



REVIEW OF TEXAS BOOKS



PUBLISHED BY LAMAR UNIVERSITY - BEAUMONT

Volume IX

FALL 1994

Number 4

★★★★★ FICTION ★★★★★

Cobb, William. *THE FIRE EATERS*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1994. 316p. Hardcover: \$22.00, ISBN 0-393-03581-6. 93-11534.

Damon is the youngest child of an assortment of eight brothers and sisters and stepsiblings of various sizes, shapes, and demeanors. His grandfather was a black jazz musician and his father was an alcoholic who shot himself, leaving behind a gray ear in a Mason jar full of coarse salt and the 12-gauge gun. Damon grows up, as children do, full of shame from various sources; one by one he loses the things that had made his childhood bearable, but with each person, place, or thing that gets taken away, the nets that hold his brothers and sisters loosen from him, and he grows away from his childhood shames. The novel is developed episodically and ends with Damon attending his brother Louis' memorial service (the modern Catholic church, it seems, will now consecrate the ashes of a suicide who shoots himself with his daddy's 12-gauge). A thread of grim humor runs through the book, lightening some of the passages, and there is a strangely uplifting quality of voice which could be confused with the narrator's stubborn refusal to be defeated, but which is more likely some genuine quality of Cobb's elemental self. Images of Texas are effectively woven into the novel's fabric, lending further credence to the story's authentic feel. Cobb has won numerous awards in fiction and nonfiction, has been published widely in popular and academic periodicals, and was awarded an NEA grant in fiction for 1992-3. He currently teaches creative writing and literature at the University of North Texas in Denton.

Andrew B. Preslar

Cooner, Donna D. *TWELVE DAYS IN TEXAS*. Dallas: Hendrick-Long Publishing Co., 1994. 29p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$7.95, ISBN 0-937460-85-0. 94-8755. (Juvenile)

Patterned after the ever-popular *Twelve Days of Christmas*, Donna D. Cooner's *Twelve Days in Texas* takes on a Texas flavor as it cumulatively builds from day to day adding things which are familiar, and at times, peculiar to Texas. On the twelfth day of this tale however, readers will find an unexpected twist. A glossary of Texas things is included at the end of this tale with ample details to give the readers information about such things as mockingbirds, armadillos, and javelinas that they might not have known. The illustrations by Bob Leland are done in tones of browns and blues on white and depict the growing scene from day to day.

Cumulative tales have been popular with children for genera-

tions, and this one should put smiles on children's faces in Texas.

Andrea R. Karlin

★★★★★ EDITOR'S CHOICE ★★★★★

García, Lionel. *TO A WIDOW WITH CHILDREN*. Houston: Arte Público Press, 1994. 263p. Hardcover: \$19.95, ISBN 1-55885-069-4. 93-36397.

In this heartwarming, humorous, and wise tale, Lionel García presents a poor and backward South Texas village much like the South Texas town of San Diego where García grew up. The lives of the beautiful, poor widow and her four loving but mischievous children are interwoven with the stories of a memorable assortment of local residents whose only amusements are observing the eccentricities and foibles of each other and the annual raffle of Father Non. When an aging Mexican Revolutionary soldier, Argumedo, comes to town, he captures the interest of the people, including the widow, and her children, who want him to marry their mother. Lively subplots involve Sheriff Manuel who plots to have the court send the four children to an orphanage, the telegraphist who pines for a mysterious lover in Laredo, and the children's desire to earn money to travel to San Antonio. Father Non teaches the children the "wonders of life": that we all have a duty to fulfill, that death is inevitable, and that being close to others feels good, but this same closeness opens us to pain. Yet Matias, one of the sons, explains, "I would rather be close and feel the pain." And the other children agree. Finally, Argumedo, suffused with love, admits he cannot remain distant from the widow with children. In a magical ending, the pair marry with rings made by the boys from iron and magnetic filings, making it impossible for the new bride and groom to separate their hands at their marriage. In a further bit of whimsy, at the party after their wedding, the author writes: "There was enough belching that the crowd created a cloud of gas which, with the help of the moonlight, helped illuminate the dance." With an ending like that, can we doubt that they all will live happily ever after?

Lionel García resides in Seabrook, Texas, where he practices veterinary medicine. He is the author of three prize-winning novels: *Leaving Home*, *A Shroud in the Family* (Vol.II, No.3), and *Hardscrub* (Vol.IV, No.4), which won the Texas Institute of Letters Best Novel Award and the Southwestern Booksellers Association's Texas Literary Award. García is a talented writer

Sally Dooley



Ernestine Sewell Linck

Frances M. Ramsey

Joe Nordgren

In this collection of seventeen short stories, mostly written in the 1940s, Américo Paredes challenges "the unqualified racism of Anglo American representations" of certain historical events. The cultural boundaries that arise from these prejudices are represented metaphorically in the references to language and physical barriers that permeate the stories. From the aftermath of the border conflicts of 1915 to 1917 in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of South Texas to the Korean War, Paredes' vignettes portray both children and adults who struggle--often unwittingly--with the quest for cultural identity. This theme is epitomized in the title story and continues through the last story, in which cultural sensibility is symbolized by an order for chili con carne in "An American Dish." Paredes depicts characters caught between their Mexican cultural traditions and American modernism in a sympathetic light, but he also pokes fun at "the macho role of manhood" in a few of the selections. In these stories, largely told in the first person, Paredes conveys a sense of alienation imposed upon non-Anglo Americans (including blacks and Japanese Americans as well) by subordination of

their cultural heritage.

Américo Paredes is a Professor Emeritus of English and Anthropology at the University of Texas in Austin. An excellent introduction provides the historical and conceptual context behind these stories and other works by this award-winning poet and scholar.

Sarah Tusa

Perry, George Sessions. *WALLS RISE UP. A NOVEL*. New York: Doubleday Doren, 1939. Reprint. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1994. 154p. Hardcover: \$19.95, ISBN 0-87565-126-7. 93-37785.

