
BOOK NOTES

The Dairies of John Gregory Bourke: Volume Five, May 23, 1881–August 26, 1881. Edited and annotated by Charles M. Robinson III. (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2013, xiv + 482 pages, cloth \$55.00.)

As mentioned in the journal's note on volume four of his diaries in the winter 2010–2011 issue, John Gregory Bourke was aide-de-camp to Brigadier General George Crook and a firsthand witness to the early Apache campaigns, the Great Sioux War, the Cheyenne Outbreak, and the Geronimo War. He also was a prolific diarist, filling 124 manuscript volumes with notes, sketches, and photographs. Volume five, edited and annotated by Charles M. Robinson III, finds Bourke at Fort Wingate, New Mexico, in May 1881; on the Pine Ridge Agency; and back in the Southwest among the Zunis, the Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Hopis. This fifth volume is of special interest "because it is the first to deal almost exclusively with Bourke's ethnological research" and is also noteworthy for its treatment of the Sun Dance (p. 1). It is effectively annotated and includes an appendix of "Persons Mentioned in the Diary" with brief biographical sketches of each.

Harry S. Truman: The Coming of the Cold War. By Nicole L. Anslover. (New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2014, x + 225 pages, paper \$29.95.)

In this fine little biography of the nation's thirty-third president for the Routledge Historical Americans series, Nicole L. Anslover, effectively situates Harry S. Truman and his presidency in the context of his times. The author clearly states the book's primary objective at the outset: "to demonstrate the lasting impact that Truman had on American society and America's role in the world" (p. vii). And she does so in seven concise chapters—beginning with Truman's life experiences before 1945 and ending with his post-presidency back in Independence, Missouri—and a "Document Log" that should make the volume especially conducive to classroom use. Although Anslover's subtitle seems to promise a focus on foreign relations, there is plenty of domestic policy and politics as well, including coverage of the mostly ill-fated Fair Deal and "the Miracle of '48" (p. 98).

Kenneth and Helen Spencer of Kansas: Champions of Culture and Commerce in the Sunflower State. By Kenneth F. Crockett. (Charleston, S.C.: The History Press, 2014, 206 pages, paper \$21.99.)

Although their names live on in places like the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas and the Kenneth A. Spencer Chemistry Building at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, most Kansans are probably unaware of the eponymous couple's history. Kenneth F. Crockett seeks to reintroduce Kansans to this philanthropic duo in *Kenneth and Helen Spencer of Kansas*. Drawing heavily from Kenneth's and Helen's manuscript collections, Crockett relates how Kenneth Spencer worked his way up in the family business, Pittsburg and Midway Coal Mining Company (P&M), in the 1930s, and, proving his own ability as an industrialist, founded the Spencer Chemical Company. Helen, who greatly supported Kenneth yet remained aloof from business management during their marriage, became more active in the family business upon her husband's death in 1960. She also became a leading philanthropist in her own right by directing the Kenneth and Helen Spencer Foundation. Crockett pays tribute to a Kansas couple that generously gave back to their native state.

Meaningful Places: Landscape Photographers in the Nineteenth-Century American West. By Rachel McLean Sailor. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2014, xxviii + 207 pages, cloth \$45.00.)

Minnehaha Falls, Minnesota, the Big Mound near St. Louis, and the Grand Canyon are a few of the places that Rachel Sailor writes about in *Meaningful Places*. Drawing from archival collections from all over the West, Sailor demonstrates the role that landscape photographs played in perpetuating the national conception of a frontier and how "local communities found site-specific meaning in images of the local and regional places they inhabited" (p. xix). For example, Crater Lake, Oregon, ringed by a mountainous crown, appealed to local settlers because it evoked "completion and culmination," whereas Yosemite Valley, a gateway to mist shrouded mountains, denoted "beginning" and appealed to the national concept of manifest destiny (p. 71). Late nineteenth-century photographers, explains Sailor, conveyed these ideas through deliberately chosen perspectives. Rich with pictures, *Meaningful Places* teases out the layers of meaning in late nineteenth-century western photography and recounts the experiences of some fascinating, albeit lesser known, landscape photographers.

An Osage Journey to Europe, 1827–1830: Three French Accounts. Edited and translated by William Least Heat-Moon and James K. Wallace. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2013, xiii + 154, cloth \$29.95.)

In 1827, for reasons not entirely clear, four Osage men and two Osage women travelled to Europe and toured France, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Italy. Initially, European spectators vied with each other for glimpses of the Osage sojourners, but when their New World novelty wore off the six companions were reduced to begging for their return fare. Travel writer and historian William Least Heat-Moon and James K. Wallace, professor emeritus of French at the University of Missouri, compiled and translated three obscure contemporary French booklets that document the Osage's trip to Europe. The editors explain how "the booklets present a telling picture of two cultures from different hemispheres . . . each trying to make sense of the other during a massive re-ordering of society" (p. 23). In addition to the documents, readers will appreciate *An Osage Journey's* explanatory footnotes and its vibrant color illustrations of the Osage travelers.

Fried Walleye and Cherry Pie: Midwestern Writers on Food. Edited by Peggy Wolff. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2013, xvii + 258 pages, paper \$19.95.)

In *Fried Walleye and Cherry Pie*, editor Peggy Wolff brings together thirty authors to reminisce about the significance of food to midwestern culture and their own experiences of living in the heartland. In this collection of "stories told around and about the table," contributors remember county fairs, corndogs, cherry pie and homemade fudge (p. xiv). Yet while some authors long for comfort foods made with recipes found on box tops, others point to the region's diverse food culture influenced by migrants from around the U.S. as well as from Europe, Latin America, and Asia. Authors share local secrets, like the hot dog truck in Ann Arbor, Michigan, that sells Hungarian paprikash, and remind us that the corn so ubiquitous on the highways of Indiana becomes both General Mills breakfast cereal and fresh tamales with spinach. Many stories include recipes, from Bundt cake made with instant pudding to goat cheese panna cotta. Through its tour of midwestern fare, *Fried Walleye and Cherry Pie* emphasizes the importance of examining this often overlooked region to current food studies.