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Book Notes

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BOOK NOTES

The American Midwest: An Interpretive Encyclopedia. Edited by Richard Sisson, Christian Zacher, and Andrew Cayton. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2007. xxiv + 1890 pp. Maps, illustrations, photographs, tables, sources, index. \$75.00.

Providing comprehensive information on each of the twelve states the editors designate as making up the Midwest (Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin), the volume offers sections on "Landscape and People," "Society and Culture," "Community and Social Life," "Economy and Technology," and "Public Life."

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New Histories for Old: Changing Perspectives on Canada's Native Pasts. Edited by Ted Binnema and Susan Neylan. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2007. xvi + 280 pp. Maps, notes, index. C\$85.00 cloth, C\$34.95 paper.

Combining essays by senior historians, geographers, and anthropologists with contributions by new voices in these disciplines, this collection looks at the role of scholarly depictions of the history of Aboriginal people in Canada, using the work of Arthur J. ("Skip") Ray, who entered the field in the 1970s, as a focal point.

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The Intrepid Explorer: James Hector's Exploration in the Canadian Rockies. By Ernie Lakusta. Calgary, AB: Fifth House, 2007. x + 229 pp. Photographs, maps, illustrations, notes, index. \$17.99 paper.

Between 1857 and 1860 the Palliser Expedition, a British government-sponsored mission, explored the prairies and mountain ranges of western Canada. Ernie Lakusta tells the story of the expedition through the point of view of Dr. James Hector, who was barely into his twenties when he joined the expedition but became one of its best known members.

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Cloud-Capped Towers: The Utopian Theme in Saskatchewan History and Culture. By Alex MacDonald. Regina, SK: Canadian Plains Research Center, University of Regina, 2007. xvii + 112 pp. Photographs, illustrations, appendixes, index. \$19.95 paper.

Alex MacDonald surveys the utopian stream of prairie idealism in Saskatchewan, including intentional communities of the early settlement period, utopianism in city planning and literature, and a wide variety of current utopianisms from naturism to environmentalism. Arranged alphabetically, it provides brief histories, interviews, and notes on utopianism in Saskatchewan literature.

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Voices from Next Year Country: An Oral History of Rural Saskatchewan. By Randy William Widdis. Regina, SK: Canadian Plains Research Center, University of Regina, 2006. viii + 104 pp. Notes. \$10.00 paper.

This book is based on interviews conducted with long-term residents of six rural communities in southern Saskatchewan: Balcarres, Carlyle, Craik, Eastend, Naicam, and Willow

Bunch. Its subject is the human adaptation to social and economic change during the post-World War II period.

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The Diaries of John Gregory Bourke: Volume Three, June 1, 1878-June 22, 1880. Edited and annotated by Charles M. Robinson III. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2007. ix + 555 pp. Maps, photographs, illustrations, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. \$55.00.

The third in an eventual eight-volume set of the diaries of John Gregory Bourke, an aide-de-camp to Brigadier General George Crook, this volume begins with a discussion of the Bannock Uprising and a retrospective on Crazy Horse, and goes on to cover such key events as the Cheyenne Outbreak of 1878-79, the Ponca Affair, and the White River Ute Uprising.

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Making a Living: Work and Environment in the United States. By Chad Montrie. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008. x + 177 pp. Notes, bibliography, index. \$49.95 cloth, \$17.95 paper.

Montrie's examination of labor and environmental history offers six case studies reflecting different eras and areas of the country, from "mill girls" in New England to Mexican farm workers in southern California. "Domesticating Nature in the Kansas-Nebraska Grasslands" will be of interest to readers of *Great Plains Quarterly*, which published an earlier version of this chapter.

Women Who Pioneered Oklahoma: Stories From the WPA Narratives. Edited by Terri M. Baker and Connie Oliver Henshaw. Foreword by M. Susan Savage. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2007. xx + 226 pp. Map, photographs, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.

Choosing from among thousands of interviews conducted by the Works Progress Administration in 1936-37 and preserved in the Indian Pioneer Papers of Oklahoma, editors Terri M. Baker and Connie Oliver Henshaw present the stories of a wide range of women from various socioeconomic groups and ethnic backgrounds to relate the pioneer experience.

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Cowboy Life: The Letters of George Philip. Edited and with an introduction by Cathie Draine. Afterword by Richard W. Slatta. Illustrations by Mick B. Harrison. Pierre: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 2007. viii + 368 pp. Maps, photographs, illustrations, appendix, notes, index. \$25.95.

These letters depict the life of the cowboy on the open ranges of South Dakota during the early 1900s. George Philip traveled from his native Scotland to his uncle's ranch in South Dakota in 1899 and spent five years as a cowboy there. Years later, after becoming a lawyer and setting up practice in Rapid City, he wrote these letters to his children.