This well-designed reprint (No. 21, Texas Tradition series) includes a useful foreword and an originally censored chapter. A Depression era picaresque, the novel was Perry's first. The hobo characters, Jimmy, Mike, and Eddie, maintain a rife and perverse logic throughout the work, attesting to the author's success as a satirist. Jimmy's profile is the strongest. Perry's goal, to show that Jimmy can get anyone to do anything for him, is particularly appropriate to the era in which the work is set. Too, it is probably this character which brought about this novel's sizeable success as a WWII issue to recruits.

Perry (1910-1956) lived a short but prolific life. Born in Rockdale, Texas, he wrote primarily of life in Central Texas. One of his novels, *Hold Autumn in Your Hand*, won the first National Book Award bestowed and was later adapted to film (*The Southerner*, 1945). This author is a significant member of Texas literary history; in fact, I wouldn't mind introducing a course in late American literature with this work; it evinces the strong influence of both Steinbeck and Twain in a short, fun read. TCU deserves recognition for this publication for everything from selecting it to approving a cover design. One comment to the series editor, however: proofread more carefully. The back flap of the book jacket includes a distracting fragment.

Robin M. Latimer

Powell, Mary. *QUEEN OF THE AIR: THE STORY OF KATHERINE STINSON*. Dallas: Coldwater Press, Inc., 1993. 120p. Paperback: \$8.95, ISBN 1-880384-07-8.

If a little pedestrian in style, this fictional biography pays off with facts. This is history we want to know, all of us. Stinson was a major player in early aviation history; called the Flying School girl, she made her mark in such areas as mileage, distance, application, and airplane design. She flew mail, toured internationally, and, with her family's support, became lead instructor at the family business in San Antonio, the Stinson Flying School. Her disappointments are chronicled here as well: the daily scoffing and sexism she faced, the rejection of her offer to General Pershing to help vanquish Pancho Villa, and her failed effort to become a military pilot. This attempt was clearly made more in regard for the war than her own career as she later grounded herself in a Red Cross ambulance service in France, where she was wounded.

Coldwater Press specializes in juvenile books and is releasing videos and study guides to accompany the texts. The video

"Queen of the Air" is available now.

Robin M. Latimer

Shiner, Lewis. *GLIMPSES*. New York: William Morrow & Co., Inc., 1994. 331p. Hardcover: \$21.00, ISBN 0-688-12411-9. 93-33.

Prospective purchasers of this fine novel should not be put off--or lured on--by the dust jacket rave by Dr. Timothy Leary, Harvard's own Captain Mushroom, or the cover's Day-Glo montage featuring McCartney/Lennon, Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison (the Doors), and Brian Wilson (the Beach Boys), because this is a serious, important work of fiction. Rock and roll of the late 1960s and early 1970s is the prevailing theme and also provides the unique device by which the narrator takes a magical mystery tour of self-discovery. But one doesn't have to know or care about the music to appreciate and enjoy Lewis Shiner's spare, true prose. While much of the action is in the Austin of 1989, there are also contemporaneous and flashback trips to Los Angeles, Seattle, Cozumel, and London, with all of it, past and present, thoroughly researched and thoughtfully realized. In addition to rock music and the blasted tragic lives of four of its most luminous stars, the author writes well and passionately about parents and children, men and women, blue water diving, electronics and the recording business, and a troubling form of mysticism, all set against the events of the times.

Shiner, a San Antonio resident, is worthy, at least on the strength of this effort, of having his name spoken in the same sentence with the likes of Richard Ford, Richard Price, and a handful of accomplished younger craftsmen of fiction. At \$21.00 in cloth, the book is a bargain.

Tanner T. Hunt, Jr.

Ward, Dorys. *MIKE'S OIL PATCH*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1994. 88p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Hardcover: \$11.95, ISBN 0-89015-920-3. 94-2908.

Visiting his grandparents in Kilgore, Texas, during the summer, Mike, a seventh grader, researches a science project on oil and also matures through varied experiences with his peers. His grandfather, a roughneck in his youth, relates oil history, geology, and technology in a manner interesting to Mike and the middle-school reader. Interspersed with the oil industry research is Mike's daily routine with his loving grandparents and the group of friends he makes. Several of the boys and girls have problems concerned with death, divorce, alcoholism, and affluence; Ward deals with these in sensitively written subplots. In *Oil Patch*, all the problems are solved more neatly and tidily than they are in real life, but this is a pleasant book whose depictions of preadolescents are realistic.

Sally Dooley

POETRY

Taylor-Edwards, Cynthia, and Toby Emert, Cindy Huyser, David Meischen, John Smolinski. *LAYERS*. Austin: Plain View Press, 1994. 115p. Paperback: \$13.95, ISBN 0-911051-75-9. 94-066467.

The best thing about *Layers* is its beautiful professional cover by Daryl Howard, a layering of mixed media, symbolic of the layering of ideas and images in the works of the five poets included here. *Layers* is the result of an eight-month long workshop held by Plain View Press Publishing Lab. The young poets write about the things that trouble or intrigue them, and as Cynthia Taylor-Edwards says, "people have changed / for the worse instead of better." Emert speaks of "sifting through a worn collection of rusted memories," although these young poets' memories cannot go very deep as yet. However, their memories do record vivid scenes of butchering, milking, plowing, and events of long ago. But they do address the present as Taylor-Edwards asks, "do we love our children / enough to / show them what words really mean." Smolinski graphically describes the horrible act of a four-year-old girl, the shocker of this collection. One of the strongest pieces is "Mantra" by Meischen, protesting: "liars all / of us pretending innocence pretending we didn't / know killers you and me with every bite of poisoned / fruit ingesting carcinogens . . ." But Huyser's poems offer quiet, even sad, reminiscence: "what was done to me / a long time ago" and "all this touch, too much / like the past, the echoes / of abuse that last / and last."

These poets are difficult to evaluate because the work of each was not grouped together. Most of their work reflects their youth, and this reviewer wonders how they will write in five years, in ten years from now.

Violette Newton

Phillips, Robert. *BREAKDOWN LANE*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994. 74p. Hardcover: \$30.00, ISBN 0-8018-4854-7; Paperback: \$12.95, ISBN 0-8018-4855-5. 93-438136.

