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Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

The Rampaging Herd: a Bibliography of Books and Pamphlets on Men and Events in the Cattle Industry. By Ramon F. Adams. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1959. Pp. xix, 463. \$15.00.

"Like all bibliographies, this one is far from complete," so the author states. Among items omitted are books on cowboy songs, poetry, dairying, cattle diseases, breeding "and such subjects" except that the last two categories have a few representative items. All states west of the Mississippi River have listings except Louisiana, Iowa and Minnesota—Arkansas has one.

During the years of labor on this publication, the author traveled from coast to coast visiting libraries and book shops, but he does not mention any depositories in the northern Plains states, the Pacific Northwest, Nevada, Utah and New Mexico.

The Arizona listings include reports of Territorial governors from 1881 to 1911 with few exceptions, but none are listed for Colorado or Montana and only one for New Mexico. It may be that those for Arizona are important in the annals of the cattle history, but surely there is comparable information in similar reports for other territories that had a significant part of the range cattle industry. However, the emphasis in this bibliography is apparently on scarce items, although their location is not given for the benefit of the reader. Perhaps one more abbreviation could have been added to some lines (without increasing the bulk of the book) for identification of the depository.

This bibliography will not be a weighty factor in research on the range cattle industry, since archival materials and cattle company papers are the foundation, nevertheless it will lead the searcher to an occasional item that otherwise would escape him; and for booklovers, their eyes may be brought to bear on many heretofore unknown publications. This is the strength of the book and the justification for years

of tedious work devoted to its preparation for publication. The University of Oklahoma Press did a meticulous job of printing and indexing.

University of New Mexico

F. D. R.

The Early Inhabitants of the Americas. By Harry Errad Stafford. New York, Washington, Hollywood, 1959. Pp. 492.

In this lengthy work (492 pages) author Stafford purports to tell of the early peoples of the Americas as well as their subsequent developments and status. A considerable amount of archaeology, ethnology, and linguistic evidence is included.

First and foremost the main sources which Stafford utilizes are the fundamental interpretation of the Old Testament and the Book of Mormon. Historian Stafford utilizes these two sources verbatim and without any attempt of transliteration or interpretation. The author traces all of the earliest American inhabitants from three major migrations which according to the Book of Mormon took place prior to the coming of Columbus. The first of these alleged migrations moved from ancient Mesopotamia in 3097 B.C. following the debacle of the Tower of Babel. These tribes of peoples are known usually as Jeredites. Author Stafford also identifies this first presumed migration with Toltecs of Mexico and the Mound Builders of Eastern North America.

The second migration also starting from the region of the Holy Land but coming the long way around by way of the South Pacific was made by the Nephites and Lamanites; while a third group moved from Jerusalem and made the long voyage by way of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. In the third group was the tribe known as Mulekites.

The Mormon idea that the redskin American Indians came from the Lamanites is pursued by author Stafford as is many another detail of Mormon pre-history, such as the battle between the Nephites and the Lamanites which supposedly took place on Hill Cumorah in New York State 420 A.D.

Also following precedents of other authors who used these religious sources, Stafford professes contempt for the Darwinian theory of evolution and the scientific explanation of the beginning of man. The author takes the fundamentalist view that the Genesis was a matter of 1,656 years before the Deluge. To support this view the author quotes from the Mayan book, *The Popul Vuh* and Mexican writings.

In his later discussions on the natives of South and Central America and the United States and other groups in the New World, Stafford makes frequent mention of his original sources. After the question of the original migrations of peoples to the Americas is settled to the author's satisfaction, he moves on to a discussion of various groups of American Indians, both modern and near modern. A considerable amount of linguistic evidence is intermixed in the account. There are also fragments of tribal history and United States history. Modern natives of South America are largely neglected, and the various linguistic groups of the United States and Canada are emphasized. In the latter portion of the book the author goes to considerable trouble to try to demonstrate that legends of white gods are evidences of the former light skinned migrants from the Holy Land.

Even if the reader accepts the fundamentalist viewpoint of the Old Testament there are a number of errors in this work. The archaeology is at fault as for example the statement that the Mound Builders were the first inhabitants of the area of the United States. The author goes on to say that the Hohokam followed the Mound Builders and were a branch of the Jeredites. Such statements are untenable from any point of view and there are many others of the same sort.

