
Reviewed by June Drenning Holmquist

ONE OF THE many strange gaps in the exploration literature of northern North America has at last been filled by the publication of this small book. Its pages reproduce for the first time the manuscript journal of Alexander Mackenzie’s epochal voyage from Fort Chipewyan to the Arctic Ocean in 1789. The original, which was presented by Mackenzie to George Grenville, the Marquis of Buckingham, has been in the collections of the British Museum since 1883. Why it was not published earlier remains a mystery.

There are many differences between this journal and the version apparently prepared by William Combe and first published in 1801 as Voyages from Montreal . . . through the Continent of North America. Moreover, thanks to Mr. McDonald’s editing, the footnotes throughout provide a useful, but not exhaustive, comparison of the major differences. The editor observes that he “frequently found the handwritten Journal to be more correct in its observations and directions than Combe’s amended Voyages.” To which should be added the warning that Combe on occasion supplied more material than Mr. McDonald’s footnotes indicate.

Mrs. Holmquist, managing editor of the Minnesota Historical Society, is currently coediting the 1817 and 1823 journals of Major Stephen H. Long with Lucile M. Kane.

While scholars interested in the topic will be grateful for the existence of this book, it offers a strange mixture of virtues and faults. Its most important virtue, of course, is the presentation of the manuscript journal text and its comparison with that of Voyages. In addition, the editor himself canoed Mackenzie’s route in the summer of 1965. His notes offer comments on distances and geographic features, and fifteen photographs which he took en route are reproduced.

A succinct twenty-one-page “Editor’s Introduction” supplies information on the provenience of the document, offers a brief review of the earlier explorations of Peter Pond and other North West Company and Hudson’s Bay Company traders who preceded Mackenzie into the Athabasca country, and examines the claim that the explorer discovered the great water system which now bears his name.

As for the book’s peculiarities—well, first there is its title. The words “Northwest Territory” have a rather different and specific geographical reference to a modern Canadian region and are somewhat confusing here. Worse still is the inclusion of the words “to the Pacific Ocean,” since Mackenzie in 1789 reached the Arctic, not the Pacific! If some notion of suggesting the search for a Northwest Passage to the Pacific is supposed (as is indicated by the journal title on page 25), one can only say that this is most unclear.

Then there is the matter of maps. Two are included, both from the 1801 edition of Voyages and both retaining the place name spellings given there. It would have been helpful had the publisher also seen fit to provide a more detailed map showing modern place names, since it requires a considerable knowledge of a large area to place immediately many of the remote spots mentioned in Mr. McDonald’s footnotes.
As for the editor’s comments in the notes—those which have to do with his canoe trip retracing the route are sometimes less than useful and occasionally confusing. Readers might find it interesting to compare them with the account of an experienced canoeist—the late Ben Ferrier—who retraced Mackenzie’s entire route from Montreal to the Arctic. Ferrier’s article may be found in the Explorers Journal for September, 1967, accompanied, incidentally, by a modern map of the route covered by the manuscript journal.

JESUIT MISSIONARY


Reviewed by Martha C. Bray

THE HEROIC proportions of the Jesuit missionary effort in North America are clearly established in the seventy-three volumes of The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents, edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites. One’s realization of this amazing achievement of corporate will and devotion can, however, be constantly intensified by additional documentation. Herein lies the value of the scholarly biography of Jacques Marquette, presented by Father Donnelly as a tribute to the priest whose gentleness and fortitude have long since given him a special place in American history.

Young Marquette arrived in Quebec in 1666. Father Donnelly’s exhaustive study of his family, the Marquettes of Laon, places him squarely in the midst of the religious revival which followed the wars of the sixteenth century. Jacques was nine when he entered the Jesuit college at Reims, and his character was formed by the impersonal discipline which contemporary documents fully describe. When he decided to enter the service of foreign missions, he may well have been inspired by priests returning from Vietnam, says the author. Pleas from Quebec, however, brought him to New France; following his life to its appointed end—death from typhoid fever on the barren shores of Lake Michigan—his biographer includes fresh studies of Marquette’s mentors and associates. Among these were: Claude Dablon, who became the superior of all the Jesuits in New France and the first biographer of Marquette; Claude Allouez, upon whose knowledge of the Indians Marquette relied; Jean Talon, New France’s first resident intendant whose administrative problems are given fair attention; and, of course, Louis Joliet, of whom there is a fine portrait.

