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# Book Reviews

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*Río: A Photographic Journey down the Old Río Grande*. Querencia series. Edited by Melissa Savage. Introduction by William deBuys. Series Editors Miguel A. Gandert and Enrique R. Lamadrid. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2016. xvii + 123 pp. 81 halftones, bibliography, acknowledgments, contributor biographies. $29.95 paper, ISBN 978-0-8263-5689-5.)

Any resident of the Rio Grande watershed will love this book. In just 120 pages, it captivates the reader and the viewer. *Río: A Photographic Journey down the Old Río Grande* is both a set of small essays from people who love the river, either parts or the whole, and a remarkable compilation of historical photographs from a number of archives. Melissa Savage, a geographer who now lives in New Mexico, compiled a humane, humanistic, and thematically attractive set of essays that are quickly read, enjoyed, and savored. Preceded with a moving introduction by William deBuys, thematic chapters of "trade" or "agriculture" structure the fabric of the five thematic essays, while two are place based (Big Bend, River's End). As a visual and textual object, the volume lies somewhere between a coffee-table book and a set of visual photographic poems about the great river, its landscapes, and its peoples.

*Río* is a quick, pleasurable read, but any avid fan of the river will want to take their time picking through the photos long after the words have been digested. Patterns and details of the river—now more harnessed by dams and drought—stand out. If you know the course of the river, this book favors those along the New Mexican stretches. Compare the old photos from a century ago to what we witness now along the Rio Grande, and you will notice we have more trees

along the riverbanks. Most of those, as you will learn in *Río*, are from the great flood of 1941, and the cottonwoods that benefitted and sprouted from that great flood (p. 4).

The photos, from renowned and not so well-known artists, are the true gems here. The viewer starts to understand that the river is less a border than a crossing, a shared water, with traffic moving both ways north and south along its course. Rangers, scouts, explorers, early boaters, prohibition smugglers, and international ferries—these roles are all profiled in addition to the more usual and prosaic irrigated fields and accompanying farm animals. The people stand in these photos as full participants, subject to the absence, presence, or roughness of the river; the essays remind us of the value of these places.

The only real critique here is that it is over too soon for the reader and the viewer. The works-cited section, for example, is only a half-page long. If you love the river, you know there is more to explore, other swaths of photos to uncover the gaps between Big Bend, say, and the mouth of the river. The essays are pithy, concise, and lovingly written. But a reader senses that they sometimes skimp on the fuller stories held by the authors. Like the dry sands of the riverbed during drought, a reader wants more about the water, more depth to these stories. In a way, that is a victory, as we can only hope that further work will profile that full scope of the river and what it has meant over time. For those new to the river, to this watershed, *Río* is a wonderful visual crash course to understanding our place along it. The essayists and editor's photo selections richly portray the magic of the river as "geographers of place, lovers of history, and unredeemed river rats" (p. 118).

*Eric P. Perramond*
*Colorado College*

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*Pie Town Revisited*. By Arthur Drooker.(Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2015. xi + 147 pp. 62 color plates, map, foreword, acknowledgments. $34.95 paper, ISBN 978-0-8263-4187-7.)

Besides the attractive photographs it reproduces, Arthur Drooker's *Pie Town Revisited* is commendable for including what looks to be a delicious recipe for an apple pie that incorporates green chile and piñon nuts, rooting it in the traditions of the small, isolated New Mexican community that serves as the volume's subject. In the book, Drooker depicts Pie Town, New Mexico, in two ways—with photographs that mostly concentrate on the town's buildings and its people and with a historical and memoiristic essay. The essay is an especially helpful feature, because Drooker is tackling a subject already addressed by Rus-

sell Lee (1903–1986), who photographed Pie Town on several occasions around 1940. Drooker's essay explains this connection, describing the ways in which Lee's work served as an inspiration for his own. Although most of the photographs reproduced in the book are Drooker's, a number of Lee's photographs also appear. Further, several of Drooker's photographs employ prints of Lee's photographs. For example, in one photograph, Drooker depicts Paul Thomas at his family homestead holding a striking photograph Lee made of Thomas's father. The resemblance between the two men is uncanny and treats the reader to an unusual multigenerational portrait. Such work is highlighted in a brief foreword by F. Jack Hurley, who describes the book as "a strange and wonderful collaboration over seventy years of two men who never met, and two generations of people in a tiny town" (p. ix). Although Drooker is attentive to continuities across this chronological divide, he is also interested in the changing patterns of life in the town. Indeed, most of the people shown in his photographs are newcomers, people who "came from somewhere else looking for a chance to start over" (p. 13).

*Pie Town Revisited* also allows readers to think about the lasting importance of the photography produced by the Farm Security Administration and the Office of War Information (FSA-OWI), government units housed in a variety of New Deal agencies. Russell Lee worked for the FSA-OWI when he photographed Pie Town and contributed his images to an archive now housed at the Library of Congress. Few artistic endeavors have provided a more-fully-realized depiction of a particular place at a particular time than the photographs made for this unit between 1935 and 1944. The most familiar of these photographs are austere in black-and-white, but the work by Russell that served as Drooker's inspiration was a series of bold color photographs made with Kodachrome film. Given its small population, New Mexico is well-represented in the FSA-OWI archive. Of the photographs with geographical identification, nearly as many are ascribed to New Mexico as to Ohio or Illinois, and the photography unit made more color photographs in New Mexico than in any other state. In fact, the archive contains more color photographs made in tiny Pie Town, seventy-two in total, than in metropolises like Chicago, with fifty-four photos.

