Both the "they" and the "truth" here are multivalent concepts that Romalis revisits continually in the book. Molly's "truth" often clashes with and informs truths uttered by family, acquaintances, scholars, and, as Romalis reveals, the unofficial-yet-popular "truth" about folk music in the United States during the 1940s and 1950s. Each of the "theys" putting forth the different and conflicting truths in the book are both part of, and outside of, the "truth" Molly believed and proclaimed during her life. It is through this book that we realize the complex ways that all of these truths weave together to form a whole life—that of Aunt Molly Jackson—with many facets: wife, activist, sister, folksinger, mid-wife, union organizer, and folkloristic "informant.”


Katie Lyn Peebles
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Alain Boureau explains the background and meaning of the droit de cuissage (the alleged right of the feudal lord in the Middle Ages to visit a bride on her wedding night). Boureau is specifically concerned with the history and historiography of the droit de cuissage in France and does not recognize its existence in any systematic manner elsewhere. Boureau envisages this study, focused on one issue in medieval French history, as part of a larger concern with the development of the idea of the individual's possession of and rights to his or her own body and with issues of social de cuissage as a historical phenomenon and debunks alleged instances. This negation is possible because he defines the alleged right as systematic in feudal French society; therefore rape, even when perpetrated by a lord against a dependent, is too generalized to qualify. Boureau finds that references to this right were either made deliberately for political purposes, or as
REVIEWS


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Rather than fitting Kentucky’s state history into a grand master narrative of national history, How the West Was Lost establishes a