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Book Notes- Spring 2009

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BOOK NOTES


As its title implies, this volume is an annotated bibliography of reference works on the U.S. Plains and Canadian Prairies. Divided into eight sections—“General Works,” “Humanities,” “Social Sciences,” “History,” “Science and Technology,” “Health and Medicine,” “Agriculture,” and “Military Science”—with subheadings under each, the book also includes name, title, and subject indexes.

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Bill Wittliff offers over a hundred of his duotone photographs taken during the filming of the award-winning TV miniseries Lonesome Dove, based on Larry McMurtry’s novel. Writer and executive producer for the miniseries, Wittliff also provides an afterword that includes unforgettable moments from the production. A roster of the cast and crew completes the text.

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The photographs assembled here convey a “personal” view of Fort Worth through the eyes of longtime resident and former news photographer Phil Vinson. Many of his photos are of old structures that may soon disappear. Historian Quentin McGown provides a foreword.

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These pencil drawings, chosen by editor T. Lindsay Baker from more than three hundred works originally printed in calendars published by the Miller Blueprint Company of Austin, document artist Don Collins’s fondness for old buildings, many of them abandoned, and rural scenes across Texas.

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Best known for his work in bronze and his role in the rise of “cowboy art,” Bob Scriver lived and worked on the Montana Blackfeet
Reservation employing local Blackfeet artisans. Mary Strachan Scrive, his third wife, provides a candid literary biography and memoir.

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Weaving historical fact with the stories of four fictional Lakota children, Paul Johnsgard narrates Pine Ridge Lakota history from 1850 to the present. Johnsgard illustrates the text with drawings of Pine Ridge wildlife, regional maps, and Native American pictorial art. Appendixes include a listing of important Lakota words and checklists of mammals and birds of the area.

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Geoffrey A. Pocock tells the story of world traveler and adventurer Roger Pocock, who crossed paths with many influential people, including Prince Louis of Battenburg and Rudyard Kipling. By 1899, when Roger Pocock began his record-setting journey from Albert to Mexico City, he had already served as a missionary, a soldier, and a cowboy. His brief service with the North West Mounted Police inspired his career as a writer and led to his founding of the Legion of Frontiersmen.

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Amos Jay Cummings, a journalist for the New York Sun, undertook this journey on the newly completed transcontinental railroad in 1873. During his six-month trip from Kansas to California he sent back stories of his adventures to his New York readers. These accounts
are collected here for the first time by anthropologist Jerald T. Milanich, who provides a biography and historical introduction.

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These tales of the bad boys and wild women who ended up in the Black Hills of the 1880s are focused especially on Deadwood and the atmosphere there following the discovery of gold in the Black Hills by the 1874 Custer expedition.

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In 1871 Leroy Carpenter left his home near Tipton, Iowa, to take up farming in Greeley, Colorado. He left behind Martha Bennett, whom he had met shortly before his departure. Over the next sixteen months they exchanged letters leading to intimacy, love, and marriage that reveal the societal changes facing men and women in the late-nineteenth-century West.