It is instructive to compare the way in which Drooker reinterprets and recontextualizes photographs from this archive with a project like Photogrammar (photogrammar.yale.edu), a web-based platform for organizing, searching, and visualizing all of the photographs from the FSA-OWI archive. An interdisciplinary team at Yale assembled Photogrammar and introduced it in 2013. Whereas Drooker grapples with the archive individually, idiosyncratically, and artistically, Photogrammar represents an effort to use data science to provide new ways to experience these photographs collectively, systematically, and scientifically.

Because these photographs remain key elements of the visual memory of the United States, reproduced in countless textbooks to illustrate the Great Depression and its aftermath, Drooker's book is of interest as a representative example of one means of making these photographs from the past matter in the present.

*Kevin Mulhearn*
*University of New Mexico*

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*A World Not to Come: A History of Latino Writing and Print Culture*. By Raúl Coronado. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2013. xv + 555 pp. 60 halftones, 13 maps, index. $22.50 paper, ISBN 978-0-674-97090-8.)

To begin with, Raúl Coronado's monograph, *A World Not to Come*, is a magisterial undertaking. The book has been justly feted, winning, among other honors, the Modern Language Association (MLA) Prize for a First Book in 2013 and the American Studies Association (ASA) John Hope Franklin Publication Prize in 2014. The flagship journal of the MLA, *PMLA*, has had an entire section of an issue dedicated to Coronado's book, with articles by eminent literary scholars and a response by Coronado. Recently re-issued as a paperback, *A World Not to Come*, offers a comprehensive cultural and philosophical history of liberalism's evolution in Mexico and Texas, and how this coincides with emergent senses of sovereignty and Latinidad.

Tracing the story of revolution and revolutionary ideas in New Spain (particularly in Coahuila y Tejas and Nuevo Santander), Mexico (focusing mostly on Texas), the Republic of Texas, and Texas within the United States, Coronado provides multiple key terms to keep track of the evolution of these ideas. For example, Coronado painstakingly comments on the shifting tensions between community and what he alternately refers to as "transcendental individualism" and "possessive individualism," arguing that Latino Texas, even as it embraced liberalism, maintained a nearly singular focus on the *pueblo* (rather than *gente* or *población*) as a self-referential organizing concept. As part of this argument, Coronado argues that reading in Hispanophone Texas was a largely public and communal practice, rather than a private act. Because of this, writing by elites was publicly and orally disseminated, deliberately generated to actively participate in shaping a radically changing world. Yet although this world was imagined and discussed, it ultimately failed to come into being. This is because, Coronado convincingly argues, an epistemic rupture occurs during and after the United States' annexation of Texas; the concomitant racism and xenophobia tended to expulse Tejanos and Mexicans—and their divergent philosophical articulations of sovereignty, based on Catholicism and Scholasticism—from

the public sphere. This violent, rather than gradual, shift in the philosophical worldview circulating throughout Texas meant that "the intellectual legacy of this period ended in an instant. This rupture, the suddenness of the revolutionaries' failure, is part of the reason that historians have long ignored these events" (p. 260). Thus, Coronado shows how the production of subalternity, especially after Texas' annexation, took place through the public sphere. Most importantly, Coronado's careful research details how the public sphere was also the space where the racism and coloniality underpinning oppression was resisted.

Coronado illuminates ample new and lesser-discussed primary sources, such as the story of the women of San Antonio de Bexar during the violent suppression of revolutionary activity in 1813, entitled "Memoria de las cosas más notables que acaecieron en Bexar el año de 13 mandado el Tirano Arredondo" (pp. 254–260 and appendix 4). In centralizing these archives, Coronado's book opens up multiple lines of inquiry that can and should be taken up. His exceptional book provides many answers and also leaves the reader with a number of generative questions and inspirations for further research. Indeed, Coronado urges a critique-oriented interpretive model of approaching and understanding archives, arguing that "the official archives housed in libraries, even if long ignored, also need to be read against the grain" (p. 393). Coronado highlights the importance of imaginative and empathetic approaches that can account for the "significant visions and aspirations" that informed the passionate but ultimately failed project of Latino revolution in Texas (p. 393).

*A World Not to Come* joins recent, excellent work in Latino studies by scholars such as Kirsten Silva Gruesz (*Ambassadors of Culture*, 2002), Diana Taylor (*The Archive and the Repertoire*, 2003), Marissa K. López (*Chicano Nations*, 2011), Deborah Vargas (*Dissonant Divas*, 2012), José David Saldívar (*Trans-Americanity*, 2012) and Alexandra Vazquez (*Listening in Detail*, 2013), in offering new, innovative, and rigorous approaches to archives and their interpretation. *A World Not to Come* also shares a similar political and philosophical stance towards historical archives with Lisa Lowe's recently published *The Intimacies of Four Continents* (2014). Yet whereas Lowe's book concludes with a call to imagine alternative ways of imagining modernity and liberalism, Coronado's work begins with and consistently foregrounds the imagined alternatives offered by the writers and thinkers whose work he treats with empathy and recognition.

