

BOOK REVIEWS

Kitchi-Gami: Life Among the Lake Superior Ojibway.
By Johann Georg Kohl. Translation by Lascelles
Wraxell, with a new Introduction by Robert E.
Bieder and additional translations by Ralf Neufang
and Ulrike Böcker.
(St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1985. xlii,
477 p. Paper, \$11.95.)

THE PUBLICATION by the Minnesota Historical Society Press of Kohl's study of the Ojibway should be hailed by students of American Indian culture. In an attractive, inexpensive paperback, this new Borealis edition of the 1860 English translation fills a void left when the Ross & Haines limited hardbound edition (1956), which had resurrected this important book after nearly a century, went out of print. The publisher has enriched this volume with a new introduction, notes on the original translation, appendixes restoring valuable material omitted from the original German edition (1859), an index, a photograph of Kohl in 1854, a helpful map of Lake Superior showing the principal sites of his sojourn, and a handsomely designed cover incorporating an 1885 oil painting of the lake by Charles Lanman.

In his excellent introduction, Robert E. Bieder expands on the earlier assessment of Kohl's contributions by Russell Fridley in the 1956 edition. With access to the Kohl papers in Bremen archives as well as the considerable literature on the Ojibway published since 1956, Bieder is able to reflect further on Kohl's place in the history of anthropology. He provides a concise picture of Ojibway history until 1855 and offers enough of Kohl's biography to suggest reasons why he would have come to America. Among these were the German political scene at the time, Kohl's interest in cartography, popular ethnographical novels about American Indian life, as well as Kohl's familiarity with Henry R. Schoolcraft's *Algic Researches* (1839) and Longfellow's *Hiawatha* (1855). Bieder also makes insightful comparisons between Kohl's approach and that of contemporaneous American ethnologists focusing on the Ojibway, specifically Lewis Cass and Schoolcraft. He concludes that Kohl's contribution was more scientific partly because "He was not hampered by American preoccupation with the removal of Indian tribes or the acculturation of Indian peoples."

Johann G. Kohl went to La Pointe (present-day Madeline Island) having learned that annuity payments would attract large numbers of Lake Superior Ojibway, some from as far away as Lake Vermilion, Minnesota. This would provide him an excellent chance to observe in detail and in depth

every aspect of their culture, including the sports competitions, dances, and ceremonials that typically occur at such convocations. Like many 19th-century writers, he too felt time was limited to describe "a race of men dying out so rapidly and irrevocably." In contrast to other visitors who wrote about La Pointe during the same period, such as the Reverend Sherman Hall, Thomas McKenney, or J. J. Ducatel, all of whom lodged with the non-Indian establishment and whose observations from a distance seem detached by comparison to Kohl's, the German traveler no sooner arrived than he had a wigwam built for himself amidst the Ojibway, not only to be closer to his subjects but to be able to describe exactly the mode of construction of their principal dwelling. Such a move reflects his extraordinary dedication to ethnographic detail and explains his expressed regret that Champlain, Marquette, and other early travelers failed to record canoe construction by the Indians before they had metal trade tools so that a comparative study would be possible.

Scarcely any aspect of Ojibway material culture, religious beliefs, or social customs went unnoticed during Kohl's brief visit. Daily he copied patterns of facial painting. He had a woman untie a cradleboard, show how it was built, provide Ojibway names for each part, and explain its use—gaining enough material to fill three pages on the topic in his book. Knowing of lacrosse as a native American sport, he attempted to get up a game, but the American authorities "forbade this innocent amusement." Still, he was able to inspect and describe ash racquets being made and willow balls with stars, crosses, and circles carved into them. Wanting to observe the technique of biting designs into birch bark, he sought out a woman renowned for her talent but now so elderly that "all her hopes were now concentrated on one tooth."

Kohl's information on Ojibway customs predates the collecting of Frances Densmore by half a century. In *Kitchi-Gami* one learns of warpath taboos for young men, forbidden from participating in singing death or war songs, sucking marrow from game killed en route to battle, or getting their feet wet climbing in or out of canoes. Proper etiquette upon entering a wigwam is also noted; a stranger, for example, is expected to keep his eyes fixed on the ground so as not to invade the privacy of the family.

Kohl's investigations into traditional Ojibway religious practices, from those of sucking doctors, shaking tent conjurers, and medicine men of the *midewiwin*, are among the earliest to provide the details serving later comparisons. Possibly his abiding interest in cartography led to his fascina-

tion with Ojibway pictography. His published reproductions of *mide* scrolls and their interpretations predate the studies of Walter J. Hoffman and Garrick Mallery by three decades. Kohl's sympathy for Indian music is also considerably ahead of its time. Compared with Schoolcraft's boredom with and even abhorrence of Ojibway song, Kohl, who fastidiously collected song texts, was perceptive enough to recognize "characteristic variations . . . on repeated hearings." (His lengthy discourse on voyageur songs is also unique in the early study of folk music.) By publishing a large number of the tales he collected, Kohl offered to world folklore a rich resource for comparative material.

One applauds the editor's decision to restore in an appendix five legends (translated by Ralf Neufang and Ulrike Böcker) that Wraxall omitted in his English-language edition, diverting his audience instead to *Hiawatha*. Readers should be properly cautioned that the stories now in English must be recognized as having gone from Ojibway into French (the language of Kohl's interpreters), thence to German. Neufang's "Note on the Translation," pointing out Wraxall's abridgement of Kohl's attempts to relate Indian to European customs, provides additional insights into Kohl's concepts of the universality of cultural traits.

Throughout, Kohl's style is eminently readable, and his writing at times is characterized by both humor and charm: a bear dead-fall (trap) is depicted as "a cage prepared for dainty Bruin," and Longfellow is gently jibed at in such a passage as "the Indian canoe-builder appeals to the birch-tree, not exactly in the words of *Hiawatha* — *Lay aside your cloak, O birch-tree!* . . . , but with a good axe and sharp knife."

Scholars in Ojibway studies have long recognized Kohl's work as a valuable source. Robert Ritzenthaler, for instance, in his study of Ojibway attitudes toward health is indebted to Kohl for descriptions of sucking doctors' cures, the Ojibway proclivity to inquire in detail about the health of every family member, and the ritual destruction of disease by shooting a straw mannequin. With such a volume now accessible, there is no question that this book will receive the wider audience it deserves, particularly in the classroom, where it could well serve as a core text in American Indian ethnology.

Reviewed by THOMAS VENNUM, JR., senior ethnomusicologist, Office of Folklife Programs, in the Smithsonian Institution and author of *The Ojibwa Dance Drum: Its History and Construction* (1982).

From Peasants to Farmers: The Migration from Balestrand, Norway, to the Upper Middle West. By Jon Gjerde.

(New York, Cambridge University Press, 1985. 319 p. \$32.50.)

