
Reviewed by Ernest C. Oberholtzer

WHAT a delightful book! That "frontiers of courage and romance still exist, beyond which only the exceptional soul will venture" is surely confirmed here. The adventures of Walter C. Port and Arnold Eric Sevareid in 1930 first appeared in print thirty-three years ago. To this reviewer, however, it was a new experience — as fresh as are the youthful words of the author as he leads us from the Twin Cities west to the Red River, north to Lake Winnipeg, and ultimately to the icy Arctic waters of Hudson Bay.

The book tells the story of the canoe trip made by the then seventeen-year-old author (now a well-known television commentator) and his high school classmate. It is based on a diary young Sevareid kept, as well as eleven articles that appeared in the Minneapolis Star. The newspaper's sponsorship provided the lads with much-needed funds to buy their meager food and equipment. What they knew about canoes could have been put in a penny slot machine. Yet their enthusiasm hardened into determination, and this saw them through. Indeed, one might say that their adventures could only have resulted from traveling in such an offhand fashion. The author recognizes this when he says that the "God who guides the footsteps of errant fools most certainly was riding on the weathered prow" of their canoe, the "Sans Souci."

The first third of the book — from Minneapolis to Lake Winnipeg — describes a kind of conditioning. But this reviewer, who traversed much of the same area in 1912, found the more exhilarating pages those which record the voyage on Lake Winnipeg to Norway House at the north end of that lake. The picture Mr. Sevareid draws of the wave action in the large lake is vivid, convincing, and — unlike that of an old-timer in the north country — fresh. Particularly rewarding, too, are the portrayals of the forest-patrolling aviators, rangers, and Hudson Bay Company men.

The pages that are really gripping and close to tragedy are those that tell of the descent down God's River and into the mighty Hayes. In their battered, leaking, secondhand canoe, the wonder is that either boy survived. In one of the best analyses ever written, Mr. Sevareid explains how even their morale broke down for a time under the strain.

One might wish for more detail about the Cree themselves. But perhaps in that respect the title of this book is somewhat misleading. The teen-age voyageurs traveled to and through Cree country, rather than with the Cree. The casual book buyer might be misled into thinking that the volume is a fuller account of these Canadian Indians than it is. The heading of chapter eleven from which the book takes its name may help to answer this criticism concerning the title, however. And the subject is continued in the following chapter entitled

Mr. Oberholtzer, widely known conservationist and author of numerous articles in that field, made a pioneering canoe trip to Hudson Bay in 1912.
“God’s Country,” which contains some of the most instructive and amusing information of all about the primitive Indians of God’s Lake and vicinity.

It is a happy circumstance that the Minnesota Historical Society has chosen to reprint this long unavailable account. Its faults and its virtues are those of youth. It is a unique twentieth-century tale of truly perilous travel in the barrens of North America. The author, in a note to this 1968 edition, says that the “journey was an example of what very young men can do — once in their lives — but never again!” Read it and share days of misery, delicious denial, and extravagance of living.

### TWO MINNESOTA MICROFILMS

PUBLICATION of the Ignatius Donnelly Papers on microfilm provides scholars with easy access to one of Minnesota’s most interesting and significant collections. Donnelly, whose political, literary, and journalistic career spanned almost half a century, recognized that history is the stuff made from literary remains; and he provided posterity with superb raw materials — enough for 167 rolls. Dozens of scholars have already mined the core of the collection, but it has been a difficult task. For the researcher who was interested in only one aspect of Donnelly’s life or in his views on a special topic, the search for material would have been almost futile had it not been for the kindness, patience, and knowledge of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society. Now, with the publication of a handsome Guide to the Microfilm Edition of the Ignatius Donnelly Papers (1968) by Helen McCann White, all of this data is available to researchers who can ill afford either the time or the money to visit the society. The entire set, including the Guide, is priced at $1,670; individual rolls cost $12.50; the Guide alone is $2.00. This has been made possible by a grant from the National Historical Publications Commission.

