Ojibway Chiefs: Portraits of Anishinaabe Leadership

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Book Notices


REVIEWED BY PATRICK J. JUNG, MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

Mark Diedrich’s book provides biographical sketches of 31 Ojibway chiefs who lived between the mid-eighteenth century and the early twentieth century. All of them came from bands that constitute the southwestern Ojibway, who live in the region from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, in the east to Red Lake, Minnesota, in the west. Each biographical sketch is presented as a chapter, although several chapters discuss two or more chiefs who lived contemporaneously. Diedrich provides information on the significant aspects of each chief’s career, particularly their relationships with various colonial powers, such as the French, British, and Americans. He provides noteworthy examinations of the treaties that nineteenth-century Ojibway chiefs negotiated with Indian agents and other federal officials.

Diedrich’s book is an extremely valuable reference source for students of Great Lakes Indian history, particularly those interested in the Ojibway Indians of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Diedrich writes in a lucid style that will appeal to both scholars and general readers. His introductory section on the nature of Ojibway chieftainship and government is particularly well suited to nonacademic audiences. All of the sketches are based on exhaustive research into primary sources and are well grounded in the secondary literature. The book is graced with the author’s excellent sketches of most of the Ojibway chiefs.


REVIEWED BY JOHN LIEPA, DES MOINES AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Consider Iowa’s disproportionate influence on the Civil War. Consider the numerous diaries and personal accounts that have survived and added to our firsthand knowledge of that momentous event. Timothy