

Book Reviews

lection of Political Americana, traces the evolution of political artifacts from their introduction in 1789 through the campaigns of the 1970s. His survey includes not only political buttons but also lanterns, hats, watch fobs, posters, commemorative flasks, medals, badges, snuff boxes, dishes, ribbons, umbrellas, and myriad other items produced in support of or opposition to a candidate or political issue. (Strangely, no mention is made of bumper stickers.)

Hundreds of clear illustrations, both in black and white and full color, are provided as examples of both common and rare political material. The accompanying text offers useful and accurate insights into the social, economic, and sometimes diplomatic contexts in which these items were employed.

In addition to describing the great variety of political items utilized over the decades, Sullivan provides valuable chapters that tell the embryonic collector how to detect reproductions and how to protect the assembled (and sometimes quite costly) items. Appendices include a glossary of terms, campaign slogans, collectors' organizations, publications, sources of political Americana material, a guide to approximate values, and a table of winning and losing candidates (which, unfortunately, ignores most third party representatives). *Collecting Political Americana* is a well researched, well written, and superbly produced book.

Stephen D. Bodayla
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Davenport, IA

Jacob Hamblin, Mormon Apostle to the Indians, by Juanita Brooks.
Salt Lake City: Westwater Press, Inc., 1980. pp. vi, 137. Sketches, maps. \$12.95 cloth, \$6.95 paper.

This book is not a traditional history, nor is it a biography of Jacob Hamblin in any traditional sense. Rather it is a series of literary essays based upon a number of dramatic events in the life of Jacob Hamblin. As a consequence, it does not meet Mrs. Brooks's traditional standard of carefully documented history, with footnoted dates, names, and sources. On the other hand, the book without question exhibits some of her finest literary skills.

As a story teller, Juanita is superb. She uses a dozen historic happen-

ings in Hamblin's and his family's and associates' lives, to tell readers of his and their struggles in pioneer Utah and the West. Mrs. Brooks knows her characters intimately; she recreates their conversation with credible accuracy; she expresses their feelings with an empathy born of her own childhood and pioneering in Nevada and Utah's Dixie. These people are her people, both by birth and by scholarship.

Readers learn of Jacob's "call" to help the Indians (Lamanites), of Maria Haskell's death, and young George A. Smith's, of Jacob's fearlessness in facing the hostile Navajos, of the Santa Clara flood, and of the terrible sacrifices made by those faithful Saints and Mormon women especially, seeking to survive on the ragged edge of the Mormon frontier. Hers are sad, if heroic stories, told only as she could tell them. And in all of them there is a tone of poignant tragedy. Their quality makes the book worthwhile history and excellent literature.

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Book Notices

Exploring Iowa's Past: A Guide to Prehistoric Archaeology, by Lynn Marie Alex. (Iowa City: The University of Iowa Press, 1980. pp. 169, illustrations, glossary, appendices, \$7.95 paper.)

This "handbook" is a part of the Programming Archaeology for School Teachers (P.A.S.T.) program funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. This guide describes what archaeology is, what archaeologists do, and how one can pursue a career in archaeology. It is a step-by-step account of how one recognizes and reports archaeological sites, the purpose of a survey, what skills are necessary for excavating, how to classify artifacts and properly store them, and where to go for more information. Key vocabulary and concepts are

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