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BOOK REVIEWS

The Greater Southwest. By Rupert Norval Richardson and Carl Coke Rister. (The Arthur H. Clark Company, Glendale, Calif., 1934. 506 pp. \$4.00.)

In this handsomely printed volume, the authors, one professor of history at Simmons University, and the other assistant professor of history at the University of Oklahoma, seek to correlate the economic, social and cultural development of the present states of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Though forming a compact group of states which might be loosely designated as "The Southwest," they are unrelated geographically, topographically and climatically and their trend historically is naturally differentiated distinctly from each other. Even today, the states west of the great Continental Divide look toward the Pacific and those on the east toward the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi. An indefinite line also divides the region into that portion first populated by the town-building Pueblos and later colonized by the Spaniards, from the region which, occupied by the Shoshonean and other nomadic tribes, was settled much later by the westward pressing emigrants from the eastern states. The authors recognize this for they dwell upon the factors which determine culture, such as topography, climate, trails, forts, boundaries, natural travel routes, Indian migrations, exploration, settlement, railways, reservations, reclamation projects. The unity of national governmental activities since the region came under the authority of Washington and the establishment of state governments moulded along the same principles of democracy have, of course, drawn these states more closely to each other. The maps which accompany the treatise illustrate this for they cover in sequence, first, the physiography of the Southwest; second, the Southwest in the eighteenth century; third, the Southwest in the first half of the nineteenth

century; fourth, from the War with Mexico to the Civil War, and finally the Southwest as it is today.

The authors bring to the volume no results of their own original research but they achieve a scholarly compilation of "the enlarged knowledge and newer points of view of historical research" by acknowledged scholars in the field. They render therefore a fine and acceptable service to high school and college students as well as to the general reader interested in the history and the cultural development of so large a part of the United States. The arrangement is logical. While the scope of the work does not permit of great detail, yet the subject is covered adequately even though concisely. On the other hand, the history of the section is tied up with events in Europe, and on the other, it is related to the background created during centuries by the Indians prior to European conquest and colonization. As summarized by the authors: "First came the Spanish conquerors and zealous priests, followed by proprietors and Mexican vaqueros; but Spain's hold on the country was slender and Mexico, her successor, lost it. Later Anglo-Americans entered the country—trappers and traders, official explorers and soldiers, miners and adventurers, ranchmen and farmers—some preceding and others following the flag of the United States. Here occurred the clash of rival nations and the contest for supremacy between two civilizations. Furthermore, in the annals of this region the frontier looms large, for in some places civilization touched hands with savagery for almost three centuries." The book is written in the modern scientific spirit, devoid of romancing and with a due sense of proportion in the treatment of incidents and episodes, which easily lend themselves to exaggeration. Yet, the volume is not devoid of color and holds the reader's interest from the first chapter treating of the Indian races, to the last, an excellent, philosophical summary of "The Spirit of the Southwest."

P. A. F. W.

After Coronado: Spanish Exploration Northeast of New Mexico, 1697-1727. By A. B. Thomas. (Univ. of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla., 1935. 308 pp., 2 maps, editorial notes, bibliography, index. \$3.50.)

In this book Dr. Thomas makes available for students of Southwestern history, as he did in his earlier *Forgotten Frontiers*, a considerable body of documentary material. The title "After Coronado" is short and felicitous, but it is open to some question. The author's real theme is indicated by the sub-title—or to paraphrase from his preface: he aims to make a comprehensive attempt to investigate the nature and the extent of Spanish influence *beyond New Mexico* during the 280 years between Coronado's journey to Quivira (1541) and the end of Spanish rule (1821). Within this long stretch of time he finds a significant period in the thirty-two years from 1696 to 1727 and all the documents which he here presents except the first brief paragraph fall within these years. Where the main emphasis lies is shown by the fact that over three-fourths of the book deals with the still shorter period from 1719 to 1727, portraying the danger to New Mexico from the French who were thought to be advancing from the plains of Cibola, and the reaction of the Spaniards to that threat.

