

In Bitter Tempest: The Biography of Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher, by Stephen D. Regan. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1994. xvi, 288 pp. Illustrations, table, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY J. K. SWEENEY, SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Fletcher-class destroyers served the United States with honor and distinction for several decades. But those long-lived tributes to naval architecture were named for the other Admiral Fletcher: Frank Friday Fletcher was immortalized in steel, whereas his nephew, who commanded the American forces at Coral Sea and Midway, occupies a position of surprising obscurity—a state of affairs, Stephen Regan suggests, that is a consequence of two developments: the animosity of Admiral Ernest King and the misplacing of Fletcher's personal papers.

Admiral Ernest J. King, as Chief of Naval Operations and Commander in Chief of the U.S. Fleet, was one of the architects of the naval victory in the Pacific during World War II. Admiral King was also an exceedingly abrasive and contentious individual inclined to abuse his authority. King did not like Frank Fletcher, and when the early American naval victories proved less than unalloyed successes, Fletcher became the designated scapegoat. Thus, although afforded resources inadequate for little more than limited victories, Fletcher saw his career sidetracked into an administrative backwater because he could not accomplish miracles.

King's unfavorable judgment might have been subsequently altered, save for the unfortunate circumstance that placed Admiral Fletcher's papers in the archives of the University of Wyoming under his wife's name. With the documentary evidence to support a biographical examination seemingly unavailable, historians were less inclined to pursue Fletcher's side of the story. Consequently, when Regan located the missing papers, a more balanced picture of the man behind the battles of Coral Sea and Midway emerged. Unfortunately, Admiral Fletcher was reticent in print and public, and gaps exist in the documentary record. *In Bitter Tempest* provides an intriguing glimpse of the admiral from Marshalltown, but only a glimpse is offered, and Fletcher's Iowa experience receives short shrift.

America Restored, by Carol M. Highsmith and Ted Landphair. Photographs by Carol M. Highsmith. Washington, DC: Preservation Press, 1994. 320 pp. Illustrations, suggested reading list. \$45.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY JAN NASH, TALLGRASS HISTORIANS L.C.

Page after page, the visually appealing format of *America Restored* matches the architectural gems showcased within it. This large,

glossy-paged book features two projects from each state and the District of Columbia, using beautiful color photographs and succinct, readable text to explain the who, why, and how much of each restoration. For many sites, the authors' current photographs are supplemented with historic black-and-white images. Most projects are on the National Register of Historic Places, and all have been restored since 1980. A surprising diversity of properties and restoration motives is represented. Not only is the elegant but predictable Georgian mansion included, so is a Wyoming "tipple," a Nebraska soddy, and the 1933 Alaskan steamboat, *Nenana*. Not only did the National Park Service oversee some of the restorations, so did small-town mayors, church congregations, and descendant family members.

The authors call their book *America Restored* rather than *America Preserved* to emphasize the vitality of each project. Indeed, many returned a vacant building to service in its original or an adaptive use. In Iowa, for example, smart business sense caused Sioux City executives of AalFs Manufacturing to rethink a move to a million-dollar, but non-descript, industrial park building. At half the price, restoration of the 1890 stone AalFs factory made almost everybody happy. Surely less pleased were the displaced "skid-row gospel missions and junk shops" cleared from the area by the city. Despite the light-handed treatment of the occasional negative impact of such projects, *America Restored* is an eye-opener for those who think preservation is only for historical societies restoring only handsome buildings. It adds a good, albeit brief, state-by-state overview of diverse and successful recent restorations, and it does so beautifully.

Corporate Archives and History: Making the Past Work, edited by Arnita A. Jones and Philip L. Cantelon. Malabar, FL: Krieger Publishing, 1993. xi, 211 pp. Illustrations, tables, notes, appendixes, index. \$24.95 cloth.
REVIEWED BY LESLIE J. STEGH, DEERE & COMPANY ARCHIVES

Corporate Archives and History is part of the National Council of Public History Series published by Krieger. It is divided into four parts, with sections written by business archivists. Part one, "Getting Started: Recent Case Studies on the Development of Business Archives," describes developments at some corporations. Part two, "Managing the Corporate Memory," includes topics relating to oral history, access policies, arrangement and description, and the impact of automation on corporate memory. Part three, "The Corporate Archivist: Professional Concerns in a Changing Environment," includes sections relating to credentials for corporate archivists, internships, and the relationship between archives management and records management.

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