Breakdown Lane follows Robert Phillips' volume of selected poems, *Personal Accounts*, by eight years and collects work from his 1993 chapbook from Wings Press, *Face to Face*. With his autobiographical subjects and offhand humor, Phillips offers a poetry that is accessible to general readers yet complex enough to satisfy those who demand that poems be more than entertaining. As one might expect from an author who wrote a serious critical study of the confessional poets, the title poem is not talking about mere automotive matters: "No one stops, / I don't want them to, it's my breakdown, / I earned it, I'll just stagger / toward the horizon, not / knowing what's ahead, whether there is / a finish line, or why I am crying / on the shoulder." The poet excels in balancing feeling with wit, especially in his love lyrics. One of these catches the high tension of desire: "Your walk has feet like prosody. / As you enter a room, I come aware -- / the shudder of the hound scenting the hare." Another, "The Stone Crab: A Love Poem," observes how the crab's claw is broken off again and again; in the same way the eternally hopeful lover wonders about himself, "How many losses / can he endure? Well, / his shell is hard, the sea is wide. / Something vital broken off, he doesn't / nurse the wound; develops something new." Phillips directs the creative writing program at the University of Houston.

R. S. Gwynn

★ ★ ★ NONFICTION ★ ★ ★

ARCHITECTURE

Barnstone, Howard. *THE GALVESTON THAT WAS*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1966. Reprint. Houston: Rice University Press, 1993. 231p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$39.95, ISBN 0-89263-326-3. 93-44052.

Rice University Press, in collaboration with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and with George and Cynthia Mitchell, has republished this extraordinary coffee-table book filled with achingly beautiful black-and-white photographs by world-renowned Henri Cartier-Bresson and by Ezra Stoller, vice-president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Howard Barnstone, distinguished professor at the University of Houston's School of Architecture, wrote the original commentary with anecdotes and references providing insight and empathy for each structure. The current Rice University Press editors have augmented his elucidations with updated information and notes.

Serving as an excellent resource of Texas history and a thorough record of Galveston landmarks, the book also forms a most significant catalog of the work of pre-eminent early Texas architect Nicholas J. Clayton. The photographs are large and capture both the architectural detail as well as evoke the sense of history and passage of time. At the time of its first publication, Galveston residents were stirred to consider a historical preservation movement, and by the late 1960s, buildings in the Strand were being restored. Tourists today can hardly imagine what Galveston would be without the extensive restorations. Recommended to every library and Texas history enthusiast.

Cynthia Calvert

ART AND THE MEXICAN WAR

Goetzmann, William H. *SAM CHAMBERLAIN'S MEXICAN WAR: THE SAN JACINTO MUSEUM OF HISTORY PAINTINGS*. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1993. 207p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$49.50, ISBN 0-87611-131-2. 93-21480.

Some of the most controversial legacies of the Mexican War are the writings and paintings of Samuel Emery Chamberlain, a young American soldier of sixteen. His memoirs, which were completed after the turn-of-the century, tell of his wartime experiences; his paintings, which include 147 watercolors owned by the San Jacinto Museum, present graphic images of many major events of the conflict. However, by conventional measurements, Chamberlain is not a very reliable historical source. Often his stories are little more than romantic fantasies; some of his paintings depict events that he could not possibly have witnessed and include scenes that contain many inaccuracies. Consequently, many historians view his work with skepticism, although other knowledgeable scholars consider it to be a valuable resource in their study of the Mexican War.

Chamberlain's writings and paintings will continue to be a source of debate for historians, but most readers will find this volume to be pleasing. It contains 156 reproductions of his

Mexican War paintings, most, but not all, from the San Jacinto Museum collection. Professor Goetzmann's opening essay and notations for each painting are written with grace and humor, and the full-color art reproduction is well done. Chamberlain's talent as a creative artist is open to question, but some of his paintings are quite beautiful. Otherwise, useful maps have been included and a partially annotated bibliography offers assistance to those who wish to study the topic further.

Adrian N. Anderson

BIOGRAPHY

Trujillo, Nick. *THE MEANING OF NOLAN RYAN*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1994. 163p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$24.50, ISBN 0-89096-574-9; Paperback: ISBN 0-89096-575-7. 93-28038.

Trujillo outlines many interesting sociological theses, not the least of which is that Ryan is a "safe sex symbol," whose rugged, clean-cut good looks appeal to women and whose traditional, mainstream masculinity appears unthreatening to other men. He is marketable to a broad base of Americans, a fact borne out by his many successful advertisements (Bic, Wrangler, Nike, Whataburger, etc.) In addition, Ryan's rural Texas upbringing and current small town lifestyle are appealing in that they hearken back to baseball's pastoral beginnings. Some of the less stellar aspects of Ryan's career are explored frankly in this book. He has been, after all, not much more than a .500 pitcher, having the misfortune to play for an assortment of weak teams. What is hard to ignore, however, are the remarkable number of wins, strikeouts, and the unimaginable no-hitters and near no-hitters. This well-written book chronicles the pure heroism of Nolan Ryan's career in a scholarly yet accessible fashion, and it should appeal to a wide range of readers, in academic as well as public and school libraries.

David Carroll

CHRISTIAN LIFE

Lucado, Max. *WHEN GOD WHISPERS YOUR NAME*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1994. 243p. Hardcover: \$18.99, ISBN 0-8499-1099-4. 94-17302.

Popular San Antonio minister Max Lucado states his purpose for his newest book: to encourage and offer hope to people in spite of the failures of institutions and humanity. Seeking to remind people of God's personality in the twenty-eight brief chapters, he brings vitality and immediacy to familiar passages of the Bible. His comments and anecdotes relate Scripture to everyday events in today's world. For example, the parable of the rich fool becomes the parable of the portfolio. In sharp, punchy sentences, Lucado makes his points, simplifying what others could develop into heavy, long theological treatises. His insightful interpretations are instructive for those desiring a more spiritual dimension to their lives. Forgiving, overcoming one's heritage, having fun, and tithing are only several of the topics covered. For individual or group study, the book concludes with questions for each chapter designed to stimulate thinking and referring to Bible passages on the subject under

discussion. Lucado is the author of *In the Eye of the Storm* (Vol.VII,No.1) and *He Still Moves Stones* (Vol.VIII,No.3,4) among others.