A careful examination of several rolls of the microfilm — selected at random to determine the technical success of the project — proved unusually rewarding. Scholars who have tried to decipher a pinched hand or who have sought to bring up to visibility the faded page of a letterpress copy will appreciate the advantages of magnification and contrast. In many instances, the microfilm edition is superior to the original manuscript, at least from the researcher’s point of view, because technology has improved the usefulness of the material. The decision to film more than once the faded or blurred items assures the user of maximum verisimilitude. Each roll provides a chronology of Donnelly’s life and a model notation to demonstrate how the material should be cited — useful aids for a scholar who is interested in only a few items. In addition, Roll 163 and Roll 167 are especially helpful. The first contains a copy of the manuscript department catalog cards relating to Donnelly, and the second lists the society’s library catalog cards on material relevant to his career. A scholar will ignore either at his own peril.

For most researchers, the publication of Mrs. White’s Guide is almost as important as the film itself. Aside from including a brief biographical sketch of Donnelly and an account of the origin of the collection, the Guide, containing a detailed description of the papers that is both chronological and analytical, provides a highly convenient device for search and retrieval. It is enhanced by a selected list of authors and a subject matter index. It will be an indispensable tool for anyone who works in this period, and it belongs in every research library.

Donnelly had a sense of irony and a feeling for history. He aspired to be one of Minnesota’s first citizens, to be remembered, and to be admired. If he failed to attain his goals at the ballot box, the bookstall, and the market place, he achieved them by preserving his papers. Because of the preparation by the historical society of this first-rate Guide to the microfilm edition of his papers, Donnelly has captured the past, since more scholars will be able to see it through his eyes.

Martin Ridge

THE James Wickes Taylor Papers which have been in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society since 1915 have been used over a period of many years by a number of Ameri-

Mr. Ridge, editor of the Journal of American History, is the author of Ignatius Donnelly: The Portrait of a Politician (1962), the only full-length study of the Minnesotan.
can and Canadian scholars. Considering the wide range of Taylor's activities as student, lawyer, librarian, lobbyist, treasury agent and American consul from 1834 to 1893, it is not surprising that his career has attracted productive attention, and it is perhaps indicative of the interest in Taylor's work that the society has selected his papers as the third of its collections to be microfilmed under a grant from the National Historical Publications Commission.

To accompany the microfilm reels, Constance J. Kadrmas has prepared a Guide to the Microfilm Edition of the James Wickes Taylor Papers (1968) which will be of inestimable assistance to future research workers. The Guide, which alone is priced at $1.00, is included with the entire set of ten, which costs $100; individual rolls may be purchased for $12.50 apiece.

The guide contains a general, as well as a chronological, description of the papers and their origin; a short biographical sketch of Taylor; a selected list of his correspondents; and a general subject index. Miss Kadrmas has done research workers a great favor by providing a thorough and commendable analysis. The mass of detail she has included in the description will not only give easier access for students of American and Canadian history but should also suggest aspects of Taylor's career which have hitherto received little or no attention.

Scholars have not generally carried their interest in Taylor much beyond his role in the Minnesota annexationist movement up to 1870. Taylor was the American consul at Winnipeg from that year to 1893. Of the ten rolls of microfilm, the period from 1834 to 1872 is covered in two. This suggests that eight remaining rolls contain a relatively unexplored part of Taylor's activities. If historians read carefully Miss Kadrmas' guide, they will discover a number of subjects for further research. No one to date has made use of Taylor's detailed compilations of trade statistics, made annually as part of his consular duties, which reflect the changing patterns of trade between the United States and the Canadian West. No one has evaluated Taylor's contribution as a publicist of the agricultural possibilities in the Canadian West nor looked at his papers for background on the agricultural protest movement of the 1880s. And no one has yet culled the papers for a study in lobbying or public relations procedures, or for a study of the administrative duties of a consul. Of an earlier period, has anyone yet untangled Taylor's complex association with the St. Paul and Pacific and Northern Pacific railroads?

The Guide reflects an intimate familiarity with the total contents of the Taylor collection. It should open avenues for further research on the career of this multifaceted Minnesotan.

Hartwell Bowsfield

Mr. Bowsfield, former archivist of Manitoba and long-time student of Taylor's career, has recently been bibliographical adviser in the history department of York University, Toronto.

Mr. Bissell, author of Pajama Game, has written widely about the rivers of America and holds pilot licenses on the Mississippi and Monongahela rivers.