If Marquette is frequently lost in this panoramic treatment, one can only reflect that such obscurity is in the nature of the subject. Though drawn largely from the Relations, the recreation of the young priest’s missions among the Indians has a dramatic impact which still speaks across the centuries. The biographer fails, however, to deepen the reader’s conception of Marquette’s individuality through occasional imaginary conversations and incidents. This is a device which usually seems puerile, as it does, unfortunately, in this case.

The journey down the Mississippi is drawn from the controversial “Recit des voyages et des découvertes du Père Jacques Marquette,” found in the Relations, LIX. In an appendix Father Donnelly defends his own position that it was written by Marquette and not by Dablon, as some have attempted to prove. Another appendix deals summarily with the charge that Marquette was never a fully ordained priest. A number of documents relating to Marquette’s life are reproduced. Among them is the map he drew of the Mississippi and the Great Lakes, a map characteristically “erected on a firm foundation of fact” and “unadorned by any flights of fancy.” To such a man, both priest and geographer, Father Donnelly’s affectionate study does full justice.

CHIPPEWA CULTURE


Reviewed by Harold Hickerson

THIS BOOK is the third of a series of works on the Ojibwa (or Chippewa) of northern Minnesota and neighboring parts of Ontario. Based on field work the author did in the 1930s, it pro-
vides a brief sketch of general Ojibwa “culture and personality,” followed by a detailed description of aspects of the rites of the Midéwiwin, or Grand Medicine Society. The descriptions rely largely on extensive interviews with an elderly male Mide priest and a middle-aged female “visionary.” The book affords many glimpses into the personality of the informants as well as that of the author, who has the knack in certain passages of mingling her poetry with theirs. The volume should also please a small contingent of professional anthropologists and amateur buffs who preserve an interest in detailed accounts of ceremonials in the style of the 1920s and 1930s. Such descriptions avoid relating the ritual, its ideology, and form to the historical culture. The data are presented in a single-dimensional plane. Hence, no attempt is made to trace the Midéwiwin to its own origin in the post-White period (perhaps the 1680s, perhaps slightly later) nor to antecedent ritual forms and beliefs of the pre-White period which were the basis for evolving the ritual.

In failing to concern herself with the history of the ceremonial and its relationship to the general culture in which it developed, the author ignores a wealth of material, published and unpublished, on Grand Medicine that predates the famous and detailed account by W. J. Hoffmann published in 1891 by the Bureau of American Ethnology. One wonders at the omission of any reference to W. W. Warren’s History of the Ojibways (1885), or to that of Peter Grant in Masson’s second volume of Les bourgeois de la compagnie du nord-ouest (1890) written about 1804. In Ethnohistory for Fall, 1962, and in the American Anthropologist for February, 1963, this reviewer — giving very general descriptions of the origin and function of the Midéwiwin among Ojibwa and neighboring peoples — has provided leads to a historical treatment of the ceremonial, to a working of it into the fabric of Ojibwa society, and to tracing the modifications it underwent in terms of multiform changes which have taken place in Ojibwa culture throughout the post-contact period.

As she has in the past, the author stresses in her opening sketch the “individualistic” character of Ojibwa society, despite a wealth of data on Ojibwa and related Algonquians which has appeared over the past fifteen years (for instance, Hickerson in Current Anthropology for October, 1967) indicating strong communal beliefs existing in the past. The Midéwiwin in its first manifestation arose out of corporate village communal interests. Only under the rigors of the spoliation of natural resources, as well as the poverty and marginality of reservation life, did the society become, if we are to take the author’s interpretation seriously, a vehicle for the expression of deadly duels of sorcery among malevolent shamans.

The readers for the University of Wisconsin Press have done a disservice in not recommending that the author provide historical background; we are left with a distorted picture of the ideological culture of an important and long-suffering people. It is this reviewer’s hope that the book is merely a fillip to the author’s past work on the Ojibwa and, as such, will be the last.