The best defense of the author's title is found in his "Historical Introduction" (pp. 1-49) which is an excellent analysis, well documented, of the entire Spanish period, sketching the long earlier expansion (1541-1680), interrupted by the Pueblo Indian Rebellion of the latter year. His analysis would have been strengthened, had he mentioned the dying out of the Hapsburg regime just at the turn of the century and the rise of the Spanish Bourbons. The Spanish Empire belted the globe and this part of New Spain was, after all, only a minor sector of a vast frontier. Harassed by many and weightier problems elsewhere, this borderland which was a liability rather than an asset was of minor importance relatively to the Bourbon kings, yet it was a factor in their relations with the French from the time of Louis XIV to that of Napoleon. It is well to think

of the struggle on this Spanish borderland during the 18th century always in relation to the ebb and flow in the fortunes of the mother country.

Numerous mistakes in accent are perhaps explained by the reliance of the author, in some cases, on the work of earlier writers instead of going back to the originals (v. note, p. 52). As a whole, the accents are shown correctly, but such errors as "Cuervó," "Cuberó," and others are used throughout. A quick scanning of the text gives the impression that the translations are accurate as well as smooth—much more so than in *Forgotten Frontiers*. For "Odyssey" the author probably meant "Anabasis" (p. 5). The textual "Tegua" (p. 60) is correct instead of the editorial correction "Tigua." Does not the caption (p. 91) in the original read "Al Burquerque"? And in the embodied letter (p. 245, line 21) "that" instead of "this"? And again (p. 285, line 4 from bottom) "Baluerde" for "Balue."

Readers of *After Coronado* who are familiar with work in documentary material will appreciate the amount of work, and good work, which Dr. Thomas has put into it. As he has translated and annotated them, these documents make a very valuable addition to the historical records of the Southwest.

L. B. B.

My Life on the Frontier. By Miguel Antonio Otero. (The Press of the Pioneers, Inc., New York, 1935. 293 pp., ill. by Will Shuster, \$6.00.)

In this volume (the first of a contemplated series) the author, a former territorial governor of New Mexico, attempts to cover from an autobiographical angle, certain aspects of life in the American Southwest, during the years that the railroads were pushing their way into the trade territory, until then dominated by the Santa Fé Trail. These years, 1864 to 1882, ushered in a new epoch in the development of the West. That they were lively years is attested by the author. The circles in which he moved were financially and politically interested in trade and government.

The contacts he made, therefore, were in that sphere. His early life was more or less that of a scion of the so-called "ricos" and ruling class of New Mexico, rooted deep in the customs and views of life of a feudal past and yet reaching out commercially and politically into the new deal brought to the Spanish Southwest by the railroads and business enterprise of the Yankee. It was characteristic of the day that the father had married a Southern belle and that his household combined the easy going tempo of the old days with the high pressure of modern business demands. All this is reflected in the volume under review and makes it a valuable contribution eagerly read by the student of sociology and history. Yet, it is neither history nor biography, nor diary, but more or less random notes such as a reporter with a live imagination would have jotted down from time to time to be revived fifty or sixty years later and verified and augmented from old letters, documents, newspaper files and current stories of so-called old timers.

The memory and acuteness of observation of the author when a mere child is nothing short of remarkable. Before he was five years old, he recalls that, while living in the vicinity of Lawrence, Kansas, "a troop of Federal cavalry drew up in front of our home and decided to pitch camp. Immediately, they hitched their horses to our picket fence. This was too much for my mother. Hurriedly putting on her white linen sun-bonnet, she rushed into the yard and unhitched every horse tied to the fence. Some of the officers and a few of the soldiers came up and objected in unbecoming language. But my mother stood her ground, declaring aggressively: 'I want you to understand that no Yankee soldiers can hitch their horses to any fence of mine.' Her manner and her words were effective, for the soldiers forthwith took their horses to a clump of trees some distance down the road."