A QUARTER of a century ago a British historian, Frank Thistlethwaite, produced a highly regarded essay in which he called for the reorientation of immigration history. In his view, this field is best understood as a part of international

migration: it demands that close attention be paid to economic, social, and cultural conditions on the local level in both the countries of origin and destination. Although a team of scholars in Sweden produced a series of excellent studies along these lines, few Americans responded to Thistlethwaite's challenge, not because they disagreed, but rather because the sheer magnitude of the task was so intimidating. In recent years, as the difficulties have been eased through the use of computers and by the development of concepts in historical demography, several young historians and cultural geographers, Jon Gjerde among them, have successfully tackled the subject on Thistlethwaite's terms. Gjerde's book, *From Peasants to Farmers*, is perhaps the best of these studies to have been published to the present time.

Following an introductory chapter in which he relates his research to the historiography of immigration, Gjerde examines regional differences in social and economic patterns within Norway as they related to emigration. He then concentrates on Balestrand, a fjord district northwest of Bergen in the Sogn region of Norway. By analyzing agricultural changes during the period of great population growth in the 19th century, Gjerde shows that, contrary to traditional interpretations, Balestrand experienced improvements in material welfare. Norwegians emigrated, not because of the inability of agriculture to keep pace with population increases, but rather because of interrelationships in inheritance customs, changes in demographic behaviors, improved economic well-being, and cultural concerns that were strongly expressed in pietistic religion. Gjerde is especially effective in his analysis of courtship customs, illegitimacy rates, marriage patterns, and household formation.

The second half of the book treats the history of the Balestrand immigrants in the upper Middle West, in accordance with Thistlethwaite's prescription. Again, Gjerde is revisionist. Whereas older historians attributed the stability of rural immigrant communities to an emotional attachment to the land, Gjerde ascribes it to the social and psychological advantages the immigrants gained by compact settlement. Regional ties, bonds of kinship, and religious affiliation, especially Haugean pietism, are brilliantly integrated with other variables in his study of Balestrander mobility, especially among communities in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

In his eighth chapter Gjerde returns to agriculture and shows how the Norwegians adapted their traditional modes to the new physical and social environments of America. Animal husbandry, cropping practices, and divisions of labor are rigorously scrutinized. Gjerde discovers, for example, that American circumstances strongly influenced changes in the traditional gender-based division of work as women were released from heavy tasks in the field and barn and increased their domestic responsibilities within the home.

Finally, Gjerde studies the changes that immigration wrought in the social behavior of Balestrand in America. Standards of morality were profoundly altered. "Night courting," which helped to explain high rates of illegitimate births in Norway, virtually disappeared in the New World, partly because of the unrelenting condemnation by immigrant clergy. Illegitimacy among Gjerde's immigrants dropped to a tenth of the rate that prevailed in Norway at the same time, even as prenuptially conceived children became

rare. The nuclear family increased in importance as internal migration continued and as a new sense of bourgeois propriety was diffused throughout the immigrant society.

Gjerde's book is marked throughout by clarity of thought and expression. Written for scholars, it remains accessible to interested lay readers. Tables abound, but data are easily comprehended, even by readers not initiated in the mysteries of cliometrics. Never constricted by assumptions about the primacy of economic variables, Gjerde accords due weight to ethnocultural and religious variables. The result is a model study, based on hard evidence, of how the dialectic between culture and environment can illuminate social history.

Reviewed by FREDERICK C. LUEBKE, professor of history and director of the Center for Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, who has published extensively in the field of immigration history.

Political Prairie Fire: The Nonpartisan League, 1915-1922. By Robert L. Morlan, with a new Introduction by Larry Remele.

(St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1985. xxii, 414 p. Paper, \$10.95.)

The Nonpartisan League, 1915-22, An Annotated Bibliography. Compiled by Patrick K. Coleman and Charles R. Lamb.

(St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1985. ix, 86 p. Paper, \$12.95.)

THE Minnesota Historical Society deserves much credit for reprinting *Political Prairie Fire* and simultaneously releasing a new and long-awaited bibliography, *The Nonpartisan League, 1915-22*. It is certain this combination will stimulate and facilitate research on the NPL.

Morlan's *Political Prairie Fire* is easily the most popular and readable history of the "glory years" of the NPL. It is difficult to overstate the impact this book has had on NPL scholarship. This classic work, published by the University of Minnesota Press in 1955 and out of print for many years, includes a new introduction by Larry Remele and a new cover (a farm scene from the motion picture "Northern Lights").

Rather than review *Political Prairie Fire* again, comment here will concern the introduction by historian Remele, editor of *North Dakota History*. A long-time and respected NPL scholar, Remele examines Morlan's interpretation of the league, discusses the origins of the book, explains how it has served as the impetus for research on the NPL, and presents a brief overview of scholarship on the topic since the book's publication. Remele relates the interpretation in *Political Prairie Fire* to Morlan's own political experiences in the 1940s and 1950s. The impact of *Political Prairie Fire* on Morlan's career and summaries of contemporary reviews of the book are also provided. However, the greatest value of Remele's introduction is his effective placement of the book in a historiographical context.

Remele summarizes the major disagreements historians have held with portions of Morlan's history: the basis of NPL support, the NPL's success in organizing, and the reasons for its failure. Recent scholarship has emphasized other shortcomings in interpreting the development of an NPL "political subculture," the role of women, the social origins or ethnic composition of NPL supporters, and the nature of opposition to the league. According to Remele, scholars have begun to address these areas and to focus on others that need attention, including the activities of the NPL in other states, its influence on national politics, and its effect on subsequent political history, especially in North Dakota and Minnesota. Remele's analysis of scholarship since publication of *Political Prairie Fire* is excellent. His evaluation provides the experienced NPL scholar as well as the interested beginner with a perspective on past and current NPL scholarship.

The Nonpartisan League, 1915-22: An Annotated Bibliography, the result of two long years of researching and describing sources, is a thorough work of impressive scope and quality. Compilers Coleman and Lamb are to be congratulated for their achievement and contribution to the study of the NPL.

The 1,010 entries represent a wide variety of documentary material. To facilitate access, the compilers divided the sources into eight categories according to media: books, articles, pamphlets and ephemera, periodicals, records from court cases, government publications, archives and manuscripts, and unpublished papers, including doctoral dissertations and masters' theses. Within each of the categories, sources are described individually in a standard bibliographic entry format; brief but useful annotations summarize content, provide background information about the authors, and evaluate significance. Materials such as voluminous North Dakota state government records that relate to the NPL are described collectively in broad bibliographic entries. Because pamphlets and ephemera relating to the league are often difficult to locate, the listings for these sources cite the repository where they may be found. Many entries also include useful cross-references. An exhaustive ten-page author-title-subject index contains over 1,000 references to the sources described in the bibliography. "See" and "See also" references in the index facilitate use of the bibliography.