*Francisco Eduardo Robles*
*University of Notre Dame*

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*As Precious as Blood: The Western Slope in Colorado's Water Wars, 1900–1970*. By Steven C. Schulte. (Boulder: University of Colorado Press, 2016. xv + 286

pp. 22 halftones, map, notes, index. $41.00 cloth, ISBN 978-1-60732-499-7.)

It is a treat to read a history book full of great information, well-paced, and interesting. *As Precious as Blood: The Western Slope in Colorado's Water Wars, 1900–1970* solidly hits the mark on all three of these points. Author Steven C. Schulte, professor of history at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, has taken a center seat with the historical writers of water development and environmental preservation in the West.

Water users on Colorado's Western Slope are lucky. They live in a glorious land of mountains, plateaus, and rivers. They have most of the river water in the state but only twenty percent of the population. This creates challenges of limited political capital to offset the water development efforts of the Front Range of Colorado.

Schulte begins with the year 1900. It was the era of government investment in dam and irrigation project development. In 1902 the National Reclamation Act was established into law by Pres. Theodore Roosevelt—an ardent supporter of individualism, toughness, and grit. These same traits can be found in the Western Slope's water leaders who came later—Taylor, Nelson, Smith, Stone, and Aspinall.

The book describes the complexities and challenges of Western Slope leaders to protect and develop their fair share of water for local use, while at the same time they compromised on occasion to keep the political process moving forward. It is a dance of wills, where one misstep could lead to a permanent loss of Western Slope water for future economic development and environmental protection.

Schulte skillfully weaves the tension between local water users and newspaper editors as they engage in the high stakes of state and national politics. Meetings with Western Slope and Denver Water officials are described as "raucous spectacles" with "verbal fireworks," where sometimes the outcomes were based on "raw political power." In 1938 Congressman Edward T. Taylor of Glenwood Springs grittily announced that "not a drop of water" would leave the Western Slope as long as he was chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee. That line remains deeply etched in the red rock landscape of western Colorado.

In this volume, we read about the state and federal politics of water development and management up close and personal, described wonderfully—sometimes in terms of "head cracking," and at other times in fearful terms that the Western Slope would become nothing more than a "colonial wilderness" for the power politics of Colorado's Front Range and downstream California interests.

What does this all mean today? The Western Slope continues to live under a cloud of uncertainty as population growth and climate change present new

threats and challenges. The Colorado River Compact of 1922 was devised during a wet period, and changing flow patterns could flare up into verbal fireworks again. However, this time the raw political power of California and Arizona would fan the political fires.

Colorado's Front Range water managers have not stopped eyeing the perceived abundance of Western Slope water and are met eyeball-to-eyeball with the "not a drop of water" mantra of Western Slope water users. Are we in store for more head cracking? Optimistically, we can point to the recently released State Water Plan of Colorado for some guidance. Granted, the challenge is in the details, but water users across the state are working to find solutions to these tough, wicked problems. It is a challenge that Taylor, Nelson, Smith, Stone, and Aspinall would relish.

*Thomas V. Cech*
*Metropolitan State University of Denver*

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*Persistent Progressives: The Rocky Mountain Farmers Union*. By John Freeman. (Boulder: University of Colorado Press, 2015. xvi + 235 pp. 42 halftones, map, bibliography, index. $34.95 cloth, ISBN 978-1-60732-432-4.)

In *Persistent Progressives: The Rocky Mountain Farmers Union*, John Freeman presents the history of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (RMFU) from its roots in the various Grange organizations in the late nineteenth century to the present. RMFU's current mission statement reflects the same activities and goals from when the union formed:

> Rocky Mountain Farmers Union is a progressive, grassroots organization founded in 1907. RMFU represents family farmers and ranchers in Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. RMFU is dedicated to sustaining our rural communities, to wise stewardship and use of natural resources, and to protection of our safe, secure food supply. RMFU supports its goals through education and legislation, as well as by encouraging the cooperative model for mutual economic benefit (www.rmfu.org).

*Persistent Progressives* documents the history of the union in great chronological detail. In doing so, the book depicts the rise of a progressive and modern movement, a paradigm shift based on the ongoing struggle to save small family farms and ranches from corporate agriculture. Ironically, this progressive agricultural shift stems from clinging to old ideas and values brought from immigrant cultures, such as irrigation methods brought by Hispanics and the long-term farming methods of the Germans from Russia.

While the book provides the history and context behind the actions, success, and many failures of the RMFU, it also illustrates what can be accomplished at a grass roots level to maintain the profitability of small farmers and ranchers. These small farmers and ranchers, after all, are an environmentally sustainable alternative to corporate mega-farming and -ranching operations.

The struggles addressing the economic issues of small farmers and ranchers also concern political, social, and environmental issues. Social efforts include involving youth and family through youth clubs, camps, and sponsored family activities. Involvement in the "buy fresh, buy local" movement and sponsoring food cooperatives as well as backyard and neighborhood gardens brought fresh produce to low-income urban residents living in food deserts.