OL' MAN RIVER'S HEROES


Reviewed by Richard Bissell

WOULDN'T YOU know an Englishman would show up and start explaining the Mississippi River to us? What a nerve! Some cheek! The worst of it is he has done a hangup job of it. All this reviewer knows about the discovery and exploration of the Mississippi is what he learned in the fifth grade in Dubuque, and, listen, that's not enough.

It seems that De Soto was a nut and his expedition a horror. La Salle had an unlovable personality, and his life and works were a complete flop from his point of view. And Father Louis Hennepin was a liar with a plainly odious personality whose writings were largely stolen from other authors. He was known throughout Canada as a grand menteur and "even his fellow priests could not abide him." Jonathan Carver made contributions but died broke and a physical wreck in London after deserting his family. To top it all off, Zebulon Pike's "journey to the headwaters of the Mississippi" was a signal failure. He had neither found the source of the river nor gathered any scientific or geographic information of value. His maps were inaccurate and poorly drawn, his journal a "jumble of
contradictions and gaps.” And worst of all, he
was bored by the whole thing.

The exploits, bravery, and hardships of the
above and of all the others in Mr. Severin’s
book are described in sprightly style and realis­
tic detail. The removal of shining armor from
these Mississippi knights is performed pain­
lessly. One is glad to learn that they were men
after all, not fourteen-carat gold heroes.

Marquette and Joliet come off virtually un­
scathed as popular historical idols; and the
author has fun with the comic opera figure Bel­
trami, and that flamboyant scamp Captain Wfl-
lard Glazier.

Mr. Severin not only researched the material
at the University of California and in the James
Ford Bell Collection at the University of Min­
nesota, but went down the entire length of the
old Mississippi from Lake Itasca to New Orleans
by canoe and “decrepit launch.” In the course
of this voyage he was shipwrecked and got wet.
The book is not dry, either.

The volume slid down the ways at Captain
Alfred A. Knopf’s yard and is well illustrated,
set in Monticello type, and a credit to its ar­
chitect and builder.

INDIAN ARTIST

Howling Wolf: A Cheyenne Warrior’s Graphic
Interpretation of His People. By KAREN
DANIELS PETERSEN. (Palo Alto, California,
63 p. Illustrations. $14.00.)

Reviewed by Selwyn Dewdney

RARELY does a book so packed with material
of ethnohistorical value as this offer so much
pleasure to the beholder — inside and out. Be­
fore you open the book, turn back the dust
jacket — itself the promise of riches within —
and view the simple pictograph stamped in
gold on the red richness of the clothbound
cover. In a nearly calligraphic scrawl one rec­
ognizes the wolf, and from the undulating form
emerging from the mouth of the sharp-nosed
beast one can almost hear a howl.

It is a far cry to the sophisticated skills of
contemporary Plains Indian artists from the
simple but forceful picture writing of their an­
cestors. Against the perspective of John C.
Ewers’ introductory sketch of the evolution of
native Plains art from prehistory to the present,
the erstwhile art of the Cheyenne warrior clearly
stands halfway. Particularly worthwhile is the
account of how artists like Karl Bodmer put
their own painting tools and media into Indian
hands, initiating them into the strange concepts
and alien techniques of the European tradition.

What makes these dozen drawings signifi­
cant for ethnologist, historian, and artist alike
is the extraordinary mingling of the two tra­
ditions. And the author provides clear evidence
that this was no accident. All through his adult
life the gifted Howling Wolf restless vacillated
between the “old road” and the new. Dog
soldier, Boston dandy, “butcher, moderator and
general assistant,” artist, farmer, and “renegade
Indian,” he ended his life on the road to Hous­
ton, mercifully spared from performing before
an uncomprehending public the dances that had
been for him the breath of life.

A lesser author than Karen Daniels Petersen
might have sentimentalized the story or
burdened us with pedantic minutiae. She did
neither. The tale is tersely told, allowing the
few known facts and fewer recorded words to
reveal the character of the man and the pathos
of his dilemma. This same economy of comment
informs the text opposite the plates, putting
Howling Wolf’s mixture of personal memories
and tribal traditions into historical context, clar­
ifying and amplifying his purpose.