WEBLEN RE-EXAMINED


Reviewed by Charles Cleaver

MINNESOTA, during the period when Thor­stein Veblen did his work, produced more than its per capita share of original geniuses — some of them, just possibly, leaning a bit toward the eccentric side. Veblen seems to last better than the others. It is more and more clear that he is one of America’s great seminal thinkers. And what seemed to many, when he wrote, to be crankiness, now seems to be high intelligence. The more that scholars try to explain him, the more we see how subtle and elusive his mind was. This collection of essays, originally contributions to a recent seminar on Veblen at his alma mater, Carleton College, is another attempt to surround him in order to pin him down.

The distinction of the scholars represented in the book suggests the importance of Veblen today, and the wide range in their points of view suggests how many kinds of interests his mind could nourish. Charles B. Friday explores

Mr. Hickerson, who has written widely on the Ojibwa, is the editor of Ethnohistory and associate professor of anthropology at the University of New York at Buffalo.
the present usefulness of Veblen in trying to understand the future of American capitalism. John Kenneth Galbraith's name appears often in Mr. Friday's essay, as it does in others; Veblen's analyses were more elemental than Mr. Galbraith's, but in some ways similar. Thomas C. Cochran discusses Veblen as an analyst of the American business firm in all the phases of its rapid evolution from the 1870s through the 1920s. The title of David W. Noble's essay, "The Sacred and the Profane: The Theology of Thorstein Veblen," reveals the nature of Mr. Noble's interest. He uses the word "theology" in a special way to get at the concealed springs of faith and attitude on which a man's thought rides; in Veblen's case, roughly, as Mr. Noble describes it, this is a kind of primitive hope for a millennium which would see a return to innocence under a priesthood of engineers. Joseph Dorfman, the most widely known of the Veblen scholars, examines Veblen's place in the history of thought. He must be seen among the pragmatists in philosophy such as Charles S. Peirce and John Dewey, Mr. Dorfman says, the originators of the new science of anthropology, such as Franz Boas, the evolutionists in social thought, and, of course, the economists who were critical of the static laissez-faire model. Finally, so that we cannot forget that Veblen was a human being, Isador Lubin, Veblen's student and friend, records his affectionate "Recollections of Veblen."

Carlton C. Qualey of Carleton College, the editor of the book, is also the author of an introduction which attempts the difficult job of drawing these pieces together. Perhaps Professor Qualey, trying for the sane and balanced view of Veblen's contribution to the world, is rather too optimistic about the success it has had in curing the evils Veblen anatomized. Mr. Qualey shares, however, Mr. Friday's fear that Veblen was right when he showed how capitalism might evolve into militaristic nationalism.

One point of view is missing: a discussion of the slippery and outrageous language in which Veblen's sardonic humor is lodged. Often his rhetorical stance is in itself a criticism of his world. To overlook this is to miss much of Veblen's toughness and much of the mystery which makes his appeal last. Like Thoreau, Veblen apparently wished not to be fully understood. How can we ever know, when Veblen says something, how to read it? Perhaps in this dimension of Veblen may be found clues to certain puzzles that are perpetuated by some contradictions in these essays: was he a reformer, or only an analyst? did he offer solutions or not? The editor hints at this problem when he remarks, "Veblen defies labeling." Further, Mr. Qualey has organized a seminar and a book which are very helpful in a field where we can use all the help we can get.

COMMUNITY CHRONOLOGY


Reviewed by John T. Flanagan

IN ITS HUNDRED and thirty years of existence Marine on St. Croix has seen many facets of American civilization. From its beginning in 1838 as the site of a sawmill to its present status as a quiet village and summer resort, Marine has persisted, prospered modestly (although the population in 1960 was less than that in 1880), and endeared itself to generations of visitors (including Sinclair Lewis) lured by the charm of the St. Croix Valley. Its century and more of life has coincided with the coming and the departure of the river steamboat, the virtual disappearance of the logging industry, and, perhaps most surprising, the arrival and the end of the railroad. The Soo Line depot at Marine was closed in 1961. But the sun continues to shine on the peaceful valley despite the demise of the iron horse.