A good portion of the documented struggles of the RMFU and its members happened during the drought and depression years of the first half of the twentieth century. In documenting these struggles, the author points out the grit and determination of those whose shoulders bore the success or failure of these efforts. The ability to adapt to changing times, new trends and the climate of the arid and often drought-stricken West echo current national trends. Issues of water rights involving the Ogallala Aquifer, for example, continue to this day.

To reach global markets, the RMFU focused on organic agriculture—both crops and beef—even venturing into a Kosher slaughterhouse. Indeed, in terms of conservation and environmental issues, agriculture is often thought of as adding to environmental problems. But here Freeman excels at detailing the history of progressive action the RMFU took to support sustainable methods that include holistic land management. RMFU president David Carter saw organic agriculture as a way to revitalize rural Colorado and agriculture in general. In 2001 Carter stated that "multifunctionality . . . recognizes that farmers and ranchers produce far more than raw commodities. Agriculture provides open space, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, clean air and other attributes" (p. 176).

While the book centered in the Rocky Mountains, chronological reference is made to relevant events and political struggles in neighboring states and the nation as a whole. The book provides readers insight not only to those interested in the history of the RMFU but to anyone interested in the struggles of small farmers and ranchers and grass-roots progressive movements addressing peoples struggles to gain control of at least part of their own destiny.

*Lisa Pennisi*
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*Anti-Black Violence in Twentieth-Century Texas.* By Bruce A. Glasrud. (College Station: Texas A&M Press, 2015. vii + 209 pp. Selected secondary sources,

contributors, index. $35.00 paper, ISBN 978-1-62349-333-2.)

*Anti-Black Violence in Twentieth-Century Texas* collects accounts of incidents of white violence against African Americans in Texas during the twentieth century. From the century's early days through its end, black citizens in the Lone Star State faced ferocious, often lethal attacks. Early on, spectacle lynching drew massive crowds and national attention; savage, indiscriminate mob attacks destroyed black neighborhoods and men pulled black inmates out of local jails to murder and mutilate them. As the century ended, violent impulses and white racism combined in the maiming or murder of random victims, under cover of night or behind the walls of local police stations.

Editor Bruce Glasrud asserts, "Texas was among the most violently anti-black states," although the fact of neither mass racial violence nor its savagery was unique to Texas or the South (p. 4). There is a painful specificity in this collection, which is simultaneously encyclopedic and metonymic: we see range, diversity, and a horrible sameness. From the terrorizing, railroading, and summary execution of black U.S. Army recruits in Houston in 1917 to the horrific torture, burning, and postmortem destruction of human bodies in smaller cities like Paris or Waco, there is a clear pattern, a predictable outcome. White violence against African Americans in Texas was reliable in occurrence and consistent in brutality.

As we move through the century, the weight of this history is crushing. The stories include variations on a classic scenario: a mob in a backwater town killed and then tore to pieces a man accused of rape or other violence against a white person. Another archetypal attack: the destruction of the black section of Beaumont, a city thriving with wartime production, upon vague rumors of the rape of a white woman. In twentieth-century Texas, as elsewhere, economic prosperity was no protection.

The chapters in Glasrud's collection are diverse in tone and approach; some are excerpts from longer texts, and others complete articles. Taken together, they offer a vivid picture. However, for an academic audience, the book's excerpts and magazine stories, although an informative narrative, lack context and interpretation. The dearth of analysis leaves the reader knowing more and understanding less. Though some of the articles make strong analytical claims—Brandon Jett's look at Paris is compelling and well argued, as is James A. Burran's discussion of Beaumont—the book's overall position seems to be simply that racism in Texas was (and remains) a serious problem and that people should know and attend to that fact. What are we, however, to understand about U.S. racial violence via Texas, or Texas via U.S. racial violence? What has made Texas such a dangerous place for black citizens? Were (are) there conditions unique to the

state that tied together these incidents across geographic or temporal distances? Or was Texas cumulatively more violent simply because the state is so vast? The book suggests no answers.

Glasrud correctly insists that Americans must face this aspect of our national and local histories, and the stories told here are deeply important. Our failure to admit and account for the role of white supremacy in making and maintaining the republic continues to impede and define us in innumerable, unpardonable ways. Yet without substantial analysis, racism seems an inevitable, natural force rather than a part of systems and structures that can be undone. This is an intellectually problematic and politically disastrous position; scholarship must work not just to tell these stories but also to examine the reasons white citizens have turned repeatedly to violence against their black compatriots throughout our history.

*Delia C. Mellis*
*Bard Prison Initiative*

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*Standing on Common Ground: The Making of a Sunbelt Borderland*. By Geraldo L. Cadava. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2013. 320 pp. 18 halftones, map, notes, index. $19.95 paper, ISBN 978-0-674-97089-2.)

Geraldo L. Cadava, an associate professor of History at Northwestern University, provides an intelligent, balanced, and thorough study of the Tucson-Nogales Borderland region in *Standing on Common Ground: The Making of a Sunbelt Borderland*. Having won the Frederick Jackson Turner Award from the Organization of American Historians in 2014, this new paperback edition is well positioned to make an impact in Chicana/o Studies and Southwest Borderlands history courses.