As art, Mrs. Petersen allows the pictures to
speak for themselves. This reviewer’s own im­
pression is that the quality of Howling Wolf’s
art reveals what lay deepest in his heart. Com­
pare, for example, the garden and summer
kitchen crowding out the tepee in Plate Three,
with the preparations for the warpath on the
following page. In the one we sense the war­
rrior’s contempt for the sedentary, domestica­
ted life; the other conveys the power and the glory
of Plains warfare, the artist himself as the proud
leader of the Bowstring Soldiers. But for this
reviewer the masterpiece is the painting repro­
duced on the jacket. Reduced in scale, it serves
as tempting bait for the larger view of the same
elopement scene within. Here we savor to the
full not only the artist’s native decorative flair
but the subtlety with which the dainty steps
and hesitations convey the maiden’s coyness
simply by inking in her footprints.

Mr. Dewdney, a Canadian author and artist, is
the coauthor of Indian Rock Paintings of the
Great Lakes (1967).
When, as will surely be the case, this book goes into its second printing, could two small changes be made? It is not clear in the text whether the reproductions are identical in size with the originals. And surely a more representative example of the petroglyphs at Writing-on-Stone could be obtained to exchange for the inadequate one on page 6.

**ELEVEN ESSAYS**


Reviewed by Millard L. Gieske

CONTEMPORARIES recently presented Professor O. Fritiof Ander a series of essays on The Immigration of Ideas. Wedded to them is a “miniautobiography” of Ander’s boyhood, education, and early encounters with “reality”—all of which ultimately transplanted him from the hills of Gendalen and Sweden to the plains of Augustana and America and the life of teacher and scholar.

It is an uncertain task to review briefly eleven wide-ranging essays that begin with the seventeenth century and end with the Roosevelt New Deal. In general the essays represent a sampler in intellectual history. The old canard is that time marches on. And so it does—for immigrants, social innovators, scholars, and intellectuals. Each builds movements on something borrowed and something new. In time and in the face of a new environment, men’s ideas, values, and experiences contribute to the mutations in social and political orders.

The volume opens with the Great Awakening and the Methodist revival movement in England, Europe, and colonial America when men like Jonathan Edwards, John Wesley, Cotton Mather, Puritans, and German pietists struggled mightily with the problems of reason and faith, and the appropriate balance between private religious experience and public religious expression. This contrasts with the study of Jacob Letterstedt, a Cape Town entrepreneur whose pan-Scandinavianism was reflected in philanthropic acts promoting industry, scholarship, science, social science, and art.

Theodore C. Blegen delights us with the chronicle of the Norwegian American, Ole Ericksson Hagen, who, after training for the doctorate in Germany and a decade of teaching at the University of South Dakota, prematurely retired to his Wisconsin farm where he continued a life of letters and publication, including a work on the Kensington rune stone. Then we encounter the career of Ernst Skarstedt, the Swedish-American author and journalist who arrived in the United States in 1878 and who contributed so heavily to the Americanization of immigrant Swedes by writing about their life and times in the Pacific Northwest and in biographies of Lincoln and the first Roosevelt.

The reporting of journalist Edward Price Bell from London was a clear attempt to convince Americans that their interests were with the Allies rather than the Central Powers. Bell’s work was also symptomatic of one of the great tragedies of both American and European history and the folly that led to World War I. Cryptic, too, is the essay on the parallel values of Woodrow Wilson and William Gladstone. Both this and the Bell account testify that noble men with a strong personal sense of moral commitment and a transcendent view of history may nevertheless bring tragedy to themselves and defeat for the goals so imperative for their countries.

Carl Wittke reminds us once again that immigrant politics frequently bore the same fruit in America as it did in the native land. The great “melting pot” did not dissolve prejudices and hatreds but incubated old passions into new actions. It was true of nineteenth-century Fenians and Irish Americans of the De Valera era; of Dutch Americans who aided and comforted the Boers; of German Americans who espoused a truly strict neutrality; and more recently of Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Italians, Jews, whatever, who sought to influence American elections and the direction of foreign policy.

Finally, Merle Curti re-creates the debate in the 1930s over Swedish social welfare programs which were viewed so favorably and which American liberals hoped—to use Marquis W. Childs’s words—was the “middle way” between the debasing authoritarianism of Fascism
and Communism and the wrongful suffering and waste of capitalism’s Great Depression.