James Taylor Dunn's careful account of Marine (and marine) life takes the form of a chronological survey. In 1963 he published a chronicle of the first fifty years of the settlement; the present extension carries the story down to the establishment of a library in 1968. The author includes every conceivable aspect of village life: the building of stores, inns, and hotels; the founding of telephone and postal systems; the organization of a state bank; the arrival of such professional men as physicians.
dentists, and lawyers; social events like ice cream festivals, lawn parties, picnics and parades; and the performances of a cornet band. He is particularly careful about dates, and he provides useful biographical data about all leading citizens.

Mr. Dunn makes no predictions about Marine's future although he intimates that St. Paul's affluent society is constantly reaching out toward the St. Croix Valley for cabin sites. The automobile will continue to bring Marine closer in time if not in distance to the industries of the Twin Cities. To the veteran residents of the village as well as to newcomers seeking quiet sylvan surroundings, this chronicle of one of Minnesota's oldest settlements will have perennial interest. Excellent photographs and glossy paper add to the attractiveness of the small volume.

Mr. Flanagan, professor of English at the University of Illinois and a frequent contributor to this magazine, is a summer resident of the St. Croix Valley.

UNION the HISTORICAL HORIZON

UNDER the editorship of Ray Allen Billington, eleven historians have evaluated The Frontier Thesis (New York, 1966. 122 p.). The book contains Frederick Jackson Turner's statement of the thesis, followed by George W. Pierson's challenge of it. The three main sections of the book examine the frontier as a "safety valve" which drew excess wage earners from the East, as a producer of democracy, and as an influence on American character. Supporters of Turner represented in the slim volume include Harry C. Allen, John D. Barnhart, Merle Curti, Everett S. Lee, David M. Potter, and Ellen Von Nardoff; critics of the thesis are Richard Hofstadter, Earl Pomeroy, Fred A. Shannon, and Benjamin F. Wright. Each of their articles has appeared elsewhere; they are reprinted here without footnotes. There is no index, but a guide for further reading is given at the end of the book.

ON THE OCCASION of the sesquicentennial of the state of Illinois, the University of Illinois Press has brought out a revised second edition of the late Solon J. Buck's Illinois in 1818 (Urbana, 1967. xiii p., 356 p.), a centennial history long out of print. Buck had become research associate in history at the University of Illinois in 1910, but before the book was published he had left to become superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, a position he held from 1914 to 1931. In his preface to the first edition, Buck wrote: "This work is an attempt to portray the social, economic, and political life of Illinois at the close of the territorial period, and, in addition, to tell the story of the transition from colonial dependence to the full dignity of a state of the Union." Allan Nevins, in an introduction to the new edition, says "Dr. Buck penned a sterling volume," but not a historical masterpiece. "It is a journeyman's work," writes Mr. Nevins, "but a journeyman labor at a high level of craftsmanship. It is honest in every phrase and sentence."

ROGER G. KENNEDY continues to shed light on the shadowy, alcoholic figure of the late Harvey Ellis, "the greatest American architect of fantastic medievalism," in two recent articles. The quotation is from a readable piece, "Some Distant Vision: Harvey Ellis and the Flowering of Midwestern Architecture," in the American West for March, 1968, in which Mr. Kennedy not only analyzes Ellis the man but also identifies and describes some of his "castles" and other buildings in the Twin Cities, Menomonie, Wisconsin, and elsewhere. He does much the same, with additional material on Ellis' work in Missouri and New York, in "Long Dark Corridors: Harvey Ellis" in the Prairie School Review for first-second quarter, 1968. Essentially, both articles are skillful reworkings of the author's "The Long Shadow of Harvey Ellis" that appeared in the Fall, 1966, issue of Minnesota History, but they contain new material, particularly on Ellis' work in Missouri and New York. They make use of the personal papers left by the architect's brother, Charles, in Rochester, New York.

