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Review of Kansas History: An Annotated Bibliography and Historical Atlas of Kansas.

Patrick G. O'Brien
Emporia State University

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Kansas History: An Annotated Bibliography. By Homer E. Socolofsky and Virgil W. Dean. Westport: Greenwood Press, Inc., 1992. Forward, preface, index. xxiv + 587 pp. \$65.00.

Historical Atlas of Kansas. Second edition. By Homer E. Socolofsky and Huber Self. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1988. Preface, references, index. xxxiv + 74 maps. \$19.95 paper.

These two highly disparate reference works will amply serve any inquisitor into Kansas history.

Displaying encyclopedic knowledge, the compilers of the Kansas volume in the series *Bibliographies of the States of the United States* (eruditely conceived by the late Carol B. Fitzgerald) fulfill every reasonable expectation. A bibliography of this scale and detail (the antecedents of which are in Homer Socolofsky's earlier limited compilations) has long been needed. Cogently documenting the

range, thickness, and diversity of Kansas history, this aid will be highly prized by both academic and civilian historians.

Logically organized in a chronological and topical format, the 4565 entries in this meticulously thorough compendium deal with an array of topics from Kansas prehistory to the present. Informed judgment is palpable in the balanced selectivity of the entries and in their accurate, concise, and clear annotations.

Because the utility of a bibliography depends on individual needs, even this superlative one may not satisfy all the criteria of every user. The paucity of primary materials cited in comparison to the prodigious quantity of books and articles, for example, may be viewed by some as a weakness.

The unambiguous premise of the *Atlas* is that knowledge of the geography of Kansas is required to comprehend its history. A variety of information is imparted in the maps (which total eighty-nine), from the amount of annual average precipitation to Indian treaties and World War II installations. Essentially, the *Atlas* depicts the state's physical assets and its political and economic evolution. A clear, informative text explains the significance of each map.

Those familiar with the first edition will readily note both revised and additional maps in the second, making it the superior version, but will still find the earlier edition's format that facilitated easy use. Although the *Atlas* may please historians more than geographers, both should deem it an important and convenient tool.

State history may be in greater favor now than in the memory of practicing historians. One often glaring impediment to its study has been inadequate reference materials. Both of these texts readily abet the investigation into Kansas history.

PATRICK G. O'BRIEN
Division of Social Sciences
Emporia State University