*Standing on Common Ground* is exceptionally well written and conceived. After an effective prologue that utilizes the filming of a motion picture in Tucson in 1940 to illustrate the degree to which the region was shaped by economic modernization and frontier myth, the book moves chronologically from the 1940s through the 1990s. However, Cadava smartly chooses a thematic approach for the six chapters rather than a rigid chronology. These chapters examine World War II, Tucson's Fiesta de los Vaqueros, the civic and business leader Alex Jácome, binational universities and student movements, the rise of anti-immigrant hostility, and the collective memory of controversial public figures through art and public monuments. This thematic focus succeeds. It enhances readability while still providing chronological movement. The book successfully employs a localized, bi-national history to complicate sim-

plistic, binary thinking about the U.S.-Mexico border. Yet this is an inclusive, wide-ranging book that belies the seemingly regional focus. Cadava extends his historical analysis to the Native American Tohono O'odham tribe in every chapter and makes use of archival repositories from the United States and Mexico.

Several parts of *Standing on Common Ground* are exceptional. The chapter on World War II, for example, combines the usual home-front discussions of economic development, labor, and civic participation with an extensive analysis of binational cooperation. Cadava's historicization of the fear surrounding a possible Japanese invasion of the Southwest through the Gulf of California is fascinating and sets Arizona in an unexpected light. The biographical chapter on wealthy Tucson department-store owner Alex Jácome reveals not only his and other elites' fostering of binationalism but also his support for conservative politics in the United States and in Mexico. That Jácome voiced full, longstanding support for archconservative Sen. Barry Goldwater, a good friend of his, and still remained an effective civic leader within the Mexican American community is important. Cadava is attentive to later Chicano criticisms of Jácome and his conservative politics, but he points out that "the possibilities of cross-border alliances based on the conservative ideologies of Arizona's and Sonora's Sunbelt Borderland" speak to a wider ideological complexity that, especially in the current political context, is important for historians to appreciate (p. 129). Finally, the chapter on post-1965 immigration is especially prescient. Cadava's pairing of the rise of violent, anti-Mexican hostility in the 1980s and the growing sanctuary movement provides a necessary primer for understanding today's news headlines. Especially stimulating is the author's bold, far-reaching conclusion that "An unexceptional fact about both countries throughout the post-war era has been their support for wealthy elites at the expense of working-class communities on both sides of the border, enabling the interpretation that the border is less a divide between two nations and more a line separating haves and have-nots" (p. 253).

*Standing on Common Ground* occasionally fails to make broader connections. However, this is a minor quibble about a book that overwhelmingly succeeds in its drive to complicate unreflective thinking about the U.S.-Mexico Borderland. Professor Cadava is to be commended for providing such a balanced, thoughtful, and outstanding history of a complex place.

*Carlos Kevin Blanton*
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*Cass Hite: The Life of an Old Prospector*. By James H. Knipmeyer. (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2016. xi + 269. 73 halftones, map, appendix,

notes, bibliography, index. $36.95 cloth, ISBN 978-1-60781-471-9.)

In this biography, author James Knipmeyer pieces together Cass Hite's complete life for the first time, with particular attention to his prospecting and mining activities in the canyons and plateaus of southern Utah and northern Arizona. Hite, also known by the Navajo-given name Hosteen Pish-la-ki, spent decades exploring and later residing in Glen Canyon. His familiarity with its diverse inhabitants also makes this a story of the development of the area from the late nineteenth through the early twentieth century. In this way, readers glean insight from many episodes of the region's history, including major prospecting endeavors, mineral claims, and mining operations; interactions between white prospectors and Native Americans or between gentile and Mormon settlers; and colorful events of legend, lore, and western law and order in this exceedingly remote part of the country. In these objectives, the author succeeds wonderfully. He clearly presents the major events of Hite's life and gives the reader a strong sense of the man's temperament and abilities as well as his failures and flaws. As such, *Cass Hite: The Life of an Old Prospector* represents an important addition to the history of the Glen Canyon region, and the surrounding information adds substantively to the record of the important names and places that dot its historic landscape.

Although Hite may never have "let the facts get in the way of a good story," the author parses through many overlapping and competing accounts to try to get as close to the truth of the matter as possible (p. x). Historians and regional scholars will likely find great value in this attention to detail and close reading of sources. At times the content becomes granular as it seeks to describe the coming and going of a wide cast of characters without driving forward the underlying story. Overall, the focus on factual and comprehensive accounting results in an uneven narrative arc lacking argumentation and offering few clear conclusions. For instance, this reader wonders whether Hite left a significant legacy, apart from his name etched into several sandstone cliffs, upon his adopted home on the Colorado River and what his years of activity there can tell us today.

Still, readers will find this biography well researched, with a valuable bibliography for those interested in the people and history of Glen Canyon and the U.S. West. The author followed the life and times of Cass Hite with use of autobiographical materials, archival collections, genealogical records, historical interviews, and a deep well of newspaper articles from Utah, Arizona, and Colorado. In several chapters, the full inclusion of articles and letters penned by Hite himself grew tiresome and would have benefitted from more critical analysis of their contents with regards to Hite's motives and the underlying difficulties of life for

those seeking fortune and fame along the Utah-Arizona border. In this way, Knipmeyer sweeps away much of Hite's bad behavior as the subject of exaggerated western lore rather than taking the savvy prospector to task.

