

historical editing, but especially apparent in a sampler, is that readers do not know what has been deleted or whether the selections are representative. However, these drawbacks are more than offset by the assets of a highly readable narrative that makes previously unpublished diaries accessible to a broad audience. The skillfully edited excerpts are long enough to tell a story but not so lengthy as to become tedious. Bunkers preserves the distinctive voices of the diarists, and the juxtaposition of the excerpts creates a well-paced, varied, and intriguing collection. Based on my own work with midwestern diaries, the selections seem representative while also including a few fascinating accounts of unique experiences.

This book may inspire readers to visit archives to read or donate original diaries, a process Bunker encourages by providing contact information about Iowa archives and their websites. In addition to historians, the book would be of interest to women's book and discussion groups, to classes in American studies, women's studies, regional history, literature and writing, and to anyone who has kept a diary or enjoys reading about women's lives.

Tracking the "Yellow Peril": The INS and Chinese Immigrants in the Midwest, by Peggy Spitzer Christoff. Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 2001. xxv, 256 pp. Illustrations, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 paper.

Reviewer John R. Wunder is professor of history at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. A historian specializing in legal issues related to American Indians and other minorities in the West, he has written articles about the law and Chinese immigrants on the frontier.

Tracking the "Yellow Peril" is a superb reference work for those who wish to learn more about Chinese immigrants in the American Midwest. It is a comprehensive guide to the case files compiled by the U.S. government on Chinese immigrants and residents during the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943. It specifically relates to those files compiled by the U.S. Immigration Service in its Chicago regional office and in sub-offices established in the heartland at St. Paul, Minnesota; Portal, North Dakota; and Detroit, Michigan. These documents contain extensive information that is invaluable for doing Chinese-American history.

After a prologue that offers a brief, truncated history of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Chinese, the book is divided into five parts. Part one shows how Chinese immigrants attempted to enter the Midwest and how those in the Midwest dealt with the exclusion laws, concluding with a consideration of post-exclusion uses of the Chinese case files. Particularly useful in this sec-

tion are the author's explanations of how to access the evidence and how Chinese immigrants handled an increasingly intrusive government agency. Also noteworthy are the section on Chinese women, the author's suggestions for future research, and—for Iowa historians—the references to Iowa colleges and universities and missionaries who shielded Chinese students from the INS.

Part two, the bulk of the book, contains selected samples of the files. These are broken into five sections: families, women, students and professionals, public charges, and post-exclusion uses. These revealing samples provide potential users of the files a tantalizing glimpse, including extensive personal photos, of the richness of the resources.

Parts three, four, and five offer additional assistance. Part four should be read with parts one and two for references to Chinese women. Here, examples of information on foot binding, marriage, Chinese female residence, professional affiliations of Chinese women, settlement patterns, and specific individual files of Chinese women are explained. Part three asks basic questions about the INS files and the National Archives; and part five explains a variety of sample documents, such as certificates of residence, applications for return certificates, statements of intent to visit China and return to the U.S., certificates of nativity, and others. The book concludes with a very selective bibliography that should not be considered a comprehensive list of sources on Chinese in the Midwest.

This book is extremely useful to historians who seek ways to access information about Chinese Americans and to Chinese Americans who are searching family histories. Midwestern historical society and university libraries should have this work in their collections.

Rhetoric as Currency: Hoover, Roosevelt, and the Great Depression, by Davis W. Houck. Presidential Rhetoric Series. College Station, TX: Texas A & M University Press in association with The Center for Presidential Studies, George Bush School of Government and Public Service, 2001. 226 pp. Notes, bibliography, index. \$36.95 cloth.

Reviewer Cal Coquillette is adjunct professor of history at the University of Dubuque. He has authored two recent articles in the *Annals of Iowa* on Hoover's stratagems to counter the effects of the Great Depression, with particular emphasis on the Iowa banking industry.

When Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan speaks, or so Davis Houck insists, rhetoric becomes currency in a real economic sense. Thus, *Rhetoric as Currency* is a study of language and inflection deployed by Presidents Hoover and Roosevelt to counter the deleterious

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