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## Reviews and Notes

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## REVIEWS AND NOTES

*The Wild Horse of the West.* By Walker D. Wyman. (The Caxton Printers. Caldwell, Idaho, 1945. Pp. 348. Bibliography, index, illustrations by Harold Bryant.)

What has happened to the mustang and to the wild or feral horse, whether of Spanish or American ancestry, in the West, is exhaustively and interestingly set forth by Walker D. Wyman. His is, perhaps, the final word on the history of the horse on the western range, for it includes a compilation of most of what has been written and said on the subject, in addition to the author's own observations and conclusions. He begins his treatise with an account of the eohippus, the prehistoric horse of millions of years ago, but which had vanished from the American scene before the advent of man, and ends with the tragic tale of the extermination of the mustang, converted into dog food by horse-meat canning plants.

Wyman draws a definite distinction between the mustang and the feral horse and declares: "the true wild horse exists in only one place, Mongolia." To Columbus is given the credit for introducing the horse to America, so that by 1500 "a fair beginning had been made in ranching." "After 1510 prices began to increase. A horse that could have been purchased for four or five pesos in that year, sold for 200 in 1530 and for 500 in 1538. It was soon thereafter, in 1540, when escapes from the Coronado expedition, and in 1543, when six horses liberated by De Soto, according to legend, became the ancestors of the wild horses of the West. Wyman, however, scouts this idea and asserts that "it is probable that the wild horse herds emerged from the ranches or mission ranches of the Spanish in the Americas, not from some tired horses of the conquistadores."

Chapters III and IV Wyman devotes to the place that the horse has played in the history and economy of the Indian. The period from 1680 to 1750 saw the conquest of the horse by the Indians north of Mexico. "The horse changed the whole life of the aborigine. It was as important to him as the coming of steam to the white man." And

further: "With them he bought his wives and paid his debts. 'It was the greatest ambition of an Indian to be the owner of a band of horses; his chances of success were nil without them; his wealth and social position was determined by the number he possessed.'" \* \* \* "One old chief told Captain Marcy that his four sons were a comfort to him because they could steal more horses than any other members of the tribe."

Important as was the horse to the Indian, he was essential to the rancher, to whom however, the wild horse became a nuisance and even a menace. "To most cattlemen a wild horse was something to shoot, not to capture." After referring to the establishment of horse ranches in the West and the origin of the western pony and the palomino, the author devotes a chapter to "The Army and the Mustang" and the traffic in horses, augmented by the demand created by the Boer War and the first World War. He concludes: "In 1940 there were no longer any horses available, other than strictly supervised range horses. \* \* \* "The wild horse made his contribution to the army in the period after the Mexican War when he was worth something. After 1900 he no longer deserved the reputation his mustang ancestors made for him. Today he is headed for the cauldron."

It is after these 126 pages of preliminary history of the horse in the West that the book turns to its main theme: "The disappearance of the mustang and the extermination of the wild horse from the western range." The mustang, true descendant of the Spanish horse in America, was deemed a pest by the first cattlemen in New Mexico in the 1870's and 80's. Nevertheless "the disappearance of a great proportion of the mustangs is a mystery." The author quotes a contemporary "that many thousands of these ponies were surreptitiously converted into canned beef and are even now being served over Eastern tables and army messes as a select product of the cattle range." It was the enactment of the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934, together with the government range control of Indian reservations, which spelled the final chapter in the history

of the wild horse. The methods of control and extermination are described in detail under such chapter headings as "From Cow Pony to Cauldron," "Methods of the Mustangers," "The Herd and the Horse," "From Mustang to Broomtail," "The Stallion in Fact and Fancy." The efforts to "Save the Wild Horse" by a few romanticists are termed futile. "Rather than preserve degenerate strays, it is better to look backward to that which once was, and cease thinking of perpetuating that which does not exist," is the final advice of the author.

This is a book which holds the interest not only of students of western history and of the range, but also of the general reader. There are a few palpable contradictions, several slight errors of historical fact and some looseness in continuity and construction, due no doubt to haste in writing under pressure of other tasks and the great variety of opinions encountered in the authorities searched and quoted. The bibliography and index show painstaking labor. The numerous citations, both poetic and prose, are enlightening and occasionally amusing, testifying to the author's wide reading. The typography, illustrations and attractive binding of the volume are a credit to the Caxton Printers of Caldwell, Idaho, who have published several scores of excellent volumes appertaining to western history and literature.—P. A. F. W.

*A Du Val Map of 1670.*—Recently the University of New Mexico Library acquired a number of maps, one of which (reproduced in actual size) we are using as the frontispiece of this issue. The dealer was doubtless correct in attributing the map to the French map-maker, Pierre Du Val; but he is believed to have been wrong in assigning it the date of 1682, and also in stating that the map was unknown to Phillips.

