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Review of *Gennan-Russian Folk Architecture In Southeastern South Dakota* By Michael Koop and Stephen Ludwig

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tion for a larger research problem that should be attacked soon, before the artifacts are gone. The authors carefully describe architectural artifacts, providing historic and geographic contexts. There are drawings and photos that provide full detail of the items. Everyone who is interested in ethnic folklore, material culture, or German-Russians will want to have this book.

But books like this are why I am a folklorist. I am amazed again and again that anthropologists, museologists, historians, and historical architects can be such meticulous researchers and yet so completely ignore the most important elements of any artifact—process and meaning.

A house is not just a collection of assembled materials that measurements can describe in a meaningful way. Houses are *occupied* by *people*. Without its occupants, a house becomes only an item. And yet there is scarcely a hint in this book of what the lives in the houses were like, what the furnishings were, what movement was like within the structure, *why* the forms of these houses are what they are. This book is to the German-Russian house what a genealogy is to a family history—a good beginning, but only a beginning.

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German-Russian Folk Architecture In Southeastern South Dakota. By Michael Koop and Stephen Ludwig. Vermillion, South Dakota: State Historical Preservation Center, 1984. 36 pp. \$5.00.

This is a modest but invaluable introduc-