when the pact was signed on August 24, 1939. He disapproved of Stalin's brutal policies but believed the American Communist party need not endorse them to be an effective agent of change in the United States. Rovere resigned from both the party and the magazine when the party ordered him to endorse the treaty in an article for New Masses. He felt as though an army led by "mad generals" had fooled him and he vowed never again to surrender his intellectual independence to anyone (59-62). Richard Rovere contributed conspicuously to the conscience of the country during his life. His memoirs should help make that conscience an enduring legacy for a tumultuous era.

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Book Notices

Iowa Place Names of Indian Origin, by Virgil J. Vogel. (Iowa City: The University of Iowa Press, 1983. 150 pp., illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, $19.95 cloth, $12.50 paper.)

This is the first book to deal exclusively with the aboriginal impact on the map of Iowa. The author, a noted scholar in Native American history, lists all Iowa place names, political or topographical, in the Indian languages, those translated from Indian language names, and those related to some aspect of Indian history. A brief historical background is given for each name as well as an interpretation of its meaning and an explanation of its cultural context. The reader will find some myths rejected in this book, but much more important is the bringing together of all of the Indian names which we see on maps, road signs, park monuments, billboards, and bank buildings into one place where they are given some explanation. This is a very worthwhile project and the University of Iowa Press should be proud of producing such a work.


This is the final volume in the superb "Image of War" series which began in 1981. The last volume lives up to its reputation and the entire series meets its promise to be the most complete pictorial history of the Civil War. This last volume contains a comprehensive
index to the entire six-volume set. One can only hope that all libraries in the nation and all true Civil War “buffs” now own this set as it will remain “unequaled” for some time to come.

*Views of a Vanishing Frontier*, edited by John C. Ewers et al (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press for the Center for Western Studies/Joslyn Art Museum, 1984. 103 pp., illustrations, $29.95 cloth.)

This is a lavishly illustrated catalog of the art exhibit of the expedition of Prince Maximilian and the Swiss artist Karl Bodmer to North America between 1832 and 1834. This exhibit was organized by the Joslyn Art Museum’s Center for Western Studies and includes more than one-hundred of Bodmer’s original watercolors and sketches on permanent loan from the InterNorth Art Foundation, a division of Inter-North, Inc. This book itself is a work of art and the University of Nebraska Press is to be commended for this project.


This large volume catalogs and presents data on the American residences of more than six hundred persons whose lives had major effects on national society and history. By entering the homes of these prominent people we can better understand who they were and why they became such notable figures. But this is more than a reference work; it is a practical tour guide which travelers will find useful, a unique form of social history and one sure to delight everyone from traveler to historic preservation buff.


This is a well-written and researched narrative history of the Hudson’s Bay Company activities in the far Northwest during the thirty-one years of George Simpson’s governorship. Here is the story of the young Scots and Englishmen who migrated to the frontier—northern British Columbia, the Yukon, and the Northwestern Territories—to make their fortunes from beaver pelts. The author stresses the heretofore unheralded accomplishments of the company employees as important explorers in their own right. This very fascinating account is enhanced by the fact that the author personally canoed and traveled most of the region discussed. It is a very useful addition to any library of the fur trade.