.

SIOUX SHELTER

THE CONSTRUCTION of "The Prairie Indian Tipi" is described by Douglas Leechman in the
Canadian Geographical Review for September.

“One great advantage of the tipi was its portability,” writes Mr. Leechman, “for the cover could be rolled up into a bundle and the poles dragged along the ground to the new camp site.”

**SOLDIER’S DIARY**

As a reprint from the Iowa Journal of History, the State Historical Society of Iowa has published the Civil War Diary of Cyrus F. Boyd, Fifteenth Iowa Infantry, 1861-1863 (1953, 135 p.). This “full account of soldiering in the Union Army” has been edited for publication by Mildred Throne, the Iowa society’s associate editor. In her introduction she points out that “this is not the ordinary camp and battlefield diary,” but a journal compiled after the war from entries made earlier in the field.

**MIDWEST UTOPIAS**

Many a Midwest settlement is pictured in Mark Holloway’s study of American Utopian communities published under the title Heavens on Earth (New York, 1951). The Utopian idealists, however, do not seem to have penetrated areas as far north as Minnesota. They stepped in Iowa and southern Wisconsin, according to Mr. Holloway’s map. “Fleeing from the industrial problems of Europe, utopian socialists tried to solve them by setting up model societies in America,” writes Mr. Holloway. Thus it followed that “the nineteenth century in that country was the golden age of community experiments.” Among Midwest colonies that still persist is Amana in central Iowa.

**WANDERER FROM DAKOTA**

A sequel to Aagot Raan’s autobiographical volume, Grass of the Earth, published in 1950 by the Norwegian-American Historical Association, is her Measure of My Days, which has been issued under the imprint of the North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies (Fargo, 1953, $3.50). In the later work, Miss Raan recounts adventures at home and abroad, in Canada, in Europe and Asia, in Hawaii and South America, as well as in North Dakota and Minnesota. As Dean Theodore C. Blegen points out in his introduction, Miss Raan “never loses her interest in or affection for her home community” of Hat-ton, North Dakota, to which she always manages somehow to return.

**COOPERSTOWN SEMINARS**

The New York State Historical Association has announced that the sixth annual series of Seminars on American Culture will be held under its auspices at Cooperstown from July 5 to 11. A workshop on “Using Local History,” discussions of folklore and folk history, and a course on “The School and the Museum” are among the features of the current series. Information about the seminars may be obtained by writing to Louis C. Jones, director of the association.

**COMMUNITY Y.M.C.A.**

The leadership of the Minneapolis Y.M.C.A. in community work is given recognition by C. Howard Hopkins in his History of the Y.M.C.A. in North America (New York, 1951). The most important developments took place there, according to the author, in the early 1920s, “while S. Wirt Wiley was general secretary and Frank O. Koehler was in charge of boys’ work.” The latter succeeded Wiley in 1925 and continued his program with such vigor that four years later it “was reaching more than eleven thousand boys in 297 groups in five community districts.”

**FLYING FISHERMEN**

The story of a summer resort on Sugar Lake near Pokegama is told by L. A. Rossman in an illustrated booklet entitled From Packsack to Plane (1952. 22 p.). The writer tells how Arthur Otis developed an unusual haven for visitors on land which his father homesteaded shortly after 1900. First developed as a farm and then as a picnic ground, the resort now boasts its own air field, where planes bringing fishermen to Otis Lodge can land.

**STORY OF A HOBBY**

Experiences as printer, editor, columnist, farmer, traveler, dairyman, lecturer, hobbyist, and author are recorded by William F. Schilling in his autobiography, published under the title My First Eighty Years (244 p.). Much of the narrative has its setting in Northfield, where Mr. Schilling has resided since 1895. He opens, however, with an account of his boyhood in Hutchinson, and he devotes much space to his travels and the assembling of relics for his Hobby House.

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