Sally Dooley

FITNESS AND HEALTH

North, Larry. *GET FIT!* Fort Worth: The Summit Group, 1993. 243p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$22.95, ISBN 1-56530-026-2.

With all the fitness and diet books on the market today, this one is brazenly subtitled "The Last Fitness Book You Will Ever Need." That's good, but is it true? Larry North, a Dallas personal trainer, host of a radio fitness talk show, and owner of a popular Highland Park gym, writes in a hip, conversational style, appealing to people who want to get in shape but have tried frequently and failed. As do most fitness experts, North encourages exercise three to five times weekly for forty-five to sixty minutes per session, and he sees weight training for building muscles as so important that 100 pages of description and illustrations are given to the subject. This is an overkill because he also stresses the importance of learning from a professional trainer the correct way to lift weights to avoid injury. Realizing that people will cheat, have setbacks, and fail, North gives pep talks on the need to persevere and return to healthy routines. But the straight and narrow in eating and exercising he advocates may be difficult for all but the most disciplined. This book could make a difference in the lives of some overweight, sedentary individuals, but I doubt this will be the last fitness book you'll need. Too much research is being conducted into nutrition and exercise to be safe in making such a broad claim.

Sally Dooley

Goldberg, Ken, M.D. *HOW MEN CAN LIVE AS LONG AS WOMEN: SEVEN STEPS TO A LONGER AND BETTER LIFE*. Fort Worth: The Summit Group, 1993. 241p. Illustrations. Hardcover: \$22.95, ISBN 1-56530-025-4. 93-38419.

A urologist and founder of the Male Health Center (1989) in Dallas, Doctor Kenneth Goldberg takes preventative aim at the medical reality that women generally outlive men by an average of seven years. Since there is no physiological explanation for this fact, he argues that men's attitudes about their health must change if they intend to extend the longevity and enhance the quality of their lives. Rather than deteriorate into a vacuous pep talk, Goldberg carefully maps out seven things men can do to assume greater control of their well-being. He begins with instructions for tracing and recording one's family medical history and ends with cautionary recommendations about sexually transmitted diseases.

Each of the book's eight chapters conforms to a tight structure: a personal narrative is followed by a topical analysis leading to a question-and-answer section and finally a list of hotlines for organizations and agencies that specifically deal with the health issue being discussed. Within this format, Goldberg offers step-by-step directions for doing self-exams to detect signs of threats such as testicular cancer, irregular pulse rates, and high blood pressure. He educates men about how to select a physician willing to act as a "health partner," and his guidelines for aerobic and strength training and warnings about the ten leading causes of early death are of particular interest.

Nearly the entire second half of the book is devoted to sexual impotency and STDs. In these hundred pages, professional terminology and detailed cause/effect analyses seem embedded to underscore Goldberg's expertise and thus verge on being self-promoting. Nonetheless, men (and women concerned about the men with whom they are intimate) seeking healthier lives will find *How Men Can Live as Long as Women* a comprehensive and exceptionally pragmatic guide.

Joe Nordgren

Trexler, Sandra D. and Michael Trexler. **BYE BYE BABY FAT.** Fort Worth: The Summit Group, 1994. 330p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$24.95, ISBN 1-56530-131-5. 94-8918.

A handy self-help manual for new moms, this instructive work by first-time husband and wife author team, Sandra Trexler, Ed.D. and Michael Trexler, Ph.D., is packed with advice on care of the post-baby whole person, mind and body. In a somewhat negative start, Sandra Trexler deals with the emotional downside of having a baby, but the book takes a turn for the better as she elaborates ways a new mom can speed up her recovery, deal with postpartum blues, and understand the relationship between stress and health. "Postpartum Marriage Conflict," written by both, is a short and sweet look at how both sexes can work to make things better. Many of the comments, especially those in "How Daddy Can Help" are invaluable. The second section sets forth a plan for "Body Contouring" and a lifetime approach to eating that the Trexlers would rather not refer to as a diet. A solid, sensible plan is set forth, complete with exercise walking charts and full menus to follow. As a whole, *Bye Bye Baby Fat* presents a well-rounded plan of attack for those suffering from post-baby blues. The Trexlers were previously associated with the Cooper Aerobics Center in Dallas.

Sally Lombardo

FOLKLORE

Abernethy, Francis Edward, ed. **LEGENDARY LADIES OF TEXAS.** 2d ed. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1994. 237p. Illustrations. Index. Paperback: \$17.95, ISBN 0-929398-75-0. 94-16318.

This collection of twenty-six essays is the forty-third publication of the Texas Folklore Society, compiled with the cooperation of the Texas Foundation of Women's Resources, specifically with the help of Mary Beth Rogers. Rogers addresses its value: history "records facts; legends place women in cultural contexts of beliefs and behavior." Whether saints or sinners, these women's spirited activities live on in legend and contribute to the unique story of Texas.

To realize the scope of female experience in Texas, we read of the archetypal weeping woman, *La Llorona*; the bandit Belle Starr; Sophia Porter, a Scarlet O'Hara; the outrageous Elisabet Ney; Ma Ferguson; Bonnie Parker; Electra Waggoner; Janis Joplin; the incredible Babe Didrikson; and others. Recommended are two well-researched chapters: Mary Nye's "Elisabet Ney" and Mary Kay Knief's "The Babe." And do read the editor's prefatory confessional "In which [he] searches his soul [for his

concept of womanhood and] encounters the need for an agonizing reappraisal."

Ernestine Sewell Linck

GAME MANAGEMENT

Mungall, Elizabeth Cary and William J. Sheffield. **EXOTICS ON THE RANGE: THE TEXAS EXAMPLE.** College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1994. 265p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$49.50, ISBN 0-89096-399-1. 93-24131.

The authors of this book use their considerable expertise to bring together a substantial amount of detailed information on a diversity of topics relevant to the introduction and management of exotic hoofed mammals. Historical data about the origin and fate of introduced species provides an interesting and informative background for the discussions of care and management of established herds in Texas. The book is organized to present information in a logical sequence, beginning with the historical aspects, followed by details of the eight exotics established in Texas, and ending with a large section covering the management of exotics, including stock selection, handling, food requirements, and possible income options derived from managed exotic herds. Overall, the book is well written and documented. The specialized nature of the topic will probably appeal to a limited audience consisting of hunters, ranchers, and wildlife managers, but a broader readership might exist among those interested in issues associated with nature, history, and wildlife/natural resources. The reference section is especially useful because in addition to their alphabetical listing, references are also grouped by subject, making further study of a particular topic much easier.

