

## Book Notices

the early years of the State University of Iowa and of Iowa City itself. It emphasizes the dedication and personal involvement of the staff and students to whom it is dedicated. The author has based his narrative on the standard historical sources and has made good use of historic photographs to enhance the volume. The last sixty pages are devoted to listing all of the graduates of the Department of Biochemistry since the various degrees were awarded (Ph.D. in 1918; M.A. in 1912; B.S. in 1972). Readers interested in early Iowa City history will find this book a delight and those seeking a better understanding of the early development of higher education will not be disappointed. Proceeds from the sale of the book (beyond actual expenses) will be used for biochemistry scholarships and fellowships. The author and the University of Iowa are to be commended for producing such a superb book.

*Joseph Nicollet and His Map.* By Martha Coleman Bray. (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1980. 300 pp., illustrations, index, fold-out map, \$15.00.)

This intimate biography (part of the *Memoirs* series of the American Philosophical Society) is based upon the journals, survey documents and correspondence of Nicollet. Many of his journals did not surface until they were discovered in a trunk in 1921. Joseph Nicollet (not to be confused with the earlier French explorer, Jean Nicolet) came to America in 1830 after training as an astronomer in Paris. He soon won the confidence of the Corps of Topographical Engineers (precursor of the U.S. Geological Survey) and between 1838 and 1839 he led two expeditions to the region between the Missouri and upper Mississippi Rivers. His surveys produced the superb "Map of the Hydrographic Basin of the Upper Mississippi River," which served as the primary source for further explorations and was the only good source of Indian names of landscape features of that region up to that time. It was Nicollet who formally approved of Albert M. Lea's name of "Iowa" for the territory formed in 1838. This handsome volume is recommended to all those interested in topography and early exploration of the upper Mississippi River Valley.

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