Linguistic information is also misleading and erroneous. Stafford states categorically that the Salishan group was at one time the largest linguistic group in the United States. There is no evidence to support this whatsoever. Many linguistic groupings are ignored or other distributions erroneously stated.

Needless to say it is not necessary to postulate fallacious information of this sort even from Biblical sources. The story of creation as told in the Old Testament (actually there are

two stories of the creation in the Old Testament) was told in language which could be understood by the people of that day. Jesus, himself, spoke in parables to get his point across. In modern scientific terms the same story may be told in a manner which is in accord with all the archaeological and scientific data which we now possess. Archaeological reports, linguistic evidence, dating by radioactive carbon methods and many other sources of authentic information are now available to the most casual student. All of this scientific data together tells an understandable and valid story of the earliest Americans and the later American Indian tribesmen which is at considerable variance with the contents of this book.

University of New Mexico

FRANK C. HIBBEN

The Indian Journals, 1859-62. By Lewis Henry Morgan. Edited, with an introduction by Leslie A. White. Illustrations selected and edited by Clyde Walton. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 1959. Pp. 229, 16 color plates, 100 illustrations, index. \$17.50.

In May 1859 Lewis Henry Morgan, motivated by the necessity of collecting first-hand material for his study of kinship systems, set upon his first venture into western Indian country, a visit to the frontier territories of Kansas and Nebraska. This journey, repeated in the summer of 1860, was followed by expeditions in successive years to the Hudson's Bay area, and up the Missouri river to the Rocky Mountains. During the course of his trips Morgan not only compiled schedules of kinship terms for the memorable *Systems of Consanguinity and Affinity of the Human Family*, but kept extensive journals recording the results of his investigations among the various Indian tribes and his impressions of frontier life. The observations of this pioneer anthropologist, edited and annotated by Leslie A. White, contribute a unique perspective to the literature of the American frontier. The value of this handsome publication is enhanced by the remarkable illustrations assembled and edited by Clyde Walton. Through drawings, photographs, and magnificent color

prints, the frontier world which met Morgan's eyes—town and budding city, forms of transportation, animal life, missionaries, traders, government agents, travelers, and above all, the Indians—is recaptured for the modern reader.

Kansas Territory, on the fringe of white settlement at the time of Morgan's visits, was in the process of achieving normal frontier conditions after a period of virtually open warfare over the slavery issue. A few decades earlier, a number of eastern Indian tribes had been removed to this remote territory; these tribes, together with indigenous inhabitants of the area, offered a fertile field for Morgan's inquiries. At the same time, observations of the contemporary reservation scene stimulated his long-standing interest in the future of the American Indian and in the practical problems of Indian adaptation to a white-dominated world. The journals record the interaction of missionary, government agent, trader, and Indian; though not a captious critic, Morgan had frequent occasion for caustic comment on weaknesses in the administration of Indian affairs.

Like many other travelers, the author was impressed by the distinctive flora and fauna of the west. The vast reaches and rich soils of the prairie aroused his enthusiasm, although he was quick to contrast the potentiality of the environment for Indian and white systems of exploitation. Indeed, his thesis that the technological equipment of the pre-horse Indian would have prevented effective utilization of the prairie antedated similar conclusions which were standard among American anthropologists until recent years. Morgan's concern with the environment-technology relationship is marked by a number of journal entries, reflecting the importance assigned these variables in his scheme of cultural evolution.

Of plains animals, the buffalo in particular fascinated Morgan; he was assiduous in seeking information about the habits of the animals, and Indian and white methods of hunting them. His report on the presence of a police system for the large scale buffalo hunts of the "half breeds" of the Pembina-Fort Garry region is of special interest for its bearing on problems of diffusion in the plains area. The exercise of police functions by warrior societies of northern Plains In-

dian tribes during communal hunts is well known; Morgan's note suggests that further research with reference to the direction of borrowing would be profitable.

The western journals offer an unusual opportunity for vicarious participation in the field observations of a pioneer anthropologist. Morgan, clearly, was a conscientious field worker: he notes the conditions under which particular information was gathered, evaluates his sources carefully, records materials which conflict with his theories, and seeks confirmation of data by further inquiry when possible. He was alert to any situation which promised to contribute to his research; introduced to the uninhibited "Indian fashion of drinking whiskey" by his interpreter and informant, he advised moderation, but when his counsel was disregarded, wrote: "It opened their hearts and tongues and I got with readiness and ease what at another time it would be hard to draw out of a Kaw Indian" (p. 33).