The only weakness of the bibliography (and it is hardly catastrophic) is the compilers' bias toward textual or written documentary sources. Absent are a significant number of references to audio or visual sources such as posters, broadsides, photographs, sound recordings, motion-picture film, or political memorabilia relating to the NPL. This omission somewhat limits the usefulness of the bibliography. And while the work is peppered with an interesting selection of NPL-related photographs and illustrations that break up the visual monotony of this type of publication, few of the sources, unfortunately, are cited after the captions.

One of the greatest values of the bibliography is that it reveals numerous sources relating to many areas of concern in current NPL scholarship. In their introduction, the compilers address some current themes and questions and express a hope that the bibliography "will help researchers to discover the answers." Coleman and Lamb have indeed suc-

ceeded in assembling a tool that will aid NPL researchers for years to come. All NPL scholars are indebted to them and to the Minnesota Historical Society Press for preparing and publishing this book.

Reviewed by DAVID GRAY, *who is deputy state archivist at the State Historical Society of North Dakota.*

Drawings of the American Indians. By George Catlin, with an Introduction by Peter H. Hassrick.
(New York, Doubleday & Co., 1984. 460 p. \$125.00.)

PITY poor George Catlin! Driven by his self-appointed mission to record Indians of North America for posterity, he traveled the continent in the 1830s to make over 500 paintings under arduous conditions. His rewards were another round of travels, this time to display his Indian Gallery to audiences in the eastern states and in Europe; repeated futile attempts to sell the great collection to the United States government; and the necessity of copying his own work for sale to Europeans who seemed more appreciative of his efforts than were his own countrymen. *Drawings of the North American Indians* is a lavish but ironic memorial to Catlin's Indian Gallery, and to his repetitions of the portraits that brought him fame.

The volume is a facsimile edition of an album of 215 drawings Catlin made for sale to the Duke of Portland in the 1850s. One of more than a dozen "albums unique," as the artist termed them, the Duke of Portland album paired full-page pencil portraits with a descriptive text in the artist's hand on the facing pages. Catlin's letter to the duke introduces the facsimile album on an obsequious note: "I know of no one into whose hands I should feel more satisfied to place them, and for the moderate price of £75. I could not afford to repeat such labour for a less price than £175." His title page for the album states the goal of Catlin's career in portraying "a numerous and noble race of HUMAN BEINGS fast passing to extinction." The final two drawings of Wi-jun-jon, the Pigeon's Egg Head, first in his Assiniboin dress and later in white man's finery, epitomize the urgency of Catlin's project more vividly than many words could do.

The facsimile is an impressive volume. Slipcased, bound in cloth and leather, it reproduces Catlin's pencil drawings with fidelity to his feathery line. Yet the volume exudes a stale air of portraits too often reproduced — in this case by Catlin himself, as well as later dealers and publishers. As William H. Truettner wrote of the "albums unique" in his comprehensive study *The Natural Man Observed: A Study of Catlin's Indian Gallery* (1978), "there is little evidence of inspiration about them, except in the separate introductions, where the artist makes a pitch to convince potential buyers of the original material contained in each."

The final irony of *Drawings of the North American Indians* is that it documents an album that is now as extinct as the people it portrayed. The New York gallery that acquired the Duke of Portland album has dismantled it to sell the drawings individually. Otherwise there are few surprises in

this book. Peter H. Hassrick's introduction is a smooth synopsis of this "man of remarkable drive, unbounding hubris, and uneven skills as a writer and painter." The reader who is acquainted with Catlin's work will find many familiar names and faces in the portrait drawings reproduced here, but will find small comfort in the fact that this book is just an expensive token of an album now scattered in search of buyers.

Reviewed by THOMAS O'SULLIVAN, *curator of art at the Minnesota Historical Society.*

U.S. 40 Today: Thirty Years of Landscape Change in America. By Thomas R. Vale and Geraldine R. Vale.

(Madison, University of Wisconsin Press, 1983. 198 p. Illustrations. Cloth, \$27.50; paper, \$14.95.)

U.S. 40: A Roadscape of the American Experience. By Thomas J. Schlereth.

(Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Society, 1985. 150 p. Illustrations. Paper, \$13.95.)

MORE than 30 years after its original publication by Houghton Mifflin in 1953, George Stewart's classic *U.S. 40: Cross Section of the United States* has spawned two books that examine the American scene as viewed from the highway. Both should be of interest to automobile and armchair travelers who want to understand better the roadside environment. The books interpret the country's cultural and physical landscapes in different and complementary ways. These volumes are more than guidebooks to a specific highway; they teach us to see and understand the land around us.

In Stewart's day, U.S. 40 was one of America's principal east-west highways. Stewart drove the route from Atlantic City to San Francisco in the early 1950s and photographed typical scenes — "typical," for his view of America focused on the common spaces between the places usually mentioned in tourist guides. His *U.S. 40* is an important and delightful book, which unlike most others portrays the country at a given time in terms of the ordinary rather than the spectacular. It does so with 94 superb photographs and with the consummate skill of a gifted writer and historian. The book is a pleasure to read even today, in part for the nostalgic charm of pre-interstate travel, but more importantly for the way it teaches us how to pay better attention to commonplace environments and how such landscapes reflect culture and history.

In the early 1980s, geographers Thomas and Geraldine Vale retraced Stewart's route and "rephotographed" 72 of the scenes. In a format similar to that of the earlier book, *U.S. 40 Today* juxtaposes Stewart's original photographs with pictures of the same scenes three decades later. The authors point out and explain changes in the built environment of fields, farms, towns, and cities.

At first glance it is remarkable how little the landscape seems to have been modified. Rural areas have had little impetus for visible change, and built-up urban areas have

had little room for it. On a close examination, small changes do appear: parking meters are gone from small-town streets; a stretch of an old emigrant trail in Nevada is now totally obliterated; road signs have come and gone. The most dramatic environmental alterations are new housing developments in suburban and exurban locations, the startling growth of western highway towns, and the modification of the highway itself. Along much of its route, U.S. 40 has been replaced or bypassed by Interstate 70. Many of Stewart's locations, at that time on a busy highway, are now on the little-used frontage roads or the alternate routes that U.S. 40 has become.

This raises the question of whether the real environmental change has been in the landscape or in the ways we travel and experience it. Cross-country travel on an interstate highway is quite different from that on a road like U.S. 40. If one thinks of Stewart's *U.S. 40* as a body of views that captures the experience of a transcontinental trip, then the Vales' individual vignettes lose some of their impact as monitors of change. On the other hand, their more recent look at the highway shows that exploration need not be a thing of the past and that there is much to see on any itinerary.

