

functionalist viewpoint, is based primarily on powwow sponsorship. It would perhaps have been beneficial if the authors had also compared their categories with those presented by other writers on powwows, in particular Elizabeth Grobsmith's community/tribal/intertribal model presented in *Lakota of the Rosebud: A Contemporary Ethnography* (1981).

The second essay of particular interest is Grant Arndt's "Ho-Chunk 'Indian Powwows' of the Early Twentieth Century." Again, readers may see a similarity between Arndt's discussion of early twentieth-century Ho-Chunk gatherings and the early history of the Meskwaki Annual Powwow. These early Ho-Chunk gatherings "combined Indian participation with a commercial orientation to non-Indian spectators" (47), an orientation that the Meskwaki still follow.

The final essay of special interest is Jason Baird Jackson's "East Meets West: On Stomp Dance and Powwow Worlds," which focuses on "the ways in which the modern intertribal War Dance, specifically in its Oklahoma form, variously articulates with the Stomp Dance world of Woodland Oklahoma" (172). In this essay Jackson insightfully distinguishes Pan-Indianism as "aimed at *explaining* a set of phenomena that may themselves also be (and often are) *described* as being Pan-Indian in nature" (191).

Powwow is an interesting collection of essays with a broad range of geographic and subject matter. I highly recommend it for those with interests in powwows and native peoples of Iowa and the Midwest.

Joining In: Exploring the History of Voluntary Organizations, by Karen J. Blair. Exploring Community History Series. Malabar, FL: Krieger Publishing Company, 2006. xii, 184 pp. Illustrations, bibliographies, index. \$27.50 cloth.

Reviewer Jenny Barker-Devine is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at Iowa State University. She is the author of "'Quite a Ripple but No Revolution': The Changing Roles of Women in the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, 1921-1951," in the *Annals of Iowa* (2005).

Joining In is a practical research guide for a wide range of investigators, including genealogists, local historians, volunteers, students, and professional scholars, studying the history of American voluntary organizations. The fifth book in the Exploring Community History Series (joining six others in the predecessor Nearby History Series by the same editors), it provides readers with an understanding of topics and issues related to researching social, fraternal, political, or labor groups. The author, historian Karen J. Blair, who has previously published

several books, articles, and reference works on the topic, shares her insights and experiences gathering materials from “hundreds of grand and modest club houses, libraries in small towns and major cities, and sunny kitchens and chilly attics of members” of voluntary organizations across the country (11). She endeavors to maximize a researcher’s understanding of primary sources, while exploring how private citizens form groups, contribute to their communities, establish traditions, and shape policies.

Not content to provide just a simple research guide, Blair combines historical analysis with practical advice. She suggests that researchers may use organizational records to tell the stories of specific groups, or of a particular community. They might also be interested in the biography of a particular member, or the relationships between the activities of an organization and other historical events. Blair emphasizes that this book is intended for researchers at any level.

In the second chapter, Blair categorizes voluntary organizations into eight distinct groups: service organizations, women’s clubs, recreation associations, patriotic clubs, youth associations, fraternal orders, social activist groups, and worker organizations. For each group, Blair provides the social, cultural, political, and economic context that motivates members to join, as well as detailed bibliographies of scholarly and popular works, lists of organizations, and Web sites and mailing addresses of major national organizations. In the bibliographies, Blair includes a wide range of diverse sources, including different regions, as well as organizations for men, women, and various religious and ethnic groups.

Blair devotes the final chapters to the research process. Although she does not focus on specific repositories or research facilities, she does advise readers on how to correspond with archivists, use reference sources and finding aids, and extract rich and detailed information from primary sources. To encourage investigators to collect oral history interviews, Blair also includes lists of general questions for interviewers, as well as sample release forms and information on different types of recording equipment.

Although Blair does not provide information about particular organizations or specific communities or regions, *Joining In* is a valuable general guide that should help researchers locate secondary sources, place their work in a broader historical context, and better organize their primary research. Abundant photographs and illustrations throughout the book will give researchers a good idea of the sources they can expect to find, as well as ideas for where to look for information. Overall, *Joining In* successfully provides practical, professional

advice to a broad audience, and is a valuable guide for anyone studying the histories of communities, organizations, or prominent figures.

Black Earth and Ivory Tower: New American Essays from Farm and Classroom, edited by Zachary Michael Jack. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2005. xxv, 312 pp. Illustrations. \$59.95 cloth, \$24.95 paper.

Reviewer John J. Fry is associate professor of history at Trinity Christian College. He is the author of *The Farm Press, Reform, and Rural Change, 1895–1920* (2005).

Black Earth and Ivory Tower is a collection of reflections by scholars who also have some connection to farming. With a few exceptions (several historians, agricultural specialists, and a classicist), the authors are literary scholars or writers. Most grew up on a farm; some came to farms as adults. All consider carefully what farming and rural life mean to their lives as academics. Some authors are more successful than others in evoking the agricultural world they grew up in or experience today. Treatments range from mild nostalgia for previous eras to hard-nosed descriptions of current farming practices. The majority of these short pieces (they average about ten pages each) were written for this volume, although some are excerpts from books, essays, or articles. Anyone familiar with agriculture or rural life during the twentieth century will find selections they appreciate. The various contributors' pictures of both farm and academic life will resonate with readers with rural backgrounds—or a rural present—who also teach in colleges or universities.

The individual pieces of this anthology mainly provide brief expositions of important ideas, not extended arguments. The preponderance of the contributors—21 of 35, if one counts the editor—either grew up in the Midwest or have other ties to the Midwest that are described in their pieces. Ten have links to Iowa. As a result, there are lyrical descriptions of midwestern landscape and farm life and incisive analyses of recent developments in the economy of the region. Overall, the book provides plenty to think about for both farmers and academics, especially in the Midwest.