The journal of the final expedition reported in this volume, which was also the author's longest, reports data gathered on a steamboat voyage up the Missouri to the Rocky Mountains. Covering ground traversed earlier by noted western pioneers, Morgan's trip nonetheless was highly productive in a scientific sense. However, notebooks for this period also provide a glimpse of Morgan in a role other than that of scholar and researcher, as he writes of recurrent anxiety over the serious illness of a young daughter. The Indian Journals conclude on a note of personal tragedy, with the author recording the news of sudden deaths of both daughters of the Morgan family.

In addition to editing and annotating the volume, Professor White has contributed an introduction setting forth the major details of Morgan's life and work, sketching conditions in the western territories at the time of the latter's journeys, and indicating the principal features of the journals themselves. The University of Michigan Press has provided a technical setting worthy of the editorial care lavished upon the journals; binding, printing, and reproductions of illustrations are uniformly impressive.

University of New Mexico

HARRY W. BASEHART

Dictionary of the American Indian. By John L. Soutenburgh, Jr. New York: Philosophical Library, Inc., 1960. Pp. 462. \$10.

The purpose of this dictionary is to provide a handy source of information on the Indians of the United States area. But it fails to fulfill this useful purpose. The compilation follows no discernible plan of including or excluding particular types of data. The names of most Canadian Indian tribes are omitted, but a few, for no apparent reason, are included. Even the coverage of tribes in the United States is not systematic: among California groups the Kato are assigned an entry but the related Wailaki and Mattole are not. The entries also include a scattering of general terms (e. g., hunting, languages, maize), names of Indian chiefs, place names, and many Indian words (e. g., *Ds'ah*, "Navaho for the basin sagebrush."); items of the latter type, it seems to me, are an obvious waste of space in a dictionary containing less than five thousand entries. Worse still, the information dispensed is confused and so full of errors that it would be impractical to attempt corrections in a review. Even the writing is careless: under the entry "Languages" one encounters, "Many of the languages are similar in sound to those who speak Scotch."

The book is cheaply printed and contains no illustrations; I am unable to understand why the price should have been set at ten dollars. The reader who wishes information on American Indians is advised to save his money and to continue using John Swanton, *Indian Tribes of North America*, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 145, 1952.

University of New Mexico

STANLEY NEWMAN

A Fitting Death for Billy the Kid. By Ramon F. Adams. Norman: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1960. Pp. 310, 9 illustrations, index. \$4.95.

This book is no book for the casual reader seeking diversion or entertainment. But for the serious seeker-after-truth in the career of Billy the Kid, it is unquestionably one of the most valuable and important works which have appeared.

With painstaking thoroughness the author dissects and evaluates practically all of the noteworthy books and articles on Billy the Kid which have been published since his death, as well as the more significant newspaper items which appeared before and shortly after he was killed.

In separating fact from fiction the book is well documented. But even more important, in those matters where past accounts are divergent and evidence conflicting, Mr. Adams shows discerning judgment in selecting the more reasonable and credible.

The prologue contains a capsule resume of what the author considers the true facts which highlight the young outlaw's career. This, in the opinion of this reviewer, is the most accurate which has appeared, though some students of source material may question Mr. Adams' conclusions on certain details: the statement is repeated that Billy killed Beckwith, though the preponderance of testimony indicates that Bonney had left the scene well ahead of the almost simultaneous deaths of Beckwith and McSween; and the statement that the Kid, in escaping, disarmed Bell may be challenged by those who, like Maurice Garland Fulton, have been inclined to accept the statement of Judge Lucius Dills that Bell's pistol, fully loaded, was found on his body.

This volume is a worthy companion to the four previous works which have established Mr. Adams as a dependable authority on many phases of Western frontier lore. It will probably never be a "popular" book, but it is a *must* for anyone seriously interested in the whys and wherefores of the tremendous accumulation of lurid legend which has been built up around Billy the Kid, vicious juvenile delinquent—and Billy the Kid, brave boy, much maligned.

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