One particularly strong feature of this work is the inclusion of over seventy halftone photographs, both contemporary to Cass Hite and more recent shots taken by the author. The photos add substantially to the work by displaying expressive visuals of the people and places detailed throughout the story, giving the reader a stark sense of the rugged lifestyle and scenic beauty encountered by early prospectors and settlers of these southwestern canyonlands.

*Bryan Turo*
*University of La Salle*

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*Powder River: Disastrous Opening of the Great Sioux War*. By Paul L. Hedren. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2016. xx + 452 pp. 40 halftones, maps, appendices, notes, bibliography, index. $34.95 cloth, ISBN 978-0-8061-5383-4.)

The opening of the Great Sioux War of 1876–1877 was a rushed, politically motivated affair of questionable legality that allowed the Sioux little opportunity to comply with the U.S. government's demands even if they had wanted to. Thus, the opening campaign of that war caught the Sioux unprepared in many ways. Yet as Paul Hedren shows in this detailed study, the U.S. Army's actions were hardly an example of organization or planning. Instead, the army's disastrous beginning would haunt it for the entire war.

Hedren's narrative is remarkably complete, although somewhat one-sided. Where he can gather materials on the Native views of the battle, he does so well, with clarity and sympathy. This material, however, is limited. The Army's side, on the other hand, is minutely illustrated by the many accounts penned by participants afterwards as part of the court-martial of three of the officers who led the attack. Hedren uses this material exhaustively, but with even-handed judgement.

The attack on the native village on the Powder River on 17 March 1876 was part of Gen. George Crook's Big Horn campaign but was directly led by Col. Joseph Reynolds. Hedren notes that Crook's initial planning was faulty, since he was new to campaigning on the northern plains and unfamiliar with the immensity of the landscape he expected his soldiers to cover. By the time Reynolds's troops found the village they expected to attack, they were physically exhausted and nearly out of supplies. Reynolds compounded this problem, however, by launching a rushed attack on the village at first light and destroying the encampment rather than taking at least some of the meat and winter cloth-

ing for his own suffering soldiers, as Crook had ordered. Though his men did manage to capture the village's pony herd, Reynolds's lack of attention allowed the Natives to recapture many of the horses the next day. In withdrawing from the village, Reynolds also inexplicably abandoned several men who were dead or wounded on the battlefield.

The battle was a fiasco on many levels. The cavalry lost or exhausted many of its own horses, crippling its efforts in the subsequent war. The soldiers, feeling abused and abandoned, began deserting in large numbers, also weakening the war effort. Worse still, although Reynolds believed he was attacking a Sioux camp led by Crazy Horse, he had instead attacked a large village of Northern Cheyenne, who as a result joined with the Sioux for the war. Thus, the battle meant to weaken the Sioux instead weakened the U.S. Army, while giving the Sioux additional powerful allies.

As they left the field, the soldiers and officers of Reynolds's command were already grumbling, pointing fingers, and making charges against each other. Hedren takes the story through the court-martial, explaining the legal proceedings, the effects of newspaper coverage, and the attempts of officers of the Old Army to protect their brethren from scandal. Though this account is almost painfully detailed at times, Hedren carefully contextualizes his material in the overall narrative of the Northern Plains in the 1870s. Readers will be haunted by Hedren's account of the frigidity of the Plains in winter, the confusion of the dawn attack, the sense of futility faced by the soldiers, and the callousness and bickering of the men who led this disaster.

*Mark A. Eifler*
*University of Portland*

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*Colonel Henry Theodore Titus: Antebellum Soldier of Fortune and Florida Pioneer*. By Antonio Rafael de la Cova. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2016. xv + 336 pp. 15 halftones, maps, notes, bibliography, index. $44.99 cloth, ISBN 978-1-61117-656-8.)

*Colonel Henry Theodore Titus: Antebellum Soldier of Fortune and Florida Pioneer* by Antonio Rafael de la Cova is the first full-length biography about the larger-than-life exploits of Colonel Titus. Born in Trenton, New Jersey, Titus became one of the most public champions of southern interests during the mid-nineteenth century. Bar brawls and violence followed Titus across national borders until he became a relatively peaceful civilian leader in Titusville, Florida. Titus's life reminds readers that nineteenth-century United States housed many men whose lives followed a similar trajectory. As de la Cova concludes,

"The life of Col. Henry Theodore Titus should be perceived within the context of nineteenth-century American society intersecting the convulsive antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruction epochs, which produced drastic changes" (p. 222).

In five chapters, de la Cova chronicles how Titus joined expeditions to Cuba, fought for proslavery forces in Kansas, led armies in William Walker's Nicaragua, opened mining operations in Arizona, and pioneered settlement in Florida. Teachers and students of Latin America, the nineteenth-century United States, and the Southwest will already know de la Cova's coverage of pivotal developments in the mid-nineteenth-century United States. De la Cova contributes to conversations about these events, such as filibustering expeditions to Cuba and Nicaragua launched in defiance of the Neutrality Law of 1818 and the conflicts of Bleeding Kansas, when he highlights Titus's roles in these well-studied subjects.

