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Review of Campaigning with King

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King was invalided out of active field service in 1879 after being wounded while fighting the Apaches. Soon he began a writing career that lasted the rest of his long life. King set his novels in places he had served—such as West Point, New Orleans, and the Philippines. But it was the Trans-Mississippi West that King treated most evocatively and extensively. As Paul Hedren explains in his introduction, King “was a man who almost single-handedly fashioned the twentieth century’s vision of America’s little nineteenth-century Indian-fighting army” (p. xv). Such novels as “*Laramie*” (1889), *Starlight Ranch* (1890), and *Fort Frayne* (1895) delighted readers and shaped the attitudes of future generations toward the frontier army. King also wrote non-fiction, including one of the classic personal accounts of the Indian Wars, *Campaigning with Crook* (1880; 1890), which has been reprinted many times.

Campaigning with King has a tantalizing history of its own. Don Russell knew Charles King personally, conducted thorough research in King’s personal papers, and interviewed many of his contemporaries. Russell submitted his manuscript for publication in 1933, but it was subsequently mislaid and lost. It resurfaced and found its way to the University of Nebraska Press in 1984, two years before Russell’s death. Readers will be grateful to Paul Hedren for redeeming Russell’s book, providing useful bibliographies, and writing an informative introduction that places the Russell-King relationship and King’s varied career in perspective. Hedren has let stand some of Russell’s Dunnigite comments about Reconstruction, which modern scholars might dispute. Other than that quibble, any reader interested in the American frontier army of 1865-90 and the late nineteenth-century army in general will find this book worthwhile reading. A strong index will aid anyone looking for particular facts. Numerous well-chosen illustrations and photographs round out the work.

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Campaigning with King. By Don Russell. Edited and with an introduction by Paul L. Hedren. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1991. Illustrations, preface, introduction, notes, bibliographical essay, bibliography of Charles King’s books, index. 187 pp. \$25.00.

For half a century the name of Charles King meant entertaining fiction about the institution that he knew and revered—the United States Army. King was a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy (Class of 1866), a professional soldier, and veteran of the Civil War, Reconstruction duty in the South, the Indian Wars, National Guard assignments, the Spanish-American War, and the Philippine campaign. His writings revealed much about the life of soldiers and officers during the late nineteenth century.