Michael W. Haiduk

GARDENING

Garrett, J. Howard. **HOWARD GARRETT'S ORGANIC MANUAL.** rev.ed. Fort Worth: The Summit Group, 1993. 203p. Illustrations. Index. Paperback: \$16.95, ISBN 1-56530-082-3.

This is a complete guide to organic gardening, a scientific system that works with nature to promote healthy yards and gardens without the use of toxic chemicals or artificial fertilizers. In a simple, easy-to-follow style, Garrett, a popular radio talk show host and *Dallas Morning News* columnist, explains that healthy soil is dependent on a balance and interdependence of chemistry, biology, and physics. Chapter headings describe the topics he covers: "Healthy Soils," "Plant Varieties," "Planting Techniques," "Maintenance," "Pest Control," and "Products." Together with the informative text, the appendixes and glossary make this book an excellent resource for the experienced or novice gardener. While this is a guide for everyone, Garrett's previous two books, *Texas Organic Gardening* (Vol.VIII, No.2) and *Landscape Design...Texas Style* (Vol.I, No.2) are specifically for Texas and its many vegetation zones.

Sally Dooley

Garrett, J. Howard. **PLANTS OF THE METROPLEX III.** Dallas: Lantana, 1975. Reprint. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994. 90p. Illustrations. Index. Paperback: \$17.95, ISBN

0-292-72775-5. 94-2110.

This reprint contains over 300 color photos of plants for the metroplex together with clear and concise information on the cultivation, uses, and problems of each plant. Since this book covers the Dallas metropolitan area, which includes Dallas and Tarrant counties and the eight counties that surround them, the guide will be a popular addition to school, public, and personal libraries there. The first fourteen pages of the book are devoted to practical pointers for beginning gardeners on such basics as soil preparation, planting, watering, fertilizing, and pest control. Garrett then goes through the various plants with advice on which to plant and which to avoid because they are short-lived, disease prone, or troublesome. A glossary further aids those interested in improving their gardening skills.

Sally Dooley

HISTORY

Breeden, James O., ed. *A LONG RIDE IN TEXAS: THE EXPLORATIONS OF JOHN LEONARD RIDDELL*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1994. 144p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$24.50, ISBN 0-89096-582-X. 93-27569.

Although Ferdinand Roemer, a trained scientist who wrote an account of his travel in Texas, is a well-known name to readers of nineteenth-century Texas history, few are familiar with the travel narrative of John Leonard Riddell, a scientist who visited Texas almost ten years before Roemer. Yet, Riddell left a detailed botanical and geological description of eastern and central Texas, observations on animal life, and revealing comments on Texas communities during the early years of the Texas Republic. He made two visits to Texas in 1839, the first into southeastern regions and the second by way of Galveston, Houston, and San Antonio into the Hill Country area. On his second visit, a venture with an expedition in search of the "lost" gold mines of San Saba, Riddell kept a diary describing the events of his travels and recording his observations on the land and its life. The diary and an article by Riddell describing the geology of the Trinity River region are the bases for the book.

Professor Breeden's edited version of the diary is a scholarly and valuable contribution to our understanding of mid-nineteenth century Texas. His preface and introduction provide a brief but reasonably complete biography of Riddell. Extensive endnotes sometimes only add a bit of interest; however, they often are the key to understanding a particular entry. Readers who are interested in the gold mines of San Saba will be disappointed; Riddell seldom mentions the unsuccessful search. But his observations on the land and its people will not disappoint.

Adrian N. Anderson

Carter, Kathryn Turner. *STAGECOACH INNS OF TEXAS*. rev.ed. Austin: Eakin Press, 1994. 254p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$22.95, ISBN 0-89015-914-9. 93-48190.

First published in 1972 and now updated in 1994, author Kathryn Turner Carter has compiled an informative inventory of forty-two past and present structures which served as stagecoach inns in Texas during the state's Republic and early statehood days. In the first chapter, the author describes how Texas inns varied from being "a crude log settler's hut to an elaborate hotel."

Firsthand observations from guests indicate that the bill of fare could range from cornbread and bacon in some East Texas inns to French cuisine and broiled steaks in one hotel in Castroville. Sleeping accommodations varied as well. The more primitive inns featured beds one had to share with a stranger while other inns had deluxe rooms with four-poster beds. The next chapter looks at the different kinds of stagecoaches used and the development of the state's criss-cross of stagecoach routes around which the inns developed and flourished. (Expanded rail passenger service eventually spelled the demise of both the stagecoach lines and then the stagecoach inns themselves.) The remaining pages describe each inn in alphabetical order by location, with a detailed description, history, and one or more photographs. Carter's work is well researched and documented and makes good use of numerous primary sources.

This book should make a welcome addition to Texana and local history collections. It is especially recommended for libraries not having the original 1972 printing.

Jon P. Tritsch

Driskill, Frank and Noel Grisham. *HISTORIC CHURCHES OF TEXAS*. rev. ed. Austin: Eakin Press, 1994. 373p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$24.95, ISBN 0-89015-267-5.

Written with a general audience in mind, this work, first published in 1980, will appeal to anyone interested in the state's diverse religious heritage. Ignoring theological and social issues, the authors focus on the origins and growth of representative churches for each of the major religious denominations: Baptists, Catholics, Disciples, Churches of Christ, Episcopalians, Methodists, and Presbyterians. Attention is also given to places of worship established by such ethnic groups as Czechs, Danes, French, Germans, Greeks, Jews, Mexican Protestants, African Americans, Norwegians, Poles, Swedes, and Wends. And churches with "unusual features," such as First United Methodist of Paris (the tallest ceiling), First Baptist of Austin (most unusual architectural design), and St. Martin's Catholic of Round Top (diminutive structure), are highlighted. Conspicuously absent from this last category is Orange's First Presbyterian Church, noted for its stained-glass dome. Even so, this is an entertaining volume, clearly written and enhanced by numerous photographs.