To live up to Stewart's treatment of U.S. 40 is a difficult task, and the Vales are not entirely successful. For example, they excluded 22 of Stewart's scenes. Their reasons for omissions are acceptable in the case of lost negatives, for example, or impossible shooting locations, but these account for only half of the deleted scenes. The opinion that "some views seem repetitive and offer little that is not found in the views that we have used" is unacceptable to this reader. Stewart had a purpose for each shot. The Vales should have respected the original selection; otherwise, why base their study on the earlier book, and why not add images that might offer better comparisons?

Also missing from *U.S. 40 Today* are the superb graphics that graced the original book. Erwin Raisz had provided a bird's-eye view of the entire route that presented its geology and topography, along with detailed physiographic diagrams for each subsection of the route and a cross-section showing elevations and annual rainfall. The Vales substituted simplistic route maps and satellite images of marginal quality. Finally their text does not come up to the superb writing in the earlier volume.

These criticisms notwithstanding, the book is a welcome addition to, and not a replacement for, *U.S. 40*. Both books are worth owning, and the new volume certainly does far better than modern travel guides in teaching us things to look for on U.S. 40 (or any other highway). It also reveals how knowledge of history and geography illuminates travel. It is rivaled only by the richly detailed, dated, but still useful WPA state guides of the 1930s (many have recently been republished, including the guide to Minnesota) and some hard-to-find guidebooks to small locales.

Thomas Schlereth's *U.S. 40: A Roadscape of the American Experience* is quite different from the Stewart and Vale books. It serves best as an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of landscape history, concentrating on the artifacts of the highway rather than on specific scenes along the route.

The first section is a catalog and history of road types,

pavements, and bridges; of buildings such as motels, gas stations, and shopping centers; and of such diverse related topics as place names and bicycling. It is filled with solid information on such different topics as the origin of parking meters and car rental firms, the development of highway commercial strips, changes in gas station design, and development of the national highway system. One five-page section provides bibliographic leads on the history of bridges, discusses changes in construction, and presents diagrams of the major steel-truss bridge types. With minor modifications, this part could stand on its own. Few of the items mentioned are specific to Indiana: illustrations range from New Jersey to Chicago, Kansas City, Mississippi, and California. For anyone unfamiliar with the study of such things, these 60 pages offer a good start.

Unfortunately, Schlereth's overview of roadside artifacts suffers from problems all too common to the "pop culture" school of material culture studies. Although he states, for example, that bridges (and streets, gas stations, etc.) "provide the above-ground archaeologist with a category of artifactual evidence worthy of careful study and interpretation," he seldom interprets the artifacts in a cultural context.

Schlereth's look at U.S. 40 in Indiana is more successful than his general catalog of roadside artifacts and structures. He deals effectively with the ordinary, such as interurban lines, road signs, and small-town main streets, thus giving his work appeal for non-Hoosiers. And Indiana historians will find much information specific to the state, such as several "epitome districts," entire landscapes that encapsulate "a past chronological era with special poignancy and power through . . . distinctive concentration[s] of artifacts of one time in one place." Depictions such as these serve to move local history and historic preservation out of an emphasis on uniqueness to a contextual understanding of places set in larger patterns of settlement and landscape.

Schlereth is at his best when presenting his own historical research and interpretation. He points out how the artifactual evidence of the roadside landscape helps us understand American history and culture, and, in turn, how historical understanding helps us interpret landscapes. He fails when he uncritically summarizes the work of landscape historians. This is all too evident in his first chapter and in the final bibliographic essay where he does not distinguish between solid, scholarly research and trivial looks at artifacts. On one hand he seems intent on finding some study of every type of highway structure, no matter how obscure the artifact (manhole covers) or the research (unpublished masters' theses). At the same time he ignores such things as garages, despite at least one excellent study that interprets the 20th-century garage in the context of cars, "motoring," and residential design. The knowledgeable scholar will be put off by the lack of discrimination: the neophyte might well waste time on some rather poor suggested readings.

Petty mistakes degrade the book. The "200-mile" Zanesville-to-Vandalia stretch of U.S. 40 is closer to 400 miles; and Zanesville is never shown on any map. The text locates the Country Club Plaza, recognized as the nation's first suburban shopping center, at a single street address in Kansas City, then says the plaza covers 6,000 acres! Schlereth confuses the shopping area of the plaza with the adjacent resi-

dential Country Club District, made up of a number of subdivisions. Schlereth calls the book a "field guide," but lack of an index makes it frustrating to find a desired section, and the approximately nine-by-nine-inch format makes it an unwieldy travel companion. These are small points, but ones that mar a book that already suffers from other problems. Schlereth's idea for an *Indiana U.S. 40* was a promising one, and many may find the book useful. But I recommend a close look before you purchase.

Reviewed by THOMAS HARVEY, *guest curator of an upcoming MHS exhibit on the origin, design, and development of Minnesota's towns and cities, who has long been a fan of America's common highway landscapes.*

Early Fur Trade on the Northern Plains: Canadian Traders Among the Mandan and Hidatsa Indians, 1738-1818. Edited and with an Introduction by W. Raymond Wood and Thomas D. Thiessen.

(Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1985. 353 p. \$29.95.)

A FASCINATING aspect of fur-trade history is the commerce with the Mandan and Hidatsa Indians, agricultural people who lived in semipermanent villages along the Missouri River in what is now central North Dakota. This excellent book presents narratives of four Canadian traders who traveled south to these villages between 1797 and 1806.

There is no lack of literature to chronicle the activities of American traders who ascended the Missouri from St. Louis in the years following the Lewis and Clark expedition. But there is relatively little describing the Canadian fur-trading expeditions from the north, which largely predate the American influx. This book helps to fill that gap, and the narratives it presents describe trade patterns and village life at a time when the Mandan and Hidatsa had not yet felt the full impact of cultural change.

There are two parts to this book. First is a lengthy editors' introduction that provides a thorough historical orientation to the early fur trade along the Missouri and places the traders' written narratives in proper context. This introduction is an exceptional piece of historical scholarship which would have substantial value as a separate essay; when combined with the narratives, its value is significantly enhanced.

The second part of the book gives readers the stories of four Canadian traders: John Macdonell, David Thompson, François-Antoine Larocque (two journals), and Charles McKenzie. Macdonell is familiar to Minnesota readers; a segment of his diary was published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press in Charles M. Gates, *Five Fur Traders of the Northwest*. David Thompson, the noted Canadian explorer and geographer, traveled to the Missouri during the winter of 1797-98 to determine the latitude and longitude of the Mandan villages. These narratives do not describe great events, but they are valuable as the accounts of journeymen fur traders plying their trade.

Some of this material has been published previously, but

the editors saw a need to reprint the manuscripts using current standards of historical editing. Original spellings, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization are faithfully reproduced, assuring accuracy, while making for only slightly more difficult reading. The narratives are well annotated with footnotes.

