

Thirteen maps, more than seventy photographs, nearly forty pages of notes and selected bibliography, and an extensive index—all greatly augment this massive and highly competent work. Even in these days of inflated book prices, twenty-five dollars may seem excessive, but if I were to have only one book on Sweden in my library it would be Franklin D. Scott's *Sweden: The Nation's History*.

—Peter L. Petersen
West Texas State University

Joseph N. Nicollet on the Plains and Prairies, edited and translated by Edmund C. and Martha Coleman Bray. The Minnesota Historical Society, 1976. pp. 294. Maps, illustrations, appendices, and index. \$14.50.

The true value of a primary account often transcends any strictly historical relevance it may have. Such is the case of the Brays' exemplary translation and elucidation of Joseph N. Nicollet's exploration journals of the northern Great Plains region in 1838-1839.

Joseph N. Nicollet was a transplanted Frenchman who came to the United States in 1832 at the age of 46. Trained as an astronomer and cartographer, Nicollet in 1838 and 1839 led two major exploring expeditions, both liberally financed by the United States' government, into the relatively unexplored region wedged between the Missouri and Minnesota Rivers. Nicollet's extensive journals, maps, and astronomical and meteorological information greatly enlarged the government's scant knowledge of the regions he explored, providing a tentative, but well-grounded springboard to later exploration and settlement.

The observations recorded and the wealth of data collected by his exploring parties (which included luminary John C. Fremont), offer modern-day researchers in a variety of fields—history, geology, botany, geography, anthropology, meteorology, cartography, and others—a rare opportunity to take full advantage of Nicollet's detailed, encyclopedic, and above all, fastidiously accurate observations. And for the individual merely interested in an intriguing, readable account of exploration in the trans-Mississippi West, Nicollet's journals offer an equally rewarding experience.

However, full credit for the success and overall usability of Nicollet's journals must go to the Brays. Assembling Nicollet's journals, notebooks, maps, and records, scattered piecemeal in several major collections and libraries, the Brays have translated Nicollet's materials from the French, simultaneously integrating them with Fremont's records to form a coherent, chronological record of Nicollet's explorations. And the Brays have augmented that material tremendously through their own painstaking research, providing a substantial complement of related primary materials which illuminate nearly every person, place, or thing described in the text,

mainly through use of extensive, informative footnotes and appendices. The inclusion of a modern, contemporary map would have been welcome, but that in no way detracts from this valuable work.

—Ronald Rayman
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Indian Land Tenure: Bibliographical Essays and a Guide to the Literature, by Imre Sutton. New York and Paris: Clearwater Publishing Company, Inc., 1975. pp xiii, 290. \$18.00 cloth, \$6.95 paper.

Perhaps the most misunderstood aspect of the American Indian's heritage among both the general public and the scholarly world is his relationship with the land. From the first European settlers to the readers of today the unique concept—or concepts—which the Indian has regarding the land has mystified whites. Frequently, this failure to comprehend has created serious problems for the Indian, and certainly many of the present disputes concerning Indian claims have roots entrenched firmly in the confusion resulting from the clash of conflicting ideas. Imre Sutton's *Indian Land Tenure* will do much to clarify the situation. Encased in this volume is a concise and comprehensive review of the various interpretations of the problem. Sutton leads the reader through the labyrinth of words created by the various "schools" and methodologies with the steadiness of Ariadne's thread.

The book is divided into several essays which cover the various aspects of Indian land tenure—such as original occupancy and territoriality or land utilization and administration. Sutton has eased the reader's task by cross coding the essays to denote where the topics are inter-related. Therefore, the second essay is labeled "B;" the third essay, entitled "Land Administration and Land Utilization," is labeled "C." The fourth essay deals with a combination of these topics and is labeled "BC." This arrangement allows the reader to quickly identify the subjects and make quick correlations.

The writing is of high quality and Sutton generally keeps his own ideas in the background and allows the interpretations to speak for themselves. However, when he states that the introduction of the horse not only allowed the Plains people to attain greater mobility but also "necessitated their entry into alien territories in quest of food," one may question whether it "necessitated" or "allowed" the natives to make incursions into their neighbors' lands.

The bibliography included in the volume will quickly become a standard reference work for all historians interested in the American Indian. It is a major contribution in itself.

In his forward to the volume, Wilcomb Washburn correctly asserts that: "No historian or student who wishes to examine the relationship of the Indian and the land . . . can ignore the pathways and directions that Professor Sutton has so carefully laid out." Both Sutton and Clearwater Publishing

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