

Kopet: a Documentary Narrative of Chief Joseph's Last Years

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Where the Two Worlds Meet: The Great Lakes Fur Trade, by Carolyn Gilman. (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1982. pp. 136, illustrations (many in color), maps, chart, bibliography, \$18.95 paper.)

The Minnesota Historical Society has had a longstanding interest in the North American fur trade and has conducted extensive research projects and archaeological investigations (including a thirteen-year underwater search of historic canoe routes along the Canada-U.S. border). This present publication is a catalog designed to accompany the fur trade exhibit at the Society's museum which opened in February 1982. This work is fully illustrated (including several color photographs) and contains annotations on more than 300 objects and graphics on display. In addition to the exhibit text, there are provocative essays that go beyond traditional historical interpretations written by Alan R. Woolworth, Douglas A. Birk, and Bruce M. White. This is more than a museum exhibit catalog—it is an overview of the entire North American fur trading enterprise and well worth the attention of those interested in the Upper Mississippi Valley. Those who read this book will be enticed to view the exhibit and those who view the exhibit first will want a copy of the book to enjoy long after the exhibit ends. A real credit to the Education Division of the Minnesota Historical Society!

Kopet: A Documentary Narrative of Chief Joseph's Last Years, by M. Gidley. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1981. pp. 126, illustrations, map, bibliography, index, \$19.95 cloth.)

The great leader of the Nez Perces, Chief Joseph, is a legend in American history. His famous "I will fight no more forever" speech resounds across the annals of history. The author, head of American and Commonwealth Arts at Exeter University in England, combines narrative and documentary material (including many unpublished items by Joseph himself) with a generous selection of illustrations, some by Edward S. Curtis. This work presents more than the story of Chief Joseph and his long exile. It is also the story of some white men in the late nineteenth-century West: civil servants, businessmen, and academics who observed the waning of the Nez Perces. The author allows the letters, newspaper accounts, and photographs of the time to present the first-hand testimony of a perturbing period in our nation's history. The word "Kopet"

Book Notices

is Chinook jargon for "That is all" and while this will certainly not be the last word on Chief Joseph, it will stand for a long time as testament to a great Indian leader. The publishers certainly have produced an excellent book—the photographs alone are worth the price.

The World Rushed In: The California Gold Rush Experience, by J.S. Holliday. (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1981. pp. 559, illustrations, sources, index, \$17.50 cloth.)

Centered around the diaries and letters of William Swain, a New Yorker who sought his fortune in the 1849 California gold rush, this revealing volume is one of the best first-hand accounts recently published. The author devoted nearly thirty years in collecting and editing the materials. He has blended these accounts with scores of others and provides excellent background chapters on the origins and development of gold mining in California. Beautifully illustrated with contemporary drawings from the notebooks of J. Goldsborough Bruff (whose diary has also been used), this book should remain as a classic among the literature of the '49er movement.

American Frontier Tales, by Helen Overland Howard. (Missoula, Montana: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1982. pp. 288, illustrations, index, \$15.95 cloth, \$8.95 paper.)

The author, member of the editorial board of the *Journal of the West*, has been a writer and researcher of western Americana for many years. This present book presents a series of vignettes based upon a wide variety of primary sources. These stories are presented in a non-academic style, yet are based on the precise research of the author. Here one will find an account of Hiawatha who helped formulate the Great League of the Iroquois, the mystery of Sacagawea's death and the puzzle of her son, Charbonneau, the role of Chief Joseph in his dogged resistance and noble resignation, Hopi Indian prophecies, and the role of the horse in the development of the West. The reader will be enlightened and entertained by this book.

— — MDG

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