The tables in the appendix contain much useful information. Table I is particularly valuable, as it identifies some 74 recorded trips by Canadian traders to the villages on the Missouri, documenting them by references to source material. The book also contains an extensive bibliography and a useful index.

Early Fur Trade on the Northern Plains has a few technical shortcomings. Everything written by the editors, including the lengthy introduction, appears in a two-column format. While that format would succeed on large-size pages, its use on six-by-nine-inch paper is distracting to the reader. The book needs an additional map to show the routes the Canadian traders used to reach the Mandan and Hidatsa villages. But these are minor shortcomings that do not detract significantly from the over-all excellence of this book.

Reviewed by CURTIS L. ROY, *a Minneapolis attorney who has a strong interest in fur-trade history. He is the immediate past president of the Minnesota Historical Society.*

American Maps and Mapmakers: Commercial Cartography in the Nineteenth Century.

By Walter W. Ristow.

(Detroit, Wayne State University Press, 1985. 536 p. \$60.00.)

THIS IS NOT a coffee-table book as lavishly illustrated cartographic histories often are. It is, rather, the drawing together of much previously published work and a good deal of new research by America's foremost student of American commercial cartography. Dr. Ristow retired as chief of the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division in 1978 and has since served that institution as Honorary Consultant in the History of American Cartography. Because of his long-standing relationship with the Library of Congress, his long publishing career, and his continued interest in the field, he is uniquely qualified to document the origins and development of a truly indigenous style of American cartography.

Traditionally, the study of American historical cartography has focused on exploration and discovery, the colonial period, and European map making. Little has been published about the indigenous surveyors—draftsmen, cartographers, publishers, and printers—who operated in the environment of a new and expanding nation. After the American Revolution there arose in the country a need for information about the unknown geography of newly acquired lands. State boundaries had to be determined; new cities had to be mapped; the nation's westward-moving population needed information on the routes of the turnpikes, roads, canals, and railroads that opened the trans-Appalachian west; and the western lands had to be surveyed

in order to be distributed to these new immigrants. Such were but a few of the challenges met by a growing commercial map-making establishment in America. In 28 detailed chapters, many of which warrant reviews in themselves, Ristow leads readers from America's European cartographic heritage through the early struggles to develop a native map-making tradition to the Golden Age of American cartography — the two decades following 1820. Not until a Scotsman, John Melish, established himself in Philadelphia in 1812 did America have a publisher completely dedicated to the issue of cartographic works. Melish produced a landmark in American cartography when he published his 1816 *Map of the United States*, one of the first large-scale maps to show the full breadth of the future nation. Between 1816 and 1822 the map went through 22 editions of 100 copies each and proved that a publisher could indeed survive financially on only cartographic works. Between 1820 and 1840 commercial cartography based on copper-plate engraving reached its zenith. Representative of that period was the productive and successful cartographer Henry Schenck Tanner, whose maps and atlases were models of aesthetics and accuracy. His career did much to strengthen the foundation of U.S. commercial cartography.

Besides discussing the major cartographers and publishers up to 1900, Ristow also stresses the impact of technological change on commercial cartography. With the rise of lithography in the mid-1850s, map makers were able to decrease the cost of maps and atlases, making them available to a wider market; they were also able to increase the number that could be printed at a single time. (A copper plate could only produce about 1,000 impressions before wearing out.) Those commercial cartographers who quickly adopted the new technology rode the crest into a new era in map production after the Civil War when county land-ownership maps and atlases, along with state atlases, rose in popularity.

It was a time of general prosperity, and both middle-western farmers and city dwellers provided a ready market for the expanding trade in subscription-sold county and state atlases. Canvassers, often appealing to the vanities of their customers, were able to sell an atlas not only with an individual's land shown but also with biographical sketches, portraits, and views of individual farms and businesses. Their endeavors often proved enormously successful: an atlas of Peoria County, Illinois, published 1878, for example, grossed over \$33,000 and netted over \$17,000. According to Ristow, "Between 1869 and 1877, it is believed that publishers made

three million dollars on Illinois county atlases alone, and several publishers are reported to have each grossed over a million dollars a year between 1870 and 1880."

But not all these publications were lucrative. Alfred T. Andreas, a successful county atlas publisher, branched out in 1873 to produce *An Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota*, issued in 1874. The subscriber would receive a large, well-illustrated volume of just under 400 pages for \$15.00. At the peak of operations more than 100 of his employees were engaged in various activities throughout the state. Although the atlas is a landmark in the history of the state, it was not a landmark in profitability. The recession of 1873 and the financial failure of a partner caused Andreas to lose \$130,000; nevertheless some 10,000 atlases were delivered to residents of Minnesota.

In the final chapter Ristow documents the rise of Rand McNally & Company of Chicago from a printer of railroad tickets and timetables to one of the largest cartographic publishers in the world. The publication of the *Business Atlas* in 1876 prompted a major shift in the center of American commercial cartography from Philadelphia and New York to Chicago. Trading on its location in a commercial and transportation hub of the nation, the company parlayed its publishing of business atlases and commercial marketing guides as well as up-to-date railroad maps into success, making it the corporate giant it is today. Rand McNally was able to take advantage of another technological innovation in map production, the wax engraving. This American invention does not yield maps as pleasing to the eye as those produced by copper engraving or lithography, but it does allow rapid and inexpensive revision, an important consideration to a 19th-century America on the move.

Any book on cartographic history should be abundantly illustrated and this volume, with over 200 reproductions of maps, charts, panoramic views, and portraits, fills that need. All reproductions, unfortunately, are in black and white, but one can easily understand that color would have raised the price of the \$60.00 book farther from the reach of the public. For map historians, collectors, and all those interested in the geography and history of the United States in the 19th century, this volume is a welcome addition to a growing body of literature on American commercial cartography.

Reviewed by JON WALSTROM, *map librarian at the Minnesota Historical Society.*

NEWS & NOTES

IN CELEBRATION of the founding of Madison, Minnesota, in 1885, the town's centennial committee has issued two related but different publications. One is a well-illustrated, 30-page booklet containing a tour of some of the town's residences, with much interesting architectural and personal information about the houses and their residents. Among other things, readers learn how many of the older houses in Madison were moved to their present location, some from the old village of Lac qui Parle. Compiler Anne Maguire quotes the local newspaper in comparing "the departing houses to ships sailing across the prairie ready to drop anchor in Madison."

The other publication is a handsome, 189-page softcover book, also edited by Maguire, called *Madison Historical Album*. It is well named, for it is not so much a town history in the traditional sense as a collection of photographs of the town's people and places. One could perhaps have wished for more "action shots" in the section on Madison Today that concludes the volume. The earlier sections—Early Madison, Madison at Work, Recreation and Leisure, A Collection of Madison Life, and Recollections of Madison—contain such compelling images that the final chapter is disappointing in that respect. The text that accompanies the pictures is a wonderful combination of brief essays, reminiscences, anecdotes, extracts from old newspaper articles and other sources, and extensive, informative captions in which the fine hand of historian Jon Willand can be seen. The text is closely tied to the photos, which again points up the appropriateness of the book's title. Other Minnesota communities with rich collections of photos should consider documenting themselves in this way. The *Madison Historical Album* is an inspiring model. Copies are available through the Lac qui Parle County Historical Society, Madison, 56256.