A RICH SAMPLING of the multitude of works produced by one of the most popular and highly regarded Western artists is offered in Charles M. Russell: Paintings, Drawings, and Sculpture
in the Amon G. Carter Collection (Austin, Texas, and London, England, 1966. xvi, 148 p. $17.50). This descriptive catalogue by Frederic G. Benner was published for the Amon Carter Museum of Western Art in Fort Worth by the University of Texas Press. The assorted cowboys, Indians, explorers, trappers, settlers, and others pictured in color and in black and white in the book are representative of the Montana artist's work at various periods. The pictures appear in the order that Russell painted them, so that the reader can see how his skill improved over the years. The Russell works, plus many by Frederic Remington, form the nucleus of the permanent collection in the museum willed by the late Amon G. Carter, whose sizable fortune came from such enterprises as a newspaper-radio-TV complex. The book includes a charming foreword by Carter's daughter, Ruth Carter Johnson, a brief biography of Russell, and pictures of Russell's sketch box, rifle, and other personal items. There is an index.

WHILE RESEARCHING South Dakota military history in Washington, D.C., Herman P. Chilson of Webster, South Dakota, uncovered unpublished accounts of the earliest ornithological observations at Fort Wadsworth (later Fort Sisseton). Now Mr. Chilson, a member of the Minnesota Historical Society's executive council, has published his findings in a twelve-page booklet, Knickerbocker's 1869 List of the Birds of Fort Wadsworth, Dakota Territory. He lists the various birds that Dr. Boliver Knickerbocker, assistant surgeon general, reported observing in 1868 and 1869 within the post's reservation of 135 square miles. At that time, writes Mr. Chilson, "the post surgeon at every fort was required, as part of his duties, to gather this information." Chilson also offers comments on the birds' prevalence today.

IN HIS The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1968, xviii, 866 p. $15.00), the late Edwin B. Coddington made extensive use of a source infrequently mined by twentieth-century scholars—the papers (largely in the New Hampshire Historical Society) of Colonel John B. Bachelder, an early authority on the battle. One item in the Bachelder Papers, a typescript of a June 9, 1866, letter from Colonel William Colvill of the First Minnesota Regiment, is Coddington's main source for his brief account of that outfit's famed charge on July 2, 1863, to buy a few moments for its corps commander, General Winfield S. Hancock, to close a gap in the Union lines.

Coddington wrote that Hancock rode up, reined his horse to a sudden stop, and looked around for men to throw into the breach. "My God!" he exclaimed, pointing to the 1st Minnesota, "Are these all the men we have here?" Then he roared, "Advance Colonel, and take those colors." Having thus quoted from Colvill's 1866 letter, Coddington continued: "Now his force of a little over three hundred men tore into [Brigadier General Cadmus] Wilcox' right regiment and stopped it cold. The price for Colvill's valor, a crippling wound, the reward, fame for his regiment. Never had Colvill seen better work done on either side, and the 'destruction was awful,' he said." In a footnote, Coddington said the regiment "lost 224 officers and men, over two-thirds of the numbers which went into action." This agrees with a casualty table in the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies and is less than the 82 per cent figure often cited.

AN ASSESSMENT of "Lord Selkirk and the Red River Colony" by George E. Carter appears in the January, 1968, issue of Montana: The Magazine of Western History. The author raises the question of whether Lord Selkirk was a "colonizer-philanthropist, or ... a land speculator out to line his own pockets" and answers this query by examining available historiography, both contemporary to the period and recent. After weighing the opinions of contemporaries such as Simon McGillivray, Colin Robertson, and Alexander Ross, as well as those of historians George Bryce, A. S. Morton, John P. Pritchett, John M. Gray, and William Kingsford, Mr. Carter concludes that Selkirk's "primary goal was colonization to relieve a depressed homeland."

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION for State and Local History has given a 1968 award of merit "for an outstanding contribution in the field of historical publications" to the society's de luxe edition of Henry Lewis' The Valley of the Mississippi Illustrated, translated by A. Hermina Poatgier and edited by Bertha L. Heilbron. Awards of merit also went to Grover Singleton of St. Paul "for tracing, researching, and recording for posterity the routes of the military roads in territorial Minnesota," and to Richard B. Dunsworth of Minneapolis "for numerous services to Minnesota and upper Midwest history." Among other things, he has designed and manufactured mechanical devices for recover-
The awards committee also voted AASLH certificates of commendation to the United States Forest Service—Superior National Forest, Duluth, for assisting the Quetico-Superior underwater research program; to the Red River Valley Historical Society, Moorhead, for outstanding work in preserving and interpreting the rich heritage of the Red River Valley of North Dakota, Minnesota, and Manitoba; and to Dr. Richard J. Wright, White Bear Lake, "for arousing historical interest in a rapidly changing suburban community." The committee made its selections on September 23-24 in connection with the twenty-eighth annual meeting of the AASLH in Washington, D.C.

