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## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Brothers of Light: the Penitentès of the Southwest.* By Alice Corbin Henderson. (Harcourt, Brace and Company, N. Y., 1937. 126 pp., ills. \$2.50.)

Penitente observances, as well as Indian ceremonials and scenic wonders, attract visitors to New Mexico and offer New Mexicans opportunity to talk about their state and people. Although much has been written about the Penitentes, the material is scattered, some of it is sensational and journalistic, and frequently it is written by people who have witnessed a penitential procession without understanding in any degree the background and psychology of the people.

So it is with great satisfaction that one turns to a book such as *Brothers of Light* by Alice Corbin Henderson. Mrs. Henderson has for twenty years lived in New Mexico. She knows its people, its history, and its folklore, and she is thus peculiarly fitted to write about the Penitentes.

To my knowledge this is the second book upon this subject. The first, *The Passionists of the Southwest*, was written by the Reverend Alexander M. Darley and was published in Pueblo, Colorado, in 1893. Mr. Darley was a Protestant missionary in the Colorado area and came into the possession of some Penitente papers from which, with the aid of tales and observations, he wrote his book. Hotly antagonistic and condemnatory, he fails utterly to see the background or to sense the sincerity of the Penitentes.

Mrs. Henderson has written the second book about these people. And what a contrast it is. Sympathetic and unprejudiced, she presents the best account of the Penitentes yet published.

The first part of *Brothers of Light* is the personal experiences of the author several years ago in Abiquiú, New Mexico. There she witnessed the drama of the Penitentes, the penances, the processions, the crucifixion, and the *tinieblas*.

Viewing them with friendly eyes, Mrs. Henderson presents a most satisfying account of the Holy Week ceremonies. This forms about one-half of the book. Next there follows a brief sketch of the history of the order. The author accepts without question the origin of the group in the Third Order of St. Francis as established by the Spanish friars. This idea has been repeated various times by such writers as Charles F. Lummis, Ralph E. Twitchell, and others. No attempt, to date, has been made to trace the connection of the Penitentes to the Third Order that, to this writer, has proved convincing.

Mrs. Henderson proceeds to indicate, by various documents, the practice of penitential ceremonies and presence of the Third Order in New Mexico. Similar penances in Mexico, and the Holy Week processions in Seville, are mentioned, and the publicity given the Penitentes since the United States assumed control of the territory is indicated.

Approximately the final third of the book is devoted to "notes." This includes some *alabados* in Spanish with an English translation, and the account of a Penitente ceremony as taken from the thesis of Mr. Lawrence F. Lee (University of New Mexico, 1910). The carving of the figures on the death carts, a long quotation from Mme. Calderón de la Barca's book, and a brief statement of the geographic extent of the Penitentes concludes this section of the book.

There is a page and a half of bibliography which includes the more obvious published materials. It is unfortunate that mere mention is made of Mary Austin, Harvey Fergusson, Raymond Otis, and Ruth Laughlin Barker, who have each contributed something to the knowledge and interpretation of the Penitentes.

On the whole this is a most welcome volume. It assembles hitherto scattered articles and ideas into a compact, sympathetic record. It does not add anything new to the knowledge of the Penitentes; on the contrary it is an entirely popular account. Also the three obvious divisions of the book might have been fused, thus avoiding some repetition

and presenting a more connected and forceful story, for there is evidence throughout of the sympathetic understanding of the Penitente psychology.

One cannot conclude this review without mention of the interesting illustrations and striking cover design. These were done by William Penhallow Henderson, husband of the author, and add much to the attractiveness of the book.

DOROTHY WOODWARD.

*University of New Mexico.*

*Pioneer Posts of Texas.* Compiled by Joseph H. Toulouse and James R. Toulouse. (The Naylor Company, San Antonio, Texas, 1936. xiii-166 pp., ills., maps. \$2.00.)

*Military Camps and Posts in Oklahoma.* By William Brown Morrison. (Harlow Pub. Corp., Oklahoma City., Okla., 1936. 180 pp., ills. \$2.50.)

Merely skimming the mass of unworked material available on United States military establishments, the above two volumes give but a hint of the wealth of romance and stirring history to be found in the official reports as well as the newspaper files and diaries existing not only in the national capital but throughout the nation. Volumes upon volumes are stored upon dusty shelves in departments, bureaus and neglected storage places in Washington, D. C., which would reveal much history now forgotten, and would yield abundant material for writers and journalists in other fields. Captain Toulouse and his son James have for years been gathering both data and pictures of army posts in the Southwest, and the publication of their book on Texas forts makes one eager for the volume to be issued on New Mexico military establishments from 1846 to the present. It would be easy for the research student to point out inconsistencies, omissions, and errors in the present volume, but in the main it is worth while and does lay the foundation and point the way for future compilation, research, and publication. The first chapter opens gloriously with the Alamo, and the last

deals rather ingloriously with the unsuccessful campaign of General Sibley and his Confederates to capture Fort Union during the Civil War. The comparatively long and detailed descriptions of Forts Griffin and Richardson give a well rounded picture of fort construction and life at the far western army posts. Sanitary and moral conditions in many instances were deplorable, at least around 1870, which seems to be the year of the reports from which most of the data are culled. The frontispiece map is not as complete as it might be, although it is reproduced from an old war department map of the year mentioned, several of the forts mentioned in the text not being shown. The plats and pictures of forts and several of the portraits are most interesting. The views of Fort Bliss, Fort Fillmore, Fort Craig, and Fort Stanton, as they appeared in the early years of the Civil War are from paintings by the late Colonel A. J. Fountain, the tragic disappearance of whose father is still one of the unsolved mysteries of the Southwest. The typography is excellent. The publishers have this to say of the authors:

Major Joseph H. Toulouse, U. S. Army, became interested in old pioneer posts west of the Missouri River when he was called upon to inspect Camp Cody at Deming, New Mexico, and found a portion of the troops temporarily camped on the site of old Fort Cummings. From that time until the present he has gathered the records of 165 such posts. His collection of prints, diagrams and pictures of old posts is one of the largest official records in the hands of a private collector. His son, James Raymond Toulouse, a student of the University of New Mexico, worked along with Major Toulouse for years examining old war department records, reading and copying reports of military orders issued in the operation of western posts and aided materially in the preparation of the records of *Pioneer Posts of Texas*. Major Toulouse is a Spanish War veteran. Captain of a New Mexico Infantry company on the border in 1916-1917, afterwards commissioned a Major and Inspector General of the New Mexico National Guard and assigned as Field Secretary of the United States Food Administration and Council of Defence. The Toulouse home is at Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The other volume, that treating of the military posts and camps in Oklahoma, covers incidents and features of life at military posts rather than details of their construction and management. Furthermore, chronologically, it does not confine itself to the tale of any one year but the reader has a running account of an epoch in which appears vivid mention of many military men who also at one time or other figured in the history of New Mexico and some of whom gained fame on either side of the Civil War conflict or in Indian campaigns. As said by the author in his foreword:

The writer has long been impressed with the rather striking part military posts have played in the history of Oklahoma. . . . In telling the story of the various military posts and camps almost every vital movement in Oklahoma history is touched upon—the coming of the southern Indians and their location in this territory; the Civil War and its blighting effect on Oklahoma; Reconstruction, the railroads, and the hordes of Kansas and Plains Indians brought here; the Northern Drive; the Boomer campaigns and the Runs; the final struggle of the Five Civilized Tribes and the coming of Statehood.

A bibliography and an index, such as the student misses in the Toulouse volume although it does not matter to the general reader, are parts of the well-printed and beautifully illustrated Oklahoma book.—P. A. F. W.