FOND memories and gentle humor are the core of Janet Martin and Allen Todnem's collection of reminiscences about growing up Norwegian in the 1940s and 1950s. *Cream and Bread* (Hastings, Redbird Productions, 1984, 124 p., \$6.95). The first part of the book, "Cream," recounts "fun, stories, and traditions," including lessons on when to use the expressions uff da, ish da, fy da, or shucks. Part two, "Bread," according to the authors, is "literally the meat and potatoes scene." The authors affectionately summarize their ethnic heritage in entries on lutefisk, lefse, rommegrot (complete with recipes), and a whole chapter on Jello. Readers eager to learn, among other treats, how to prepare everyday jello, jello for a crowd, jello for holiday doings, company jello, and jello and vegetables may order the book from Redbird Productions, Box 363, Hastings 55033. Minnesota residents should add 6% sales tax.

THE GERMANS in Missouri, 1900-1918: Prohibition, Neutrality, and Assimilation by David W. Detjen (Columbia, University of Missouri Press, 1985, 244 p., \$23.00) focuses on the rise and fall of the St. Louis and Missouri branches of the National German-American Alliance. Although ostensibly cultural in purpose, these branches, like the National Alliance, soon developed into an active lobby working against prohibition. Their success was not impressive; in the pre-World War I decade, the dry cause advanced significantly in Missouri. Following the outbreak of war in August, 1914, the lobbying effort shifted to the German-American campaign to preserve American neutrality, and on a nonpolitical level to sponsorship of humanitarian aid to the German and Austrian Red Cross.

Detjen, a practicing attorney who also has taken advanced work in history, questions the prudence of this campaign; he assigns some of the blame for its stridency to leaders of

the Missouri alliances. American entry into the war compelled the alliances to demonstrate their patriotism. This they sought to do, but with insufficient passion to suit the hysterical mood of the time. An ill-advised interview given by Dr. Charles Weinsberg, president of the Missouri branch, to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* became a *cause célèbre*. Although Weinsberg was acquitted of having violated the Federal Espionage Act (in a trial presided over by Judge Page Morris of Minnesota), adverse public reaction to the German-American Alliance's stance on the war led to the organization's demise both nationally and in Missouri.

Students of Minnesota history will find this work interesting for the light it throws on the German-American plight in Missouri; as is well known, Minnesota German Americans suffered a similar trauma. Not all ethnic historians, however, will agree with Detjen's conclusion that German ethnicity virtually disappeared in the wake of World War I.

EDITORS Willa K. Baum and David K. Dunaway have done a splendid job in gathering a sample of the very best writings on oral history into a single volume, *Oral History: An Interdisciplinary Anthology* (Nashville, American Association for State and Local History, 1984, xxiii, 436 p., cloth, \$29.50, paper, \$17.95). The work is divided into six sections, with a seventh devoted to publication of the goals, guidelines, and evaluation criteria of the Oral History Association, thus giving added publicity to that organization's attempt to give form and substance to the profession it serves. The major sections of the book include The Gateway to Oral History; Interpreting and Designing Oral History; Oral History Applied: Local, Ethnic, Family and Women's History; Oral History and Related Disciplines: Folklore, Anthropology, and Gerontology; Oral History and Schools; Oral History and Libraries.

A total of 37 articles appear in the work, written from a variety of perspectives and on occasion illuminating disagreements on procedure, as in the case of interview restrictions. The book gains notable strength from this approach. Two of the articles (Louis Starr's and Willa Baum's) contain valuable bibliographies. The book is well balanced, with attention to the history of oral history, its design and application, and a view of its relationship to allied fields.

James E. Fogerty

"THE PEOPLE Versus the Government: The 1918 Cloquet Fire and the Struggle for Compensation" tells a convincing story of the often bitter battle for a fair settlement. In the January, 1985, issue of the *Journal of Forest History*, authors Francis M. Carroll and Franklin R. Raiter, whose article on relief efforts after the fire appeared in the Fall, 1983, issue of this magazine, crisply document the forest of litigation that brought northern Minnesota fire victims face to face with the United States government in the form of the Railroad Administration. Minnesotans sued this body, claiming that sparks from locomotives ignited brush and other matter along poorly maintained stretches of track. These fires, they sought to prove, had sparked or fed the conflagration that destroyed lives and property. Trials and retrials, hung juries and settlements, settlements reneged upon and more claims, commissions, committees, and legislation are all part of the struggle that dragged on until 1935 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law an omnibus claims bill that included compensation for the fire sufferers. Many people are aware of the devastation of property wrought by fire storms such as the Hinckley and Cloquet fires. This article brings to light the fact that such tragedies do not necessarily end with the last fiery ember.

THE WINONA County Historical Society can be justly proud of its recent publication, *Scenes & Sites: Views from Winona County* (Winona, The Society, 1985, 112 p., \$24.95). Published to celebrate the county society's 50th year of existence, the volume is essentially a picture book, accompanied by brief introductory text to sections on "The Beginnings," farming, industry, transportation, education and culture, and

recreation and leisure. The pictures are fine and well chosen: there are more than 225 of them, and of these over a hundred in color were photographed by Jim Galewski. The end sheets offer a map of the county and one of the principal city, Winona. This handsome publication does what its authors claim for the county's heritage: it "honors the past, inspires the present, and challenges the future." The book may be purchased from the society, 160 Johnson St., Winona, Minn. 55987.

TWO Minnesota pioneers are the subjects of "Women in Waiting in the Westward Movement: Pamela Dillin Fergus and Emma Stratton Christie," an article by Linda Peavy and Ursula Smith in the Spring, 1985, issue of *Montana, the Magazine of Western History*. Fergus, of Little Falls, and Christie, of Blue Earth County, managed homes, farms, and families as their husbands sought gold and land in the West. The authors use extensive family correspondence (including the Christie papers at the MHS) to describe the women's difficulties and accomplishments, arguing that their experiences "served as a fitting apprenticeship for the roles they were eventually to play in the settling of the West."

ANOTHER ADDITION to the growing shelf of early history reprints is *Dubuque: Frontier River City* by Chandler C. Childs, edited by Robert F. Klein (Dubuque, Research Center for Dubuque Area History, Loras College, 1984, 182 p., \$10.95). Inside are 35 historical sketches recorded by Childs, a journalist and long-time secretary of the Dubuque Early Settlers' Association. They were originally published in the *Dubuque Daily Republican* during five months in 1857. As is typical for their time, they primarily record the exploits of white males busily civilizing and building the West. They constitute a chronicle of progress more than a history of a place, yet remain fascinating for the detail they provide. In this they are similar to MHS's recent reprint of J. Fletcher Williams' *The History of the City of Saint Paul to 1875*, which Theodore Blegen declared "an antiquarian chronicle, not a history."

