

## Book Notices

*With My Own Eyes: A Lakota Woman Tells Her People's History*, by Susan Bordeaux Bettelyoun and Josephine Waggoner, edited by Emily Levine. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1998. xl, 187 pp. Illustrations, maps, appendixes, notes, index. \$35.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY MARY B. OLSON, CORNELL COLLEGE

*With My Own Eyes* details the dispossession of the Lakota from a Native American perspective. Susan Bordeaux Bettelyoun (1857–1945), the daughter of a French-American fur trader and a Brulé Lakota woman, witnessed the white migration, epidemics, and military conflict that resulted in the loss of Lakota territory during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Bettelyoun identified with her mother's people and, late in life, collaborated with Lakota historian Josephine Waggoner (1872–1943), producing a manuscript that embodies an indigenous interpretation of "the history of a people and a time" (xxxiii). The previously unpublished manuscript, now carefully restored and edited by Emily Levine, reveals Lakota history as Bettelyoun knew and lived it.

*With My Own Eyes* speaks in the voice of a mixed-blood Lakota woman. Bettelyoun's perspective is unique, offering a glimpse into "a complex world—not fully traditional Lakota, not fully white . . . a society made up of mostly French-American men, their Indian wives, and mixed-blood children" (xxxv). Narrated and recorded by Lakota women, it is also singularly female in a field where "much of the knowledge we have . . . comes to us from some sort of military or Commissioner of Indian Affairs source" (xxxi). As a Lakota scholar, Waggoner recognized the importance of recording the eye-witness stories of the old people (xx). Her concern has resulted in contemporary access to an important narrative on tribal dispossession. *With My Own Eyes* is a welcome addition to Lakota histories and to the growing body of texts giving voice to Native American women.

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