John W. Storey

Freese, Simon W., P.E. and Deborah Lightfoot Sizemore. *A CENTURY IN THE WORKS: FREESE AND NICHOLS CONSULTING ENGINEERS, 1894-1994*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1994. 435p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$34.50, ISBN 0-89096-561-7. 93-11556.

This book is more than just a chronicle of the one-hundred-year history of a remarkable consulting engineering firm, Freese and Nichols. The well-written text, complemented with vintage photographs and illustrations, takes the reader on a journey back in time to the turn of the twentieth century. Growing urban population centers in Texas were confronted with the problems of an inadequate, unreliable water supply and the removal and treatment of raw sewage. Into this environment came John B. Hawley, founder of Freese and Nichols.

Hawley was able to bring some truly remarkable men into the firm at strategic times to help plan and build urban water and sewage facilities. Readers unfamiliar with Freese and Nichols will be amazed at the number of projects the firm has been associated with and the influence of the firm in solving national and international engineering problems. The firm's engineering involvement is found not only in designing and constructing water and sewer systems, but also in the design and construction of dams and lakes, bridges, a sea life park, a professional baseball stadium, and the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

Charles S. Hawkins

Huson, Hobart. *A TEXAS COASTAL BEND TRILOGY*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1994. 159p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover \$24.95, ISBN 0-89015-915-7.

Huson's collection, edited by his daughter Kathleen Huson Maxwell, contains three small histories: "Two Sea-Captains Johnson and Some of Their Friends," "El Copano," and "St. Mary's of Aransas." The first was edited and annotated by Huson, as it was told to him by Peter A. Johnson, former sheriff of Refugio County and one of the Johnsons discussed in the history. Clearly, Johnson was not a story-teller, as most of the work consists of lengthy lists of the names of people he knew or knew of during his time at Refugio. It is unfortunate that this piece appears first, as it is definitely the weakest of the three.

"El Copano" traces the history of what was perhaps the most important port town in Texas. Most of the colonists who settled the Gulf Coast came through Copano. "St. Mary's of Aransas" discusses the laying of rail line through the coastal counties. Together, these two brief histories provide an informative and much-needed look at the Texas coastal history of the mid-1800s. As a longtime resident and historian of Refugio County, Huson brings together family, trade, and exploration and expansion history in a concise manner that is easy to read. Recommended for Texas history collections.

Brenda L. Herbel

McGuire, James Patrick. *THE HUNGARIAN TEXANS*. San Antonio: University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio, 1993. 312p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$23.95, ISBN 0-86701-041-X; Paperback: \$14.95, ISBN 0-86701-048-7. 91-43628

For many years the Institute of Texan Cultures has published a long-running series, *Texians and the Texans*, dealing with the many ethnic groups that have left their mark on the history and culture of the Lone Star State. Hungarian immigrants are the latest to be presented in a well-researched volume.

The author introduces the reader to a brief chapter on Hungary and the revolutions and events that contributed to Hungarian immigration to this country and to Texas. In subsequent chapters, McGuire groups Hungarian Texan immigration into various periods. Particular attention is paid in two of the chapters to László Újházi and his family. Újházi was a prime leader of many Hungarian exiles who fled to America and then to Texas after the failed Hungarian rebellion against Austria in 1848-1849. McGuire's lengthy research also unearths other interesting family histories of Hungarian Texans, notably the Varga

family of San Antonio and lumber baron Charles Shelton Vidor of Galveston.

This book can justly be referred to as perhaps the prime work on Hungarian Americans in Texas. The nine years of painstaking research and numerous translations are reflected in the lengthy bibliography. More than ninety photographs and illustrations further complement the work, which is recommended for collections focusing on Texana genealogy and history. Libraries having other volumes of the *Texians* and the *Texans* series will want to consider this latest work as well.

Jon P. Tritsch

Prince, Robert, M.D. *A HISTORY OF DALLAS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE*. Austin: Nortex Press, 1993. 180p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Paperback: \$15.95, ISBN 0-89015-930-0.

The different perspective offered in this book is the heartfelt viewpoint of an educated, passionate black doctor in Dallas who provides great insight into a shameful period of Texas and American history when blacks were not guaranteed basic civil rights. He begins with a brief history of the institution of slavery in Texas which spans the period of the Spanish exploration, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. His attribution of sources is occasional, so it is difficult at times to differentiate between fact and opinion. The most moving part of the book is the second half in which he recounts his experiences as a child growing up in Dallas in the 1940s with the discrimination and segregation then rampant. With the struggle of the Civil Rights Movement from the 1960s to the present, the pace picks up as victory is achieved in many areas of everyday life. The author himself was able to rise from poverty to become a medical doctor. Historians will be most interested in his mention of people and places in the black community and his evaluation of Dallas' business and political leaders, both black and white, during those perilous times. In spite of numerous typographical and grammatical errors, the book offers students of this turbulent period a personalized look at a turning point in American and Texas history.

Sally Dooley

Sanders, Christine Moor. *GEORGE WASHINGTON O'BRIEN AND THE HISTORY OF THE GLADYS CITY COMPANY AT SPINDLETOP*. Woodville: Christine Moor Sanders, 1992. 44p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$11.00.

Ms. Sanders' chapbook-like publication in honor of the Gladys City Company's hundredth anniversary is a history of some of the people and places which make oil production in Southeast Texas possible and profitable. The book focuses on the O'Brien and Millard families of Beaumont and their roles in founding and operating the company from its incorporation in 1892 until the present day.

Sanders, great-granddaughter of O'Brien, has done adequate research through extensive use of family papers previously unavailable to the public and county records. The book is an attractive one, printed on high rag content ecru paper complemented with illustrations by Sanders, a recognized artist. Those

with a particular interest in the Spindletop area may find this an informative read.

Brenda L. Herbel

Thompson, Frank. *ALAMO MOVIES*. 2d ed. Plano: Republic of Texas Press, 1994. 128p. Illustrations. Index. Paperback: \$14.95, ISBN 1-55622-375-7. 93-49611.