Dubuque's story is an excellent example of the fantastic rate of development in midwestern cities. The value of arriving freight is recorded

as doubling year after year. The packet lines and railroads are described in detail, along with the developing commercial districts of the town. In these sketches the reader is constantly reminded of the close cultural and economic connections between the Mississippi Valley and the East.

Vital to the usefulness of this reprint are the thorough annotations, bibliography, and index by editor Klein, director of library resources and the Wahlert Librarian at Loras College. The generous notes provide helpful amplification of Childs's account and lend it greater authority, even though Klein states in his introduction that he uncovered few errors of fact. A final happy note: the book is well printed on acid-free paper and snugly sewn between rich blue cloth covers. The attention to such production values resulted in a volume that is a pleasure to hold.

Thomas C. Thompson

SOUTH Dakota, Changing, Changeless 1889-1989, A Selected Annotated Bibliography, edited by Sue Laubersheimer, is a useful tool for researchers and readers of regional history. The 320-page book, published in 1984 by the South Dakota Library Association in anticipation of the centennial of statehood, contains 1,186 entries in four sections: history, compiled by Herbert T. Hoover; geography and natural resources, by Bob Carmack; lore (mostly Dakota Indian legends and pioneer reminiscences), by Jack W. Marken; and literature, by Ruth Ann Alexander. Annotation for each entry makes the work vastly more useful for research — and more interesting to read. Author, editor, and "theme" indexes supplement the volume, although a straightforward subject index would be more helpful. The bibliography is available for \$11.94 (includes postage) from SDLA Centennial Project, 920 Seventh, Avenue, Brookings, So. Dak. 57006.

HIRAM M. DRACHE, author of numerous books on bonanza farms and farming, chronicles yet another aspect of agriculture in *Plowshares to Printouts: Farm Management as Viewed Through 75 Years of the Northwest Farm Managers Association* (Danville, Ill., Interstate Printers and Publishers, 1985, 263 p., \$14.95). Unlike the typical homesteader who depended upon unpaid family labor, he claims, the

bonanza farmer hired labor and needed cash to pay his helpers. As a result, professional management was a key to successful farming; to this end the Farm Managers Association was founded. *Plowshares to Printouts* tells the story of that association, set against the backdrop of the history of farm management in the United States.

IN "Upper Mississippi Valley Landscape: A Legacy of German Catholic Settlement in Central Minnesota," published in the *Pioneer America Society Transactions* (1985), Thomas P. Dockendorff outlines the material evidence of what has been called the "holy land" of central Minnesota, the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Cloud. The author briefly enumerates the types of features that compose a religious landscape noticeable to even the most casual motorist: "a litany of religious place names," numerous shrines, and religious monuments, not to mention the large rural churches and two Benedictine-affiliated colleges. Helpful maps show the core areas within the diocese, those having the highest concentration of religious symbols.

FOUR new guides to archival and manuscript collections documenting North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota history are now available to interested researchers. These guides list collections of letters, diaries, business records, state and local government records, and other primary sources located in three repositories. Publication and ordering information is as follows: Evelyn J. Swenson, comp., *Guide to the Northwest Minnesota Historical Center Collections* (1985, 85 p., map), free upon request from the center, Moorhead State University, Moorhead, 56560; John E. Bye, comp., *North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies Guide to Manuscripts and Archives* (1985, xi, 146 p., illustrations, \$10.00 plus \$1.00 postage), available from the institute's Library, North Dakota State University, Fargo, 58105; *Guide to North Dakota State Archives* (1985, ix, 151 p., illustrations, \$6.50) and *Guide to Manuscripts* (1985, ix, 117 p., illustrations, \$5.75), both compiled by David P. Gray and available with an additional \$1.00 each for postage and handling from the State Historical Society of North Dakota, North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck 58505-0179. *Richard Cameron*

AN ADDITION to Twayne Publishers' *Immigrant Heritage of America* series is a new book by La Vern J. Rippley entitled *The Immigrant Experience in Wisconsin* (Boston, 1985, 220 p., \$19.95). Tracing the state's development from its territorial days to the 1980s, the book presents a synthesis of the immigrant groups that "merged to form a single political entity." There is a helpful, selected bibliography, end notes, and an appendix of five maps that locate Wisconsin's major immigrant population in 1910.

EVERYONE likes to read about his or her home town, and Two Harbors-ites as well as others will enjoy *Two Harbors - 100 Years: A Pictorial History of Two Harbors, Minnesota, and Surrounding Communities*, edited by Jon L. Anderson (Two Harbors Centennial Commission with the Lake County Historical Society, 1983, 216 p., \$23.95). Some 760 photographs illustrate a text that describes the town's various components: the railroads, the fishing, the iron ranges that had such an impact on shipping from the ore docks, and the tourist industry. Readers will learn about the "Edna C.," now designated as a National Historic Site and the only steam-powered tug operating on the Great Lakes; the Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range Railway trains that ran on the edge of town; and fish - fresh fish available every day from the fishermen who went up and down the streets selling their day's catch. All this and much more is described in this long-overdue history.

Brief biographical sketches of some individuals are included, from the bankers, physicians, and religious leaders to the founders of 3M and the DM & JR Company. Readers could wish for more on families that lived in the area for a number of generations. An index also would have been useful. But these omissions and the little errors and misspellings that are bound to creep into any work of this nature do not detract much from this interesting and enjoyable volume.

Patricia C. Harpole

THE Archives and Manuscripts staff of the Minnesota Historical Society has completed cataloging the Solon Justus Buck Papers (1902-35). Buck was superintendent of the society (1914-31) and second archivist of the United States (1941-48). In addition to documenting his positions at the

universities of Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and Pittsburgh and with the Minnesota Historical Society and Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey, the papers contain valuable information on the history of such historical and archival organizations as the American Historical Association, Public Archives Commission, Mississippi Valley Historical Association, Agricultural History Society, Conference of Historical Societies, Conference of Archivists, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Social Science Research Council's Joint Committee on Materials for Research and the Enlargement, Improvement, and Preservation of Data. The collection also includes correspondence with such well-known historians and archivists as Clarence W. Alvord, Theodore C. Blegen, Clarence S. Brigham, Clarence E. Carter, R. D. W. Connor, William W. Folwell, George N. Fuller, Everts B. Greene, Oliver Wendell Holmes, J. Franklin Jameson, Herbert A. Kellar, Waldo G. Leland, Victor H. Paltsits, Frederic L. Paxson, Theodore C. Pease, Milo M. Quaife, T. R. Schellenberg, A. M. Schlesinger, A. H. Shearer, Lester B. Shippee, St. George L. Sioussat, Reuben G. Thwaites, Frederick J. Turner, and Jessie Palmer Weber. *Cheryl Thies*

TWO new bilingual publications of the National Library of Canada will be of special interest to students of native peoples. Volume 9 of the series *Research Collections in Canadian Libraries* is entitled *Resources for Native Peoples Studies* (1984, paper, \$24.50 in Canada, \$29.40 abroad). The publication, compiled by Nora T. Corley, lists libraries, archives, and other repositories across Canada with publications, manuscripts, and audio-visual material relating to Native Americans. The book contains 342 pages each in French and English. Valuable additions to the volume are lists of periodicals published in Canada and the U.S. by and about native peoples, and large fold-out maps of "Indian and Inuit Communities and Languages." Also included in the volume is a rudimentary bibliography of reference works on the subject.

