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Review of *Kansas: A Pictorial History* By Robert W. Richmond

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Kansas: A Pictorial History. By Robert W. Richmond. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1992. Preface, photographs, additional readings, picture credits, index. x + 288 pp. \$35.00.

"Photography," explained Edward Steichen, "records the gamut of feelings written on the human face, the beauty of the earth and skies that man has inherited, and the wealth and confusion man has created" (*Time*, 7 April 1961). Although sometimes altered and frequently posed, pictures are an integral part of our historic record, conveying so well the range of human emotion and the changing character of our natural landscape and environment. No wonder people are drawn to such documents and publishers eagerly package them in book and magazine formats.

From early renditions of Native American life on the Central Plains and daguerreotype depictions of Bleeding Kansas to Wichita's Century II and the state's three "space-age pioneers," *Kansas: A Pictorial History* offers an attractive sampling of Kansas's rich visual record. This revised, updated edition of the Kansas State Historical Society's centennial (1961) publication by Nyle H. Miller, Edgar

Langsdorf, and Robert W. Richmond is in essence an all new volume; over six hundred familiar and not so familiar illustrations grace its completely redesigned pages. The traditional story line and narrative, much of it carried over from the original, is solid and effective, providing a concise history of the state and the proper historical context for the expertly selected and reproduced images.

Like the first, which has been enjoyed and valued by students of Kansas history for more than three decades, this new and improved edition of *Kansas: A Pictorial History* is a must for the home or school library. We should be grateful to have it available once again.

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