"Remember the Alamo!" is a cry that rings true in the hearts of patriotic Texans. And Frank Thompson is as patriotic as any Texan can be. In *Alamo Movies*, Thompson has compiled in-depth information on eleven movies made about the Texas landmark. The foreword is written by Davy Crockett himself--Fess Parker. He compares and critiques the diverse portrayals of the three heroes associated with this San Antonio fortress, Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie, and William Barrett Travis, and the victorious enemy, Santa Anna. In addition to detailed background information about the films, he includes a lengthy portion of dialogue from each movie. Chapters also contain sidebar information such as the name of the production company, the length of the film, the availability of the film on videocassette, the date of the release, and credits (cast and crew). Other chapters cover "Lost Alamo Movies," "Alamo Movies That Never Were," and "The Alamo on Television." Numerous black-and-white photos appear on almost every page.

This is an entertaining book for Texans and Texas history aficionados. It inspires the reader to rent these movies to see them again in a new, or at least different, light. Recommended for academic and public libraries.

Janet C. Serice

Thompson, Jerry D., ed. *JUAN CORTINA AND THE TEXAS-MEXICO FRONTIER: 1859-1877*. El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1994. 108p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Paperback: \$12.50, ISBN 0-87404-196-3. 92-062469.

There is nothing more poignant than a man of power and success who, believing himself betrayed by those who ought to have supported him, defends himself against the attacks of his critics. Such is the bitter and sarcastically brilliant dispatch (or *pronunciamiento*) of Juan Cortina, in his papers from prison in 1875, assailing his erstwhile enemy, Andres Treviño. This rather stiffly translated document is the most affecting of the ten public printed statements of Texas-Mexican border caudillo Juan Cortina, known as a bandit or Mexican Robin Hood of the border. Each document is introduced by a succinct historical/biographical note by the editor to present a total picture of a sly, tough-minded, possibly sincere man. Cortina lived in a time of immense turmoil on the border; his activities spanned the Mexican War, the Gadsden Treaty, the American Civil War, the War of the Reform in Mexico, the rule of Maximilian, the recovery of the republic, and ultimately the rise of *científicos* under Porfirio Díaz.

This volume is a prelude to the full biography which Thompson has in progress. His efforts here promise a full re-evaluation of previous biographies and an objective, sensitive treatment of his subject. This small book serves to whet the reader's appetite.

Randall Holdridge

Wooster, Robert. *FORT DAVIS: OUTPOST ON THE TEXAS FRONTIER*. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1994. 53p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Paperback: \$4.95, ISBN 0-87611-139-8. 94-2944.

Founded in 1854 in the mountains of West Texas primarily to protect travelers who were on their way west, Fort Davis, except for a brief period during the Civil War, served the frontier until 1891. The area was isolated and sparsely populated and actual encounters with Indians were rare, but the post offered reassurance to those passing through and encouraged the founding of scattered ranches and settlements in the region west of the Pecos. The end of the Indian frontier and the lack of railroad service led to the abandonment of the post, and the nearby supporting community almost disappeared. However, in 1961 the National Park Service began a restoration project and today Fort Davis is a part of our national park system and one of the more impressive frontier fort installations.

Working within the limits of what was pre-determined to be a slim volume, Professor Wooster has written a remarkably comprehensive history of the fort. He explains why the post was founded, describes the problems of maintaining a military presence on the frontier, and discusses the major events that affected the garrison. Prominent personalities such as post commanders and others are featured, but the daily life of the ordinary soldier is also given considerable attention. Wooster describes and analyzes the interaction of the army and the surrounding civilian population. In fact, this brief study is a skillful discussion of the role and impact of the army on nineteenth-century frontier society. A number of maps, drawings, and photographs provide additional understanding of the fort and the people who were a part of its story. Readers who wish a complete story should consult Wooster's longer study (*History of Fort Davis, Texas*, Southwest Cultural Resources Center Professional Paper No. 34 [Santa Fe, 1990]), but this brief version should be more than satisfactory for those who want a fine, succinct summary.

Adrian N. Anderson

NATURAL HISTORY

Jameson, W.C. *THE GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS: ISLAND IN THE DESERT*. El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1994. 95p. Illustrations. Bibliography. Paperback: \$15.00, ISBN 087404-232-1. 93-061755.

W.C. Jameson, Professor of Geography at the University of Central Arkansas and award-winning newspaper columnist, explores, as have others' books, the geological and natural history of the Guadalupe Mountains. Of particular interest here are chapters devoted to the early expeditions through the region, Army Lt. Howard Cushing's campaign against the warring Mesquero Apaches, and histories of early pioneer settlers in the mountains. Jameson devotes a chapter to the sometimes difficult relationship between the area's ranchers and predatory wildlife, namely golden eagles, coyotes, mountain lions, and bears. The author returns to a favorite topic of his, buried treasure tales, in the book's final chapter. He concludes with an excellent bibliography arranged by chapters.

This book would make a good primer for anyone wanting a first-time or broad approach to the Guadalupe Mountains. It is

recommended for public and academic libraries and perhaps for high school collections as well.

Jon P. Tritsch

Stuart, Dee. *THE ASTONISHING ARMADILLO*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 1993. 48p. Illustrations. Index. Hardcover: \$19.95, ISBN 0-87614-769-4. 92-25970. (Juvenile)

Excellent, sharp-colored photographs illustrate this fact-filled text, which describes in great detail the natural history of the prevalent Texas mammal, the armadillo. Although nearly emblematic of the state of Texas, the species has spread north from Texas to Arkansas and east to Florida. Early Spanish explorers named it "armadillo," which in Spanish means "little armored one." Not really armored, its carapace is made up of large overlapping plates covered with leathery skin connected by bony bands, a structure somewhat akin to that of an accordion. Astonishing characteristics of this mammal as well as its life cycle are detailed in text and illustrations. The text boldfaces vocabulary words, which are explained immediately and are also listed in a glossary. Dee Stuart organizes a large amount of material into a lucid prose that has earned her an award from the Texas Institute of Letters for the best book written for young people. She resides in Richardson, Texas.

Sally Dooley

ORNITHOLOGY

Rappole, John H. and Gene W. Blacklock. *BIRDS OF TEXAS: A FIELD GUIDE*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1994. 280p. Illustrations. Index. Bibliography. Hardcover: \$39.95, ISBN 0-89096-544-7; Paperback: \$14.95, ISBN 0-89096-545-5. 93-8448.

