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Book Notes- Spring 2009

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BOOK NOTES

Prairies and Plains: The Reference Literature of a Region. Edited by Robert Balay. Chicago: KWS Publishers, 2009. xxiv + 422 pp. Map, indexes. \$125.00.

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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A Book of Photographs from Lonesome Dove. Photographs by Bill Wittliff. Foreword by Larry McMurtry. Introduction by Stephen Harrigan. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2007. xxii + 163 pp. Photographs. \$45.00.

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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Fort Worth: A Personal View. Photographs by Phil Vinson. Foreword by Quentin McGown.

Fort Worth: TCU Press, 2008. xi + 108 pp. Photographs. \$29.95.

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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Traces of Forgotten Places: An Artist's Thirty-Year Exploration and Celebration of Texas, As It Was. By Don Collins. Edited by T. Lindsay Baker. Fort Worth: TCU Press, 2008. ix + 162 pp. Illustrations. \$19.95 paper.

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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Bronze Inside and Out: A Biographical Memoir of Bob Scriver. By Mary Strachan Scriver. Calgary, AB: University of Calgary Press, 2007. xvii + 371 pp. Photographs, notes, bibliography. \$44.95 paper.

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 Scriver, his third wife, provides a candid literary biography and memoir.

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Wind Through the Buffalo Grass: A Lakota Story Cycle. Text and illustrations by Paul A. Johnsgard. Lincoln, NE: Plains Chronicles Press, 2008. xxvi + 214 pp. Maps, illustrations, appendixes. \$17.95 paper.

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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Outrider of Empire: The Life & Adventures of Roger Pocock, 1865-1941. By Geoffrey A. Pocock. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2007. x + 382 pp. Photographs, appendix, notes, index. \$34.95 paper.

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 Alberta 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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Powder River Odyssey: Nelson Cole's Western Campaign of 1865: The Journals of Lyman G. Bennett and Other Eyewitness Accounts. By David E. Wagner Norman, OK: Arthur H.

Clark Company, 2009. 283 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, appendixes, index. \$39.95.

The Eastern Division of the Powder River Expedition of 1865, under the command of Colonel Nelson D. Cole, had a mission to punish the bands of Sioux, Cheyennes, and Arapahos attacking white emigrants and commercial traffic on the Oregon Trail. The campaign marked the transition from the Civil War to the Indian War period. David Wagner's account employs the journals of three active participants in the expedition.

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Life of a Soldier on the Western Frontier. By Jeremy Agnew. Missoula, MT: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 2008. xiii + 266 pp. Maps, photographs, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. \$16.00 paper.

Focused on the life of the typical enlisted man and the role soldiers played in the Indian Wars from the 1840s through the 1890s, Jeremy Agnew's study looks at all aspects of the post-Civil War army, including its organization, weapons, and personnel. Included are two appendixes, one summarizing important battles and the other listing western forts.

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A Remarkable Curiosity: Dispatches from a New York City Journalist's 1873 Railroad Trip across the American West. By Amos Jay Cummings. Edited and compiled by Jerald T. Milanich. Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2008. x + 371 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$26.95.

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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Bad Boys of the Black Hills . . . And Some Wild Women, Too. By Barbara Fifer. Introduction by Jerry Bryant. Helena, MT: Farcountry Press, 2008. xviii + 189 pp. Maps, photographs, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$14.95 paper.

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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Love in an Envelope: A Courtship in the American West. Edited by Daniel Tyler with Betty Henshaw. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2008. xxxiii + 210 pp. Photographs, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95.

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.