A STEP-BY-STEP account of the labor dispute that brought the demise of a ninety-year-old Minnesota firm in the summer of 1967 is offered by Richard S. Gillmer in Death Of A Business: The Red Wing Potteries (Minneapolis, Ross & Haines, 1968. 280 p. $6.75). The son of R. A. Gillmer, chief executive officer of Red Wing Potteries from 1958 on, and also a member of the company negotiating team, Mr. Gillmer admits it was impossible for him "to approach the subject from the standpoint of a disinterested observer." However, he has managed a sensitive, if subjective, report that seeks to assess mistakes and motives of both sides and to advance reasons for the failure of workers and owners to come to a satisfactory understanding. A short history of Red Wing and its pottery industry precedes the strike story, which makes extensive use of newspaper and radio accounts. The book is illustrated and indexed.

THE IMPORTANT ROLE of Fort Ridgely's defenders in turning back the Sioux Indians during the outbreak of 1862 in the Minnesota River Valley is the focal point of a short article, "The Uprising," by Donald P. Shannon in the August, 1968, issue of Twin Citians. Clearly and concisely, Mr. Shannon tells the familiar story of how a few artillerymen led by Sergeant John Jones were largely responsible for repulsing two Sioux attacks on the fort. For dramatic effect, the author also concentrates on various messengers who got through to spread the word of the uprising and summon forces for the fort's defense. Another theme is the annuity shipment of $71,000 in gold which arrived at the fort after the outbreak already was in progress. Like others before him, Mr. Shannon feels that the uprising might have been prevented, if the annuity money had arrived a day earlier. In spite of the title of the article, it deals only slightly with other aspects of the uprising aside from Ridgely and not at all with the two attacks on New Ulm. The defense of the German settlement on the south side of the river was as significant as that of the fort on the north side.

**NEWS OF THE SOCIETY**

THE NEWSPAPER DIVISION of the society has completed microfilming the state's first newspaper, the Minnesota Pioneer, and its successors for the period from April 28, 1849, through December 31, 1900. To date, this is the most important continuous microfilm project achieved by the division. Positive copies of the 197-roll set are available for $2,300 each; individual reels may be purchased from the society at the standard price of 15 cents per foot of film.

TWO READERS of Minnesota History have set the record straight about the photograph of Charles Evans Hughes on the cover of the Fall, 1968, issue. The picture was identified as showing Hughes speaking from his campaign train in southeastern Minnesota in 1916. The caption also said that "his companion is probably Frank A. Day, editor of the Fairmont Daily Sentinel." However, James A. Tawney of Washington, D.C., wrote that "Mr. Hughes' companion was my father, James A. Tawney, then representing the 1st Congressional District of Minnesota in the House of Representatives in Washington. The time was not the year, 1916, when Mr. Hughes was campaigning in his own behalf for the Presidency, but 1908, when Mr. Hughes was campaigning for William Howard Taft and my father in the elections of that year." Mr. Tawney also presented the society two other 1908 photographs showing his father, Hughes, and others during the campaign. A daughter of Day, Juanita Day Carman of Laguna Beach, California, also wrote that "Hughes' companion is Congressman James A. Tawney of Winona. His son, by the way, married my sister, Constance Day, in 1910, so I knew him well."

A third reader, Paul A. Meier of Echo, wrote to correct the caption of the John F. Kennedy photograph on the bottom of page 127 in the same issue. "This picture was taken in 1962 at the bean feed held at the Hippodrome at the State Fair Grounds," said Mr. Meier. "You will notice that the presidential seal is in evidence at the front of the podium. Had this picture been taken in 1960 as stated JFK would not then be entitled to use the presidential seal, as he was only a candidate in 1960."