

a result of confusion with other feudal conditions of marriage such as a tax (*maritagium, regards*).

However, simply because the right did not exist historically does not mean that it did not exist historiographically. Boureau insists upon the validity of the legend of the right as a historical fact that has been important to the study of history from its first known recording in 1247. He emphasizes that while credence should not be given to the historical legend, neither should it be dismissed out of hand as a political construct of the nineteenth century. He pays specific attention to its manifestations in the late Middle Ages, the seventeenth to eighteenth centuries (pre-Revolution), and the nineteenth century, in historical and literary documents.

Boureau's concern for the details of the social context is excellent, and his ability to demonstrate a coherent structure through these details is particularly strong when dealing with medieval records and a vituperative nineteenth-century debate, although he skims over early modern literature, which would seem to be an important connector in what he calls the making of a myth. The English translation is fluid and pleasant to read, but it lacks the French cultural resonance that Boureau invokes several times. The book is easy to use as a reference. While the index is limited to proper names, there are also two appendices (a seventeenth-century literary extract and a rebuttal to a modern scholar); a bibliography organized chronologically, which is useful in showing the overall development of the idea; and a comprehensive glossary of all the non-English terms with cross-references between similar terms.

Stephen Aron. **How the West Was Lost: The Transformation of Kentucky from Daniel Boone to Henry Clay.** Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996. Pp. xi + 285, notes, and index. \$29.95 cloth.

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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

state history that provides a means for understanding national history. Stephen Aron crafts a history of Kentucky's founding and then argues that the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century history of the Bluegrass and Green River regions provided foundational points for establishing the westward expansion of the United States. Aron takes an interesting and useful approach toward examining how the history of the "New West" opened up the Old West for expansion and colonization. His mixture of ethnohistory, settlement history, and the new social history provides a fine resource for folklorists interested in the historical and cultural context of folklife of the Upland South.

Aron traces changes in the political economy and social structure of Kentucky by examining the lives of Daniel Boone and Henry Clay. He sees the intersection of their life histories as providing salient features for understanding major transformations in Kentucky. To Aron, Boone represents the backcountry woodsman, a hunter and explorer whose interest in politics was pragmatic and almost tangential to living the life of a frontiersman. Clay represents the statesman whose interest in industrial development and governance helped to establish a political economy that continues to influence Kentucky's culture. Aron's book is not so much a dual biography of Boone and Clay as it is a study of historical changes in which Boone and Clay are emblematic figures for broader changes within the state and region.

Chapter Eight establishes a chronology of significant historical patterns. Aron skillfully draws distinctions between the culture of white hunters from Kentucky's backcountry and from the state's Indian country. He then uses these points of contrast to discuss differences between Anglo culture and the culture of the American Indians who used Kentucky as a hunting territory rather than as a place for settlement. Aron then records how the means of subsistence changed by the turn of the eighteenth century as hunting for game was replaced by "land hunting." Aron continues to develop his chronology by looking at the establishment of rule by law in the state and the expansion of the slavery plantation system, tenant farming, and industrial development in early nineteenth century Kentucky.

The book includes ample written materials from letters, travel literature, and historical descriptions to provide an understanding of social structure, political movements, religious practices, and moral

sentiments among early Kentuckians. Aron draws conclusions from these materials to develop generalizations about major historical patterns that shaped Kentucky over time.

Although Aron's book is more an analysis of state history than a folklife study, it is a useful resource for folklorists. In arguing that Kentucky's history must be regarded as a major transition point that led to the losing of the West, he provides a cogent and important means for understanding a major facet of American history. Aron also provides a useful framework for understanding historical contexts that shape regional folklife in America. His description and analysis of major changes in cultural patterns establish a more complete way of thinking about Kentucky's history, and his mastery of methods used within the new social history is an impressive model for interpreting cultural traditions in relation to historical change.

Pleasant DeSpain. **The Emerald Lizard: Fifteen Latin American Tales to Tell**, Mario-Lamo Jiménez trans. Little Rock: August House Publishers, Inc., 1999. Pp. 174, illustrations, notes, motif index. \$11.95 paper.

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As a collection of stories for children, the strength of *The Emerald Lizard* lies in its impeccable translation of the stories from English to Spanish. With an educational background as a translator, writer, and winner of several literary awards for his dramas, novels, and short stories, Mario-Lamo Jiménez has easily managed to capture the linguistic essence of the tales compiled in this book. First narrated by people DeSpain met during his travels in Latin America, the author later translates their fascinating accounts into English. DeSpain then retranslates or entextualizes these accounts into Spanish, once again, with the help of a well known Colombian writer.

Ranging from etiological tales to ghost stories, this book is sure to delight audiences. The picturesque nature of some of its stories, such as the one titled "Renting a Horse," is also bound to amuse any