

THE ANNALS OF IOWA

technology within the reach of anyone interested in interpreting and preserving our ways of life for future generations. He discusses how to select the proper video format, how to set up and use video equipment, how to record oral history interviews, and how to expand interpretation with video. Three appendixes illustrate the equipment available and include price ranges. Certainly a useful guide in the modern age of television and video.

Public Works History in the United States: A Guide to the Literature, ed. Suellen M. Hoy and Michael C. Robinson. (Nashville: American Association of State & Local History, 1982. pp. 512, index, \$49.00 cloth.)

Over 5,000 entries document the historical development of planning, engineering, and administration; irrigation; flood control; roads, streets, and highways; urban mass transportation; energy; and parks and recreation. This reference work should be most useful to public historians, planners, architectural and engineering firms, and for all interested in an understanding of American expansion and technical growth. This is the most comprehensive bibliography published to date on a very relevant topic.

Westward in Eden: The Public Lands and the Conservation Movement, by William K. Wyant. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982. pp. 536, photographs, notes, bibliography, index, \$24.50 cloth.)

This is essential reading for Americans in the 1980s who are concerned about the use (and subsequent abuse) of our public lands. The author, long-time reporter for the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* in Washington, has made an exhaustive search of public documents and extensive field reporting, to present his case against the exploitation of our natural resources—the only remains of our frontier—the land. By tracing the history of American land settlement and conservation practices and focusing on events in the 1970s, the author provides a setting for discussion of today's land and environmental issues. Woven throughout this story are the lives of such men as Teddy Roosevelt, Stephen T. Mather (first director of the National Park Service), Albert B. Fall, Carl Schurz, Cecil D. Andrus, and Morris K. Udall. He presents a good assessment of the current so-called "Sagebrush Rebellion" whereby public lands in the western states would be placed under state jurisdiction, where special interest groups can attain their ends even more freely than under federal control. A

Book Notices

timely book and one which not only conservationists, but all Americans interested in our natural beauty will want to read.

Fifty Western Writers: A Bio-Bibliographical Sourcebook, ed. Fred Erisman and Richard W. Etulain. (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1982. pp. 562, \$45.00 cloth.)

The literature of the American West is varied, ranging from the poetry of Robinson Jeffers, the essays of Bernard DeVoto, the fiction of Willa Cather to the novels of Owen Wister and Ken Kesey. The editors of this important reference work, both eminent scholars in the field of Western American literature, have compiled narrative introductions and bibliographical entries for fifty leading Western writers. It is intended to be of help to the beginning researcher as well as to the literary specialist. Each introductory essay is written by experts in the field and is arranged alphabetically by author's name. The western writers include A.B. Guthrie, Owen Wister, Mari Sandoz, O.E. Rolvaag, Louis L'Amour, Jack London, Wallace Stegner, Ruth Suckow, and Vardis Fisher. Readers of Westerns, literary scholars, and libraries cannot afford to be without this significant reference work.

Legacy of the West, by David C. Hunt. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1982. pp. 157, prints, bibliography, index, \$34.50 cloth, \$18.95 paper.)

This is essentially a catalogue of the paintings and art-on-paper collections of the Joslyn Art Museum's Western Americana collection. David Hunt, the curator of the collection, has written an insightful essay on the artists of the American West and Marsha Gallagher has selected works from the ethnographic collections. There are nineteen full-color plates included and dozens of black and white. This is a tribute to the fiftieth anniversary of the museum well worth the attention of any serious student of American art and the American West.

—MDG

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