Similarly minute in detail is an incident at Leavenworth, Kansas, when he was in his fifth year: "One of the strongest recollections I have of Leavenworth is the large number of Union soldiers, both infantry and cavalry, I saw

there, largely due to the fact that Fort Leavenworth was only a few miles north of the city. They literally seemed to fill the streets of the city and the entire country thereabouts. No doubt their presence was necessary, for the animosity between the anti-slavery and the pro-slavery factions in eastern Kansas was still red hot. * * * Shortly after our arrival at Leavenworth, we had an experience with the military authorities at our home. One day six soldiers called and inquired for my father. My mother went to the door, and at the sight of the soldiers naturally concluded that some embarrassment, or possibly harm, was in store for my father. So she replied to their inquiry: 'Mr. Otero is not at home.' The soldiers were about to accept her statement and take their leave, when I, thinking that my mother did not really know the truth of the matter, ran to her side and blurted out: 'Why, yes, Mama! Papa is upstairs.' Hardly had I let the cat out of the bag than my father, who had been standing in the hall upstairs, came quickly to the door and submitted himself to the soldiers, who took him to headquarters to answer a summons they had for him."

Were it not for the phenomenal precocity of the child as it also appears in other anecdotes of that early period, the psychologist would surmise that the author was repeating family traditions as he had overheard them rather than personal experiences for which he vouches.

How the author happened to be on the spot whenever exciting events occurred is exemplified from the following when he was in his ninth year: "I was an eye-witness to Wild Bill's encounter with Bill Mulvey, and shall relate the details as they linger in my mind: I was standing near Wild Bill on Main street, when someone began 'shooting up the town' at the eastern end of the street. It was Bill Mulvey, a notorious murderer from Missouri, known as the handy man with a gun. He had just enough red liquor in him to be mean and he seemed to derive great amusement from shooting holes into the mirror, as well as the bottles of liquor behind the bars, of the saloons in that section of the street. As was usually the case with such fellows, he was

looking for trouble, and when some one told him that Wild Bill was the town marshal and therefor it behooved him to behave himself, Mulvey swore that the marshal was the very man he was looking for and that he had come to the 'damn town' for the express purpose of killing him. The tenor of these remarks was somehow made known to Wild Bill. But hardly had the news reached him than Mulvey appeared on the scene, tearing toward us on his iron-grey horse, rifle in hand, full cocked. When Wild Bill saw Mulvey he walked out to meet him, apparently waving his hand to some fellows behind Mulvey and calling to them: 'Don't shoot him in the back; he is drunk.' Mulvey stopped his horse and, wheeling the animal about, drew a bead on his rifle in the direction of the imaginary man he thought Wild Bill was addressing. But before he realized the ruse that had been played upon him, Wild Bill had aimed his six shooter and fired—just once. Mulvey dropped from his horse—dead, the bullet having penetrated his temple and then passed through his head. During this episode I had been standing about twenty-five feet from Wild Bill. My joy in the outcome was boundless, for I had been afraid that Mulvey, with his rifle trained directly on Wild Bill, would pull the trigger."

Young Otero came in contact with the saloon and bawdy house life of the frontier very early for he was only in his ninth year when "Calamity Jane" plied "her well-known profession among the soldiers rather than among the teamsters, freighters, herders and the hunters. Calamity Jane's accomplishments as a 'wild woman' were numerous: she could drink whiskey, smoke, chew tobacco and swear better than the proverbial drunken sailor. When I used to see her about Hays City in 1868, she was a comparatively young woman, perhaps twenty years of age or thereabouts, and still extremely good looking. She was a fearless and excellent horsewoman, and a good shot with either rifle or pistol. Money seemed to mean little to her; she spent it recklessly in saloons or at the gambling table." This is followed by a vivid account of the "wholesale traf-

ficking in female human flesh, which during those frontier days was more horrible than the atrocities committed by the wildest Indians." That the social life of those days centered about bar rooms, public dance halls and bawdy houses gives the student of sociology ground for optimism about the younger folks of this day whose antics and pranks disturb pulpit and welfare workers.

When only ten years of age, the writer and his brother Page, entered St. Louis University. Boarding school life did not hold them long and 1871 finds them at Kit Carson in southern Colorado where the "popularity of the dance hall with the clerical force of Otero, Sellar & Co. was sometimes a detriment to the business interests of the firm." There follow page after page of lurid incidents vividly told as the business firm moved southwestward with the railroad, all the way to Las Vegas, where stirring events included lynchings by the Vigilantes and a railroad trip with "Billy the Kid" to Santa Fé.