The depth of this volume's research is its main strength. De la Cova traveled Titus's routes in Arizona and Nicaragua, and employs visual and textual sources from his own collection in this book. De la Cova deftly weaves together an impressive and international array of sources, which include travelogues, newspaper articles, censuses, and personal letters. He painstakingly pieces together the disparate (and sometimes utterly self-serving) narratives of Titus's experiences far more thoroughly than any other scholar who has studied Titus.

While de la Cova's research is commendable, the sheer amount of detail in this book at times limits its readability. Few readers will want to know the age of every person Titus encountered or the phase of the moon on a particular night. Granted, de la Cova includes all of these details to inform readers about Titus's life and to correct existent narratives about Titus, laudable goals for any biographer. His emphasis on details, however, sometimes misses opportunities to flesh out some of the larger connections between Titus's life and the nuances of the nineteenth century's drastic changes in the United States.

This quibble aside, de la Cova's *Colonel Henry Theodore Titus* stands as a deeply informative biography of Titus. The book's notes constitute a full one fourth of the volume's total length. De la Cova amasses enough evidence to convincingly argue that scholars should not study Colonel Titus as a footnote or curiosity in other people's stories but as a historical subject in his own right.

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*Rivers, Fish, and the People: Tradition, Science, and Historical Ecology of*

*Fisheries in the American West*. Edited by Pei-Lin Yu. (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2016. ix + 225. 15 halftones, 11 maps, 14 charts, notes, index. $40.00 paper, ISBN 978-1-60781-399-6.)

The archeological record shows that fishing along the Columbia and Snake Rivers increased in intensity over the last 10,000 years, especially during the last 1,500 years. The abundance of salmon has been critical to this expansion, but as this fine anthology shows, many other species were also important when the salmon failed to return to their traditional spawning grounds. To cope with a landscape altered by landslides and range fires, tribes needed a range of skills and alternative strategies. Traditional subsistence society was more organized and complex than we previously thought.

The people employed a wide range of strategies to reduce uncertainty in the world around them, including a belief system that included an extensive array of prohibited activities and tight social control over fishing locations. When the early European Americans arrived, they found river landscapes that were the result of millennia of Native activities that enhanced the productivity of the important local sources for salmon, lampreys, trout, whitefish, and even freshwater mussels. The tribes were resilient, able to cope with the constant change in the ecosystems around them. As volume editor Pei-Lin Yu writes in her introduction, no single traditional lifestyle dominated.

The collection brings together seven essays dealing with ecology, history, and evolution around fishing in the Pacific Northwest and the Sacramento River Valley. There are hefty chunks of geology, hydrology, oral histories, and archaeological and ethnographic research, which all work to vividly re-create how people interacted with the riverine landscape. This multidisciplinary perspective is environmental humanities at its best—a synthesis of science, social science, and the arts that creates new understandings of the human-river-fish relationships.

The volume opens with an analysis of the life history of salmon. Stephen J. Grabowski writes that salmon returning to the Columbia Basin brought marine nutrients to the rivers, enriching the streams for future production. His overview, however, would have been enhanced by some references before the 1980s, such as Craig and Hacker's work from 1940.

Yu and Jackie M. Cook vividly describe the complexity of organizing the annual salmon harvest. A successful fishing season demanded a sophisticated system of communications, rapid deployment of the labor force, regulation of access to the resource, rapid mass processing, and long-term storage. Men caught the fish, women cleaned and preserved them. Tool making was especially important, since a new knife might be needed to clean each large fish.

For the tribes on the Spokane River, the western pearlshell (Margaritif-

era falcata) was an important source of food as well as essential in enhancing habitat for other species. The mussels colonize rocky areas and rifts, areas important to many small invertebrates, including juvenile fish. They eat bacteria and algae, providing the oxygen necessary for salmon, sturgeon, and trout, according to Jason M. Jones. Mark G. Plew and Stacey Guinn show how the tribes were able to shift to other food supplies, such as camas, when fishing was disrupted.

Fishery biologists are increasingly using historic spatial distribution data to trace the distribution of trout species in the Columbia Basin. As Kevin J. Lyons points out, archeologists could bring a wealth of new information to these efforts, invigorating the argument for restoration and showing more clearly the benefits that could come by redirecting spending to improving habitat.

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*Shellfish for the Celestial Empire: The Rise and Fall of Commercial Abalone Fishing in California*. By Todd J. Braje. (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2016. xiv + 242 pp. 38 halftones, maps, 15 charts/tables, bibliography, index. $34.95 paper, ISBN 978-1-6078-1496-2.)

As gold fever seized the diverse population of mid-nineteenth-century California, a small group of Chinese realized that money could be made from marine resources, particularly the black abalone of southern and Baja California. The immigrants arrived, who with traditional Chinese fishing skills, founded California's commercial abalone industry and led its expansion for many years. By the final decades of the century, however, their livelihood was stolen through anti-Chinese legislation passed by the federal and California governments. The effort to rein in Chinese participation in the U. S. economy culminated in the racist Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882—one of the most significant restrictions on free immigration in U.S. history.