In a curious way Professor Ander’s “Recollections,” which conclude this Festschrift, rekindle childhood memories in Gendalen just as they sum up the “immigration of ideas.” As time changes so, too, does reality in the minds of men: “The hills in which we rode bravely and swiftly down on our sleighs had shrunk. . . . Visiting the grave of my parents and sitting in the pew of the parish church provided no Aladdin’s lamp. . . . Gendalen simply could not be saved. . . . The world which replaced it seems more permanent.”

SOCIALISM SURVEYED


Reviewed by James M. Youngdale

JAMES WEINSTEIN has performed a distinctive service for the scholarship of the socialist movement in the United States with the publication of this book. For Minnesota readers, it is of special interest, for people and events in the state loom large. Minnesota was the only state in which a Farmer-Labor party took root, even though former Socialists had agitated for such a party in a great many states. The election of Henrik Shipstead to the United States Senate in 1922 and that of Magnus Johnson in 1923 generated a great deal of prestige for the Minnesota Farmer-Labor leaders, which in turn propelled them into leadership of the ill-fated attempt to organize a national Farmer-Labor party in 1924.

Mr. Weinstein’s thesis on socialism runs counter to the usually held notion that the Socialist party reached its apex in 1912 and then declined. He argues with cogency that the movement reached a high plateau in 1912 and then held its ground throughout the decade. It was during this ten-year period that a number of Socialist mayors were elected throughout the country, including Thomas Van Lear of Minneapolis. The decline of the socialist movement, the author contends, came after World War I. The movement was crippled both from internal divisions and from the widespread persecution of radicals at that time.

The author makes pertinent observations about the internal divisions, primarily the partition which developed between the adherents of the Second International and those who subscribed to the Third International and the Russian Revolution. It is often assumed that a high degree of foreign guidance emerged with the formation of the Workers (Communist) party after the Russian Revolution, but Mr. Weinstein points out that Leon Trotsky and Nikolai Bukharin were in New York before the revolution urging the formation of a “left” bloc within the socialist movement.

In this book Mr. Weinstein casts doubt upon the wisdom of copying the European pattern of splitting the movement into “left” and “right” groupings. Conditions were different in Europe from those in the United States where the so-called “right” Socialists were not jingoists and nationalists during World War I as was the case with their European counterparts. Hence the basis for the internal division of the movement was neither urgent nor desirable in the United States, even though there was a historical basis for such division derived from the polarization around the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) on one hand and reformist Socialists on the other.

The Decline of Socialism in America, 1912–1925 fills a gap for those interested in radical politics. It adds illumination to the period for the general historian. The book deserves a wide readership.

AGRARIAN DISCONTENT


Reviewed by Duane M. Leach

IN A SERIES of essays centering on the years between 1850–1900, Professor Hayter charts the conflict of urban and rural America. The agricultural community, beset by technological and scientific innovations, as well as by an expanding industrial economy, was defensive and
adrift during this period of shifting social values. Drawing on his own rural background, the author has provided a worthy study, supported by careful research, in an area where much work is needed. This fine study suffers only from unfortunate footnote placement.

He describes in a straightforward manner how the farmer attempted to meet his day-to-day problems. Here he reveals many of the minor irritations that acted to catalyze the "agrarian revolt." In his initial chapter, the author notes two reactions by farmers in these troubled years. There were those farmers who wished to share in the benefits of industrial America but at the same time were often victimized by their "excessive credulity" and lack of sophistication. Remote from the population centers and often ill-informed, the farmer fell prey to the peddlers of bogus seeds, trees, lightning rods, and a host of other items.

The second group of agrarians, although desirous of a life with less toil, remained resolute against change. Critical of anything that smacked of the unfamiliar, these farmers took sanctuary in myth and folklore. As late as 1890, writes Mr. Hayter, "most farmers preferred the 'hoss doctor cow leech,' or the community quack" to the trained veterinarian.

This volume, as the author suggests, details a broad sweep of agricultural problems. Readers will be surprised to learn that man's best friend — the dog — was a major problem for farmers of this era. Not until states enacted laws against the marauding canines and their errant owners could small sheepmen operate profitably.

The final three chapters trace the complexities of the patent problem. Mr. Hayter clearly illustrates the impotence of the agrarians when they dealt with powerful monopolies controlling vast patent holdings. Fearful of legal action because of possible patent infringements, farmers sought strength in organization. While Mr. Hayter believes some gains were made by such efforts, "property" oriented courts forestalled any real breakthrough. Only the expiration of these patents ultimately freed the farmer from harassment.