The twenty-third and last chapter is devoted to a biographical summary of the life of the writer's father, telling of his death in 1882 to which year the book brings its narrative. The last three pages might well have been the preface, for in it the author tells of the inception of his plan to publish his memoirs. It was almost thirty years ago, in January 1906, when he retired as governor of New Mexico, that his friends importuned him to write his reminiscences and that he began gathering the data now serving this purpose. He says: "Many times during my trials and tribulations I have threatened to destroy my manuscript and give up the work, but somehow, as I progressed, it became more and more interesting to me, so I promised myself that I would finish it, if at all possible."

Readers of the book will rejoice that Governor Otero stuck to his self-set task. Few will lay it down before they have perused to the final chapter. It presents an exciting picture of the times. Written almost entirely in the first person and pervaded with family pride it is frank in picturing the depravity and wildness of human beings in an

environment and under circumstances which removed that restraint which life imposes in settlements where law and order, church and the finer arts have taken root.

The book is beautifully printed and bound, and is dedicated to the author's son, District Judge M. A. Otero, Jr. The illustrations by Will Shuster, a Santa Fé artist, are noteworthy and unique. The first edition autographed by the author is reported sold and a second edition at one-half the price per volume of the first is being prepared for press. Volume No. 2, which is to take the Memoirs up to 1906; is being looked forward to with avidity by the many friends, and even a few of the former political enemies of Governor Otero. Much to be desired are similar frank accounts by the author's contemporaries who are in position to present other facets of the frontier life and of political events since the Civil War in the Spanish Southwest. Undoubtedly there are others, who are just as sure of their attitudes and the correctness of their points of view as is Governor Otero. The historian will give this book a place beside those of Castañeda, Benavides, Villagr a and the chroniclers who followed them.

P. A. F. W.

FREDERICK WEBB HODGE ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION FUND

IN DECEMBER of 1886, Dr. Frederick Webb Hodge joined the Hemenway Southwestern Archaeological expedition to Arizona, and began a career in anthropology which will reach its fiftieth anniversary in 1936. The occasion is to be marked by the creation of the Frederick Webb Hodge Anniversary Publication Fund, under the guidance of the following Sponsoring Committee: H. B. Alexander, Franz Boas, Herbert E. Bolton, Fay-Cooper Cole, Carl E. Guthe, E. L. Hewett, Ales Hrdlicka, A. V. Kidder, Jesse L. Nusbaum, Bruno Oettking, Elsie Clews Parsons, Edward Sapir, Frank G. Speck, A. M. Tozzer, Henry R. Wagner, Clark Wissler. This Committee will appoint an editorial board, self-perpetuating for publication by the Fund. Southwest Museum, of which Dr. Hodge has been Director since 1932, will administer the Fund as an endowment trust.

All publications will be sold, at approximate cost, the income of the Fund being used as a reserve to meet the heavy cost of printing and to cover possible deficits. Contributors to the Fund who so desire will receive a *pro rata* credit on its publications, enabling them eventually to recover in publications the amount of their contribution in dollars. Contributions should be sent to Hodge Fund, Southwest Museum, Los Angeles, California.

Dr. Hodge is one of the pioneers of American anthropology. A founder of the American Anthropological Association, he edited its journal the *American Anthropologist* during its first fifteen years, meeting much of the initial expense from his own pocket. The *Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico*, always the standard work of reference on this subject, is but one among many of his editorial and original contributions to the study of Aboriginal America. Dr. Hodge headed the Bureau of American Ethnology for eight years. His long career has been one of constant support and encouragement to the study of Ameri-

can prehistory. The Fund which is to bear his name offers to his many friends and admirers an opportunity to do him personal honor, at the same time increasing the meager existing facilities for publication of research in the important field of American prehistory.

p. 114, l. 2, for 1912 read 1212

p. 204, note 15: for Guadalajara 138 read Mexico 53

ERRATA

p. 50, lines 5-6, read: . . . Five years later he was involved in a petition which the people of Albuquerque brought . . .

p. 113, line 14, for devise read device.

p. 137, line 11, for Durley read Dudley.

p. 244, second signature, read Enrique López.

" 302, note, for West Point read Annapolis

" 307, line 31, " there read there

" 329, note, " Downy " Downy

" 41, line 28, " Father " Brothers

273 " 31, read elized

also see vol. XI, p. 128; 291, note 3