
BOOK NOTES

Buying America from the Indians: Johnson v. McIntosh and the History of Native Land Rights. By Blake A. Watson. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2012, xiiv + 494 pages, cloth \$45.00.)

This study of the 1823 *Johnson v. McIntosh* U.S. Supreme Court decision, which created significant precedents governing Indian property rights or lack thereof, complements prior scholarship on the case by tracing how it sped up the sale of indigenous lands and further damaged Native property rights. *Buying America* is a thoroughly researched work that includes a critical look at the “doctrine of discovery” precedent established by *Johnson*, through which tribes became “wards” of the state and their land became U.S. property. The doctrine figured prominently in the 1830 Indian Removal Act, which forced the Illinois and Wabash tribes, among others, into Kansas, where they settled on the banks of the Marais des Cygnes River and remained until after the Civil War. The book closes with an investigation into the doctrine’s influence across the globe, highlighting how it diminished tribal sovereignty in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

The Farm at Holstein Dip: An Iowa Boyhood. By Carroll Engelhardt. (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2012, xii + 229 pages, paper \$22.00.)

“For me,” Carroll Engelhardt writes in this engaging memoir set on a family farm in rural Iowa in the 1940s and 1950s, “Holstein Dip represented natural beauty, innocent childhood pleasures, and adult secrets” (p. xi). The author’s story is also the story of a generation that grew up under the influence of conflicting values. While Engelhardt’s parents stressed thrift and piety, a larger national culture marked by consumerism and modernization forever changed Holstein Dip. This transition is vividly detailed through descriptions of the mechanization of agriculture, the resultant loss of community cooperation, and the struggles of dying towns to attract business. Concluding with a bittersweet look at present-day Elkader, a nearby town, Engelhardt’s recollections translate historical generalizations into real life.

Lincoln and the Indians: Civil War Policy and Politics. By David A. Nichols. (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2012, xviii + 223 pages, paper \$16.95, e-book \$9.99.)

First published in 1978 by the University of Missouri Press, *Lincoln and the Indians* has “stood the test of time,” according to scholars of the Civil War and the American Indian. It remains the most thorough treatment of the Lincoln administration’s Indian policy and its role in the infamous mass trial and execution of Native participants in the U.S.–Dakota War of 1862. Along with treatment of that case, in *Lincoln and the Indians* historian David Nichols gives careful attention to the inherently corrupt “Indian System” and to events in Kansas and the Indian Territory, from the ill-fated “invasion” to the refugee tragedy of 1861 and 1862. Without overemphasizing the attention given to these issues during the war, Nichols demonstrates that, for President Lincoln, “Indian affairs were

inextricably enmeshed in a labyrinth of financial, political, social, and military problems” (p. 1).

State of War: The Political Economy of American Warfare, 1945–2011. By Paul A. C. Koistinen. (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2012, xiii + 313 pages, cloth \$39.99.)

State of War is the final volume of a five-book study detailing the political economy of American warfare throughout the nation’s history. Focusing on the Cold War and post–Cold War years, Koistinen identifies the relationships between political, economic, and military institutions that have primarily determined how the nation harnessed its economic power for war. In the second half of the century, American industries could no longer suit the needs of the military in wartime because of increasingly sophisticated military technologies. These technological advances, Koistinen argues, led to the development of a powerful military-industrial complex, which, just as President Eisenhower feared in his farewell address, has crippled American political and economic institutions and the military itself.

8 Wonders of Kansas! Guidebook. By Marci Penner. (Newton, Kans.: Mennonite Press, Inc., 2011, 272 pages, paper \$29.95.)

Perhaps in repudiation of the frequently made and erroneous assertion that “there’s nothing to see or do in Kansas,” Marci Penner, director of the Kansas Sampler Foundation, has gathered overwhelming evidence to the contrary in *The 8 Wonders of Kansas! Guidebook*. This edited collection of 216 photographs by Harland Schuster, all introduced by detailed text, illustrates the results of a contest in which a hundred thousand respondents voted for the “wonders” in Kansas. Each of nine categories—overall, architecture, art, commerce, cuisine, customs, geography, history, and people—include eight wonders. “Overall finalist Wonders” are selected for each category. Wonder what is in it? Proof that indeed there is much today to do and see in Kansas.

Portrait of Murdock Pemberton: The New Yorker’s First Art Critic. By Sally Pemberton. (Enfield, N.H.: Enfield Publishing and Distribution Co., 2011, 408 pages, cloth \$88.00.)

Born in Emporia in 1888, Murdock Pemberton was a reporter for William Allen White’s *Emporia Gazette* and a publicist for George Creel’s Committee on Public Information during World War I. After moving to New York, he helped form a well-known series of literary lunches known as the Algonquin Round Table and became the *New Yorker’s* art critic upon the magazine’s creation in 1925. In this portrait Pemberton’s granddaughter chronicles his seven years at the *New Yorker* through well-written text, lavish reprints of paintings, and reproductions of letters from leading artists such as Joseph Stieglitz and Georgia O’Keeffe. The result is a beautiful coffee-table book and, because the author discovered much of the material in her mother’s attic only in 2009, an invaluable new resource for students of modern art.