

business world, Sorensen helped to create a new Omaha. As Dalstrom demonstrates, he stands as a significant and successful post-machine urban political leader.

A Guide to Documentary Editing, by Mary-Jo Kline. Foreword by Arthur S. Link. Prepared for the Association for Documentary Editing. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987. xvii, 228 pp. Appendix, bibliographies, index. \$29.50 cloth.

REVIEWED BY BETH LUEY, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

The allied fields of documentary and textual editing have grown and changed immeasurably over the past two decades. The line between "historical" and "literary" editing, once drawn dark and straight, has been deliberately blurred and occasionally effaced. A field whose subjects once were the Founding Fathers and a few other great white men is now publishing the papers of ordinary people of all races and both sexes. Computer technology has revolutionized the actual tasks of the documentary editor.

Mary-Jo Kline's *Guide to Documentary Editing*, already in its second printing, is the first published handbook for documentary editors. After her introduction to the history and issues of the field, she provides a step-by-step description of the process: the search for documents, organization of the edition, selection, transcription, emendation, annotation, physical presentation, indexing, and publication. Each chapter provides discussions of alternatives and references to other authorities.

Mary-Jo Kline is an experienced, knowledgeable, and articulate documentary editor. In preparing the *Guide*, she consulted with dozens of other editors. As a result, this book is authoritative without being dictatorial. It is invaluable to anyone preparing a historical text for publication, whether that text is the official correspondence of a state's governor or a great-grandmother's diary. It is also useful for those who wish to teach documentary editing. Along with the forthcoming bibliography and anthology also being sponsored by the Association for Documentary Editing, this *Guide* will provide an excellent foundation for college courses.

An Oral Historians' Work (videotape), by Edward D. Ives. 33 min. Distributed by Sheldon Weiss Productions, Blue Hill Falls, ME. \$60.00.

REVIEWED BY ROY ROSENZWEIG, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Edward D. (Sandy) Ives is a noted folklorist, director of the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History at the University of Maine, and

author of an excellent oral history handbook, *The Tape-Recorded Interview*. In this videotape, the folksy Ives (in blue work shirt) takes viewers step-by-step through an oral history project on Maine woodsmen: learning how to use equipment, locating and contacting informants, researching the context, carrying out the interview, as well as transcribing and archiving the tape. Ives carefully offers a range of useful advice to the beginner at oral history: put your microphone on a foam pad, check your batteries, probe for further details, and don't be nervous.

Ives's counsel is sound and common sensical, but it is hard to believe that this tape would be useful to anyone beyond the real novice—and probably a very youthful one at that. Too much of the tape focuses on the obvious (a cassette has only two sides; read the manual for your equipment) to the neglect of more difficult and more important issues in oral history. Thus, Ives spends more time showing viewers how to telephone an informant than talking about how to do background research. Although Ives rightly cautions that you can not "overprepare," the tape still has the effect of perpetuating the misimpression that knowing how to work a tape recorder is more important than knowing the historical context you are researching or formulating significant historical questions. Moreover, I suspect that the tone and style of the tape will alienate most adults. Despite his folksy looks and affect, Ives is often pedantic and speaks v-e-r-y s-l-o-w-l-y. At times, you feel as if you have mistakenly switched the channel to "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood." Although Sandy Ives is undoubtedly a wonderful neighbor as well as a fine teacher, those seeking his oral history counsel would be better advised to buy his book than his video.

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