Rappole, a research scientist, and Blacklock, a naturalist, have collaborated to produce a fine volume which gives updated and accurate information about the birds of Texas. A guide for the state is particularly helpful in developing "some sense of what a particular bird is about within a relatively confined geographical area." All but a few of the birds are illustrated with color photographs which usually show the birds in typical environments. Each species' description is accompanied with a map of Texas, showing where that bird might be expected and its relative abundance. The species' account includes a brief description of the bird; both winter and summer plumages; similar species; habitat; where it might be found in Texas; some of its distinctive habits; its range in the world; and a description of its vocalizations.

This volume will be of help to the novice but is really most helpful to the seasoned birder who needs to know either *when* or *where* to look for an elusive species in order to "log" a bird. This guide will help to put all the necessary information together and make for successful outings. This book is recommended for adult libraries, to serious birders of Texas, and to those of surrounding states of similar ecology.

Jed J. Ramsey

PHOTOGRAPHY

Smith, Erwin E. and J. Evetts Haley. *LIFE ON THE TEXAS RANGE: PHOTOGRAPHS BY ERWIN E. SMITH*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1952. Reprint. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994. 112p. Illustrations. Paperback: \$19.95, ISBN 0-292-77683-7. 52-13181.

A lengthy biography and appraisal of the photographic work of Erwin E. Smith introduces these eighty captioned black-and-white photographs of working cowboys taken during the turn-of-the-century. Erwin Smith was born in Honey Grove in 1886, and he was attracted early to the life of the cowboys working the surrounding ranches. As a young man, he realized that the West he knew was disappearing with the approach of the plow. He began taking photographs on large Panhandle ranches to preserve and reveal the cowboy's life and rigorous work. Unlike others, he did not romanticize the occupation, and he gained distinction for his fidelity to the truth and his ability to capture atmosphere. As he traveled, he learned to adapt as did the cowboys to varying weather conditions, vegetation, and topography. Lacking a modern flashgun, he had companions throw gunpowder into the cook's fire for increased lighting effects. He carefully considered composition and often sketched scenes he intended to film and then waited, often for long periods of time, to seize the images he wanted. The photos document all phases of the cowboy's life: roping, branding, riding, and rodeoing. Of course, the cattle drive, chuck wagon, and the little leisure time activities of the cowboy are also depicted. Haley's brief explanations of each photo point out details not to be missed. This is a wonderful collection of plates, many of which are now at the Library of Congress and the Texas Memorial Museum in Austin, which students may use as a resource for this period of Texas history.

Sally Dooley

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Seib, Philip. *RUSH HOUR: TALK RADIO, POLITICS, AND THE RISE OF RUSH LIMBAUGH*. Fort Worth: The Summit Group, 1993. 312p. Hardcover: \$22.95, ISBN 1-56530-100-5.

Philip Seib, who teaches journalism at SMU and writes a column for the *Dallas Morning News*, has produced one of the fullest studies of the Rush Limbaugh phenomenon, which has now reached such proportions that the cigar-chewing conservative can be seen in television ads for the liberal *New York Times*. A minor media personality in 1988, Limbaugh played on the dissatisfactions of both liberals and conservatives with the waffling Bush administration to build a huge audience of "dittoheads." Seib also credits populist distrust of both Washington and the media itself as establishing the climate in which Limbaugh's talk show could flourish. The rise of Bill Clinton gave Limbaugh a dream target at which he has fired broadsides continuously since the 1992 campaign. Seib is excellent on the history of talk radio, dipping back into the past for analyses of Father Coughlin and Huey Long, and he demonstrates that the FCC's 1987 abandonment of the "fairness doctrine" allowed talk radio in general and Limbaugh in particular the freedom to be outrageous. If Seib's book has any weakness, it is in his inability to convey the level of wit and sheer entertainment value that helps Limbaugh draw listeners from across the political spectrum.

R.S. Gwynn

Tolleson-Rinehart, Sue and Jeanie R. Stanley. *CLAYTIE AND THE LADY: ANN RICHARDS, GENDER, AND POLITICS IN TEXAS*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994. 180p. Bibliography. Index. Hardcover: \$25.00, ISBN 0-292-77065-0; Paperback: \$12.95, ISBN 0-292-77066-9. 93-48116.

Claytie and the Lady offers the reader the opportunity to relive that interesting, and often frustrating, 1990 election that pitted the Republican Clayton Williams against Democrat Ann Richards for the governorship of Texas. Two political scientist authors take a historical approach, as well as a statistical one, and make the point in a number of places that Ann Richards is the first female Texas governor that Texans actually expected to govern. ("Ma" Ferguson's election was a road back to power for her impeached husband.) The authors argue that Ann Richards' election opened doors to women all over the country, including Kay Bailey Hutchison. Tolleson-Rinehart and Stanley are obviously sympathetic toward Richards, but at the same time take an even-handed approach in their analysis of the election campaign, though it is difficult to sound even-handed when the litany of errors made by Claytie is recounted.

After a fascinating review of the campaign strategies of both sides, the authors study "gender roles and gender politics," giving a statistical examination of what affected the voters who finally elected Richards. This chapter is the heart of the book and a case study of the impact of sex and gender on the political process. The authors have done an excellent job of surveying the latest research and writing, of using poll data, and of conducting numerous interviews with participants and observers. Some of their statistical samples are very small, but they explain their research thoroughly and conclude with a composite view of typical Williams' and Richards' voters and an analysis of the final results. The book concludes with an evaluation of Richards' abilities as governor and some projections about the 1994 campaign.

JoAnn Stiles

REVIEW OF TEXAS BOOKS

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Review of Texas Books (ISSN 0892-6212) is published quarterly by the Mary and John Gray Library, Lamar University-Beaumont. Annual subscription: \$10.00, non taxable. Your subscription begins with Issue No. 1 (Winter). Those who subscribe at Issue No. 2 or 3 (Spring or Summer) will pay the full annual subscription amount and receive the back issues to form a complete volume. Subscriptions may also be processed through national subscription services.

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