

"Each display should teach. It should not be a hodgepodge collection of curiosities and relics, and it certainly need not include every single object the museum possesses."

These are very sound words of advice. Anyone who has visited museums in the United States knows how useful this advice is, and how many museums, large and small, have failed to heed it. Even though each individual museum must serve its own particular audience and purpose, it ought not to misjudge that audience, and may assume the role of leader and educator for such things.

The advice about oral history is equally apropos. It emphasizes specificity of the story to be told, and gives excellent clues as to how to aid the interviewee in recalling time sequence, seasonal contexts, and shows the interviewer how to phrase questions in terms that will evoke additional memories.

The author states that: "Tours are picnics—for everybody except those in charge of them." But the careful steps listed to help plan a tour are so good that I think even those in charge, if they have followed these directions, would enjoy the tours too.

The two chapters on organizing an historical society are written in such a logical way that they are really blueprints for success. How many headaches would be avoided if groups were to proceed in such a fashion. These clues range from establishing a purpose and scope, through incorporation, membership and financing, to such mundane, but crucial, factors as logos, programs, elections of officers, and the design of letterhead stationery.

This book is a good one, a needed one, and, because of its format, can fulfill the promise expressed in the title. It can be a primer for training incipient groups, as well as existing organizations. All of us who are interested in the cause of local historical societies and museums should thank the author for her valiant and successful efforts.

—Loren Horton

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Encyclopaedia of German-American Genealogical Research, by Clifford Neal Smith and Anna Piszczan-Czaja Smith. New York and London: R. R. Bowker Company, 1976. pp. xiii, 273. \$35.00.

To hope for any success in tracing an ancestral line into the former German Empire, one must first gather all the data available on this side of the Atlantic, so that the conditions for European research may be precisely known and, if possible, there may be found some clue which will point to that place, or at least that region, whence came the immigrant. The Smiths have not given their readers much help in this initial phase of the problem.

Rather, they have concentrated on the German phase of research except in the case of those Germans who arrived in America as soldiers on the British side in the Revolution and elected to remain here. Heavy emphasis is placed on these and most readers will be surprised to know that there were Germans on the patriot side, wearing French uniforms. The compilers are generous with bibliographical references in the German language—they designedly ignore English-language sources on the whole.

The happiest part of the book is contained in the long historical section dealing with the history of the Holy Roman Empire German Nation which ceased to exist early in the nineteenth century. This is excellent. There is also a good treatment of the German language. When, however, we come, as we do quite early in the volume, to the German-speaking churches in America, we find that the compilers give great attention to a federal religious census of 1906. The information derived from it is gone into in the greatest detail. We learn what communions there were in 1906; in what counties each had congregations, but the names of the local churches and their addresses, are not given, nor is anything said about where these invaluable church registers now are deposited. Moreover, the compilers are unaware that one of the two so-called "Reformed" churches has disappeared through merger with other denominations, and the other is a Dutch, not a German derivative. Also most of the Lutheran bodies listed have changed their names in the seventy years since 1906. The compilers say nothing of the so-called "Synod of the West," a Presbyterian body which conducted services in Iowa and several adjacent states in the Bohemian language, and though Bohemian is not German, the European home of these people was part of the aforesaid German Empire.

The volume is beautifully indexed and the documentation is bibliographically excellent, but there are no illustrations, not even in the section on German heraldry, which is limited to telling who had authority to grant arms. No family's arms are described. The arrangement of the material throughout the volume is curious, and the title "Encyclopaedia" is a misnomer. We can urge all genealogical libraries to purchase the work, however, and we hope that this is only the first of many editions, each improving on its predecessor. Even expert genealogists will learn much by studying this volume.

—George E. McCracken
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The Publication of American Historical Manuscripts, edited by Leslie W. Dunlap and Fred Shelley. Iowa City: The University of Iowa Libraries, 1976. pp. xvii, 107.

This slender, but sturdy, volume presents to the scholarly public eight papers originally delivered by distinguished historians, editors, and bibliographers during a conference held during the spring of 1975. The University of Iowa then served as a host for a meeting of the National Historical Publica-

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