Books in Native Languages in the Rare Book Collections of the National Library of Canada is the title of a work compiled by Joyce M. Banks (1985, 190 p., illustrated, paper, \$12.50 in Canada, \$15.00 abroad).

Included in the volume are works in Dakota and Ojibway, among many other Indian languages. The work is a revised version of a guide published in 1980.

Both publications may be ordered by mail at the prices indicated from the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0S9. Those ordering from the U.S. should keep in mind that these prices are in Canadian dollars.

ONE OF THE most devastating—and controversial—campaigns of the Civil War is told from the vantage point of the common soldier by Joseph T. Glatthaar in *The March to the Sea and Beyond: Sherman's Troops in the Savannah and Carolinas Campaigns* (New York University Press, 1985, 318 p., \$27.95). Except for the late Bell I. Wiley's classic books on "Billy Yank" and "Johnny Reb," military studies of the war tend to concentrate on strategies and tactics of generals and their subordinate officers. And since Wiley dealt more with men of the Army of the Potomac in the East than with westerners, Glatthaar's book covers relatively new ground.

Quoting from numerous soldiers' letters, diaries, and reports, the author shows that the so-called "common soldiers" of the West were not common at all. Largely midwesterners, they were just the self-reliant, battle- and march-hardened veterans to follow their able, down-to-earth leader, General William T. Sherman, in thrusting total war on the South by cutting a wide swath through Georgia and the Carolinas in 1864 and 1865. There are several brief mentions of Minnesota troops, including men of the Fourth Minnesota Regiment who formed a Christian Association for regular prayer sessions along the way. Glatthaar visited many repositories, including the Minnesota Historical Society, where he consulted the papers of at least 16 state veterans listed in the extensive bibliography.

MINNESOTA ARTIST Alexis Jean Fournier is the subject of two new works by art historian Rena Neumann Coen. *Alexis Jean Fournier: The Last American Barbizon* (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1985, 41 p., paper, \$8.95) is the catalog for the recently completed exhibit of Fournier's paintings at the James J.

Hill House. *In the Mainstream: The Art of Alexis Jean Fournier* (St. Cloud, North Star Press, 1985, 99 p., \$39.95) is a full-scale biography. Both publications feature full-color reproductions of the artist's paintings.

Coen, who has admired Fournier for years, offers an analysis of the artist's development from his early years spent painting scenes around the Twin Cities to his work in the French romantic Barbizon tradition, and finally to his latter-day renown as a Hoosier Impressionist. She has also included in each publication an exhibition list of Fournier's works and a chronology of his life.

THE DEADLINE for proposals of sessions and papers for the Northern Great Plains History Conference to be held September 25-27, 1986, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, is April 1. Suggestions in all areas of history are welcome. Submissions should be sent to Professor Jack M. Lauber, Department of History, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire 54701.

ANYONE with an interest in the study of vernacular architecture or ethnic assimilation in the Midwest will welcome the publication of Michael Koop and Stephen Ludwig's *German-Russian Folk Architecture in Southeastern South Dakota* (Vermillion, State Historical Preservation Center, 1984, 36 p., \$5.25). The volume is based on a survey of buildings constructed by German Russians in Hutchinson, Bon Homme, Turner, and Yankton counties, located adjacent to the Missouri River. This area was the first of three in the state to be settled by Germans who had migrated to the Russian steppes in the late 18th century and then to the United States during the final decades of the 19th century.

Among late 19th-century settlers in South Dakota, "few transplanted a significant amount of their material culture. One exception was the German-Russians," the report finds. Included in the publication is a general discussion of the forms, construction methods, plans, interior features, and site arrangements of these buildings, as well as photos and detailed information on 20 houses, barns, and house-barns, illustrating puddled clay, batsa brick, rammed earth, masonry, and frame building techniques. Common features of the buildings include rectangular massing, low pitched roofs, and central

chimneys. While many of the conclusions of the study are quite tentative, this volume should prove a valuable resource in the continuing inquiry into the nature and extent of cultural transfer in the immigrant building practices of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The book can be ordered from the State Historical Preservation Center, P.O. Box 417, Vermillion, So. Dak. 57069.

Dennis Gimmestad

Recent Local History Publications

Jon L. Anderson, ed. *Two Harbors 100 Years: A Pictorial History of Two Harbors, Minnesota and Surrounding Communities*. Two Harbors, Centennial Commission in Coordination with the Lake County Historical Society, 1983. 216 p.

Bethesda Lutheran Medical Center: A Century of Caring, 1883-1983. St. Paul, Bethesda Foundation, 1983. 99 p.

George and Winifred Boorman, comps., *The History of the City of Leonard, Dudley Township*. [Leonard, Minn.], privately published, [1984]. 189 p., \$17.00.

Centennial Book Committee, *Hallock: A History of Our First 100 Years*. [Hallock, Minn.], 1983. 416 p.

Centennial Book Committee, *Heron Lake: 100 Years of Good Living, 1883-1983*. Gary Richter, consultant. [Heron Lake, Minn.], 1983. 442 p.

Glenn W. Offermann, *Missouri in Minnesota: A Centennial History of the Minnesota South District. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*. Minneapolis, 1982. 252 p. Available for \$4.00 plus \$1.00 handling from the Synod, 14301 Grand Ave., So., Burnsville, Minn. 55337.

125th Anniversary Committee, Robert Porter, chairperson, *A History of the Congregation, 1858-1983, First United Methodist Church, Lindstrom, Minnesota*. [The church, 1983?]. 85 p., \$5.50, plus \$1.00 postage.

Starbuck Study Club Centennial Book Committee, *Starbuck, 1883-1983*. Gary Richter, consultant. [Starbuck, Minn.], 1983. 275 p.

READERS who are interested in obtaining a Table of Contents for volume 49 of *Minnesota History* may do so by writing to the editor at 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minn. 55101.



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