Today, commercial development has largely erased physical evidence of historical Chinese abalone fishing communities, but remnants of temporary abalone collecting and processing camps remain on California's Channel Islands. These archaeological sites hold a precious trove of information, stories, lifeways, and history. Archaeologist and author Todd Braje has excavated many of these sites. In *Shellfish for the Celestial Empire*, Braje explores the history of Chinese abalone fishing, beginning with a detailed description of the ecology of the abalone fishery. He also highlights the cultural backdrop by describing the historical sweep of Chinese explorers and mariners as enterprising commoners who made the

journey in the nineteenth century.

The book recognizes major economic contributions made by the Chinese abalone fishing community to the U.S. economy during the mid-nineteenth century. The Chinese are familiar characters in the legends of the American West including mining, infrastructure development, and the service industry. The abalone fishermen of the Channel Islands, however, are less well-known. Braje's archaeological research reveals fascinating patterning that suggests Chinese men (immigrants were overwhelmingly male, due to cultural and legal restrictions) intentionally selected large, mature abalone for several likely reasons. First, market forces favored the meat and shells of larger shellfish. Second, they were more efficient to harvest than smaller ones; and third, harvesting the largest individuals sustained the overall population. Similar to Chinese miners, the shell fishermen self-regulated their industry to cooperate toward sustainability and maximizing harvests. Next, the book describes the collapse of the Chinese abalone fishery after racist exclusion policies replaced Chinese fishermen with the profit-driven European American industry. The new industry destroyed habitats and deregulated abalone harvests, which led to near extinction of the shellfish.

Braje argues that the results of archaeological investigations can benefit restoration efforts. For example, the size and number of abalone shells found during his investigations indicate that abalone were hyperabundant during the mid-nineteenth century. The eradication of their primary predator, the sea otter, led to a 'trophic cascade' of very high abalone numbers. Therefore, restoration ecologists set unattainable expectations given rebounding sea otter populations. Additionally, archaeology provides intriguing echoes of prior ecosystems and their human partners, including archaeological data for habitat and species restoration, ancient wood and animal specimens found in alpine ice patches, and the discovery of controversial endangered species in estuary habitats.

Overall, Braje's book is a thought-provoking case history that presents a microcosm of the broader history of Chinese immigrants in America—their vision, struggles, successes, the institutionalized and everyday racism they confronted, and the unique ways in which they helped to shape the identity of the United States. That case history has implications that reach back to dynastic China and forward to the future of healthy ecosystems of North America.

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*Giant Sloths and Sabretooth Cats: Extinct Mammals and the Archaeology of the*

*Ice Age Great Basin*. By Donald K. Grayson. (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2016. xxvi + 421 pp. 69 halftones, 65 maps, 31 charts/tables, appendices, notes, references, index. $24.95 paper, ISBN 978-1-60781-469-6.)

There is a classic well-thumbed book that has been on my shelf for many years: Don Grayson's *The Desert's Past: A Natural Prehistory to the Great Basin* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1993). For this reason, I was excited to read his recent contribution, *Giant Sloths and Sabertooth Cats: Extinct Mammals and the Archaeology of the Ice Age Great Basin*. Throughout his career as an archaeologist and zooarchaeologist at the University of Washington, Grayson has grappled with major issues at the crossroads of anthropology and ecology. One of the most significant of these issues, both in terms of impact on multiple disciplines and in the number of articles and publications he has put forth through the years, has to do with the extinction of North America's megafauna at the end of the last Ice Age. Although these extinctions occurred over 12,000 years ago, our contemporary struggles with human-induced climate change, habitat fragmentation, and modern conservation priorities mean that the ghosts of ecosystems past still haunt the decisions we make today. This book is an excellent and highly accessible portal into the science of these extinctions. Although Grayson is clearly speaking from his vantage point as an archaeologist with expertise in the prehistory of the Great Basin (and western North America), any understanding of these extinctions must be put into a much-wider geographic context, which he accomplishes with ease. This review of the Ice Age fossil record in the region is entertaining reading to the lay person but still a good reference on the shelf of the working natural scientist.

Through seven chapters, Grayson discusses the natural history of the Great Basin, extinct fauna from the region, early peopling, and a number of historical—even entertaining—tangents. The book is well-illustrated with species distribution maps and a number of new reconstructions of extinct species (illustrated by Wally Woolfenden). However, at the end of the day, the author is still a scientist. So, this account is augmented by extensive notes and appendices that will satisfy most professionals. Overall, Grayson weaves an excellent story. Whether he is exploring conflicting, early interpretations of trackways preserved in sandstone at the Nevada State Prison (were they made by humans or giant ground sloths?), or looking for patterns in the distribution of Great Basin plants, he synthesizes the research from many different disciplines to identify patterns in the past. Furthermore, as a long-time practitioner of the prehistoric arts, he is quick to point out places where our knowledge is not as complete as we would like it to be. This is important to keep in mind as we grapple with difficult-to-test scenarios of the distant past, such as megafaunal extinctions or the effects of

giant herbivores on Great Basin plant communities. Like the Seattle Mariners, who always seem to disappoint (at least according to Grayson), the study of paleoecology is fraught with frustration. Science is a challenge, and it is refreshing to see a book that so eloquently conveys the difficulty—and pleasure—of gaining hard-won insights into the past.

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