Small as it is, the map shows a vertical fold, and along the fold are remains of a paper tab by which it had been bound into some atlas,—this fact explains why the author's name does not appear on the map itself. P. L. Phillips, *A list of geographical atlases in the Library of Congress*

(Washington 1909) shows as title no. 481: "Du Val, P., *Le monde ou la géographie universelle, contenant les descriptions, les cartes, & le blason des principaux pays du monde* . . . 2 v. 24°. Paris, l'auteur, N. Pepingue, 1670." Elsewhere (title no. 3434) Phillips gives the size as 16°; in either case, the atlas was small enough to slip into the side-pocket of a modern coat. Map No. 9 in Du Val's first volume is of "Novveav Mexique," and this we believe to be the one which we are here discussing.

Woodbury Lowery (*A descriptive list of maps of the Spanish possessions within the present limits of the United States, 1502-1820*, Library of Congress 1912), lists and describes a similar map of Florida from the same atlas (LC 153), and in an accompanying note quotes a French authority to show that Pierre du Val d'Abbeville lived from 1619 to 1684; that he was a counselor of the king and also "geographer of the king." "His works are still esteemed (1872), being considerable in number and importance." And this authority adds the interesting fact that "he was related to the Sansons, celebrated geographers." Lowery, under his title no. 136, lists the Sansons as the father Nicolas (1600-1667), a son of the same name (d. 1649), sons Guillaume (d. 1703) and Adrien (d. 1718); and a grandson Pierre Moullart-Sanson who died in 1730. Perhaps we should note also another Frenchman who had an active part in the map-making of that period: Hubert Jaillot (c. 1640-1712). He came to Paris in 1657 and some years later became interested in geography. In 1668-69, he published "the four parts of the world" according to Bleau, and then acquired from the Sansons the designs of many new maps which he engraved with remarkable neatness. In 1675, he obtained the title of "geographer ordinary to the king," and worked without relaxation to increase his collection of maps. (Lowery, *op. cit.*, title no. 168)

The earliest Sanson map portraying New Mexico was of 1657 and has been reproduced (from an original copy owned by our Society at Santa Fé) in our issue of April 1936 (Vol. XI, no. 2). A comparison of that map with the one of 1670 here discussed is instructive in many ways.

The two most glaring errors of the map-makers were the showing of California as an island (an error which was to persist until 1746) and of the Rio del Norte as emptying into the Gulf of California. This latter error was to be corrected, together with a pretty thorough straightening out of place names, by the arrival in Paris in 1673 of Don Diego de Peñalosa. (Compare the Peñalosa map reproduced in our issue of April 1934, Vol. IX, no. 2; and the Coronelli map in our issue of October 1927, Vol. II, no. 4.)

Attention is called to the boundaries of New Mexico with other jurisdictions,—shown by Du Val by dotted lines. Canada was contiguous to the northeast; Florida to the east (Du Val shows this boundary close to the right edge of his map; the name is supplied by the Sanson map). In other words, Florida, New Mexico, and California spanned the continent for Spain in the seventeenth century.

Numerous other details might be noted, but we shall remark on only two—which show how many mistakes doubtless originated by the careless reading of an engraver. On the outer coast of upper California the “Puerto de Francisco Draco” (Sanson) became the “Port du St. Francisque Drac” (Du Val); and the “Punta de Monte Rey” became the “Port de Monterey.” True, Drake had been on the California coast nearly a century earlier and named his “New Albion,” but he was no saint; and even the discovery of the true San Francisco Bay was not to be made until a full century after the drawing of this map by Du Val.—L. B. B.

*Legislative Appropriations.*—Biennial appropriations to historical societies by several western states: State Historical Society of Missouri, \$67,000; Illinois Historical Society and Library \$105,000; Iowa State Historical Society, Archives and State Department of History \$158,256; Minnesota Historical Society \$95,840; Wisconsin Historical Society \$140,000. The Missouri Historical Society employs thirteen persons and pays its secretary and librarian, Floyd C. Shoemaker, an annual salary of \$5800 and traveling expenses. The Society has a membership of 5000.

*Life Memberships.*—Recent life memberships granted by the Historical Society of New Mexico went to Lt. D. E. Worcester, U. S. Navy, author of "The Spread of Spanish Horses in the Southwest" published in the July issue of 1944, of the NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW, and to David M. Warren of Panhandle, Texas, vice-chairman of the board of regents of the University of Texas and publisher and editor of the *Panhandle Herald*.

*Folk Arts Conference.*—"Folklore has become a fad and has attracted to itself a large dilettante following, usually because of the 'quaintness' of old customs and the simplicity or lack of sophistication of the tales or songs of the forefathers or of belated communities today. The study has also drawn to it somewhat more than its share of eccentrics and 'nut'!" Thus writes Sith Thompson in the latest issue of *Minnesota History*. The comment appears in his review of the Folk Arts Conference held at the University of Minnesota. He continues "But in spite of the evil name that these well-meaning but ineffective folk have acquired in serious academic circles, there has been a considerable group of scholars whose handling of folklore has been as intelligent, as well-disciplined, and as definitely directed as the investigations of the best of their fellows in adjacent scholarly fields." The writer insists that the folklorists should have academic training and acquire specific and specialized knowledge.

Even here in New Mexico one runs across so-called folklore or even so-called Indian mythology which can be traced back to the Biblical and other religious tales used by the Franciscan missionaries to instruct their simple-minded charges who put their own construction upon what they thought they heard, and which by retelling strayed far from their original context.—P. A. F. W.

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