Mr. Leach is chairman of the social science department in Southwest Minnesota State College at Marshall.
tory of the Rocky Mountain fur trade through 1834 and analyze similar travel accounts that preceded Anderson’s. They point out that Anderson’s diary is significant not only for its complete and literate trail record but also for its “firsts.” It has the only eyewitness version of the founding of Fort Laramie, for instance, and also the first day-by-day record of a fur trade rendezvous. Anderson was the sole chronicler on hand, too, when Fitzpatrick, Sublette & Bridger (successor to the Rocky Mountain Fur Company) was merged with Fontenelle, Drips & Co. on August 3, 1834.

Not content with all this, the editors also furnish a twenty-two-page biography of Anderson and an extremely useful “bonus”—a 140-page “Galaxy of Mountain Men” that consists of forty-five biographical sketches of fur traders, Indians, and others who were active in the mountain fur trade in 1834. No student of the fur trade or of Western trails should pass up this book.

Kenneth Carley

A CANADIAN author’s view of how “the U.S.A. flexed the muscles of her manifest destiny in the direction of Red River” from Minnesota in the 1850s and 1860s is told briefly in part of a chapter of The Opening of the Canadian West: Where Strong Men Gathered (New York, 1967. xii, 291 p.). Manitoba-born Douglas Hill recounts the growth of trade by cart between Red River and St. Paul. “From Minnesota streams of farm machinery — rare in the settlement before this time — furniture, clothing, hardware, even groceries, poured into Red River hands,” writes Mr. Hill. He shows, however, that Minnesota’s advance, spurred by the propaganda efforts of James Wickes Taylor in particular, was slowed by the Civil War and Sioux Uprising. These “horrors” provided “the breathing space” for Canadian nationalism to take root and eventually bear fruit in the confederation of 1867. Mr. Hill’s readable version of the winning of the Canadian West also includes an account of Lord Selkirk’s colony in the Red River Valley and other subjects of interest to Minnesotans. The book is illustrated and has an index but is not annotated.

THE DATE of the fall session of the Upper Midwest History Conference is October 11, and the place College of St. Catherine, St. Paul. Dr. Edward Shapiro of St. John’s University will read a paper on “The Decentralist Intellectuals and the Politics of the 1930s.” The commentary will be offered by Alfred H. Jones, assistant professor of history at the University of Minnesota.

THROUGH AN initial endowment presented by the Oscar F. and Madge Hawkins Foundation, the society has established a Public Affairs Center to stimulate the acquisition and use of manuscripts collections relating to politics and government. The center’s rich resources are the product of the society’s long interest in articulating the role of Minnesotans and midwestern organizations on the course of public affairs in the past two centuries. The new program, accentuating this interest, is described in The Public Affairs Center of the Minnesota Historical Society, an eight-page leaflet now available.

Available in October, too, is the center’s first publication — Guide to the Public Affairs Collection of the Minnesota Historical Society, compiled by Lucile M. Kane. Included in its forty-six pages are brief comments on 158 groups of papers and twenty-four tape-recorded items with major emphasis on public affairs. Among the papers are those of cabinet members, diplomats, United States senators, United States representatives, governors, and state legislators, as well as records of a wide spectrum of political parties and organizations participating in political processes.

Both publications were funded by the foundation created by Madge Hawkins of Minneapolis, “a lively lady of eighty-six years who has actively participated in numerous political movements and understood the historical implications of what she experienced.”

THE SOCIETY recently issued an eight-page illustrated leaflet briefly delineating the scope of its vast manuscripts collection, how papers are presented and collected, and what is done with them after they are received. Designed as a succinct summary for donors and potential donors, it includes statements on such specific subjects as literary property rights and appraisals for income tax deductions. The leaflet, entitled The Manuscripts Collection of the Minnesota Historical Society, was printed with funds provided by the Oscar F. and Madge Hawkins Foundation. Copies are available upon request.

THE APPOINTMENT of John J. Wood as assistant director of the Minnesota Historical Society has been announced by Russell W. Fridley, director. In his new capacity Mr. Wood will continue to be in charge of business operations. He has been business manager of the society since July 16, 1966. Before that he served Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Company for thirteen years in a variety of assignments.