

commercial real estate development, automobile mufflers, hosiery, and root beer. Almost unbelievably, the reader has the feeling that he understands how and why these enormous changes took place. And that is both a measure of and a tribute to the accomplishment of Stover.

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Kalamazoo: Nineteenth-century Homes in a Midwestern Village. By Peter J. Schmitt. Photographs by Balthazar Korab. (Kalamazoo, Mich.: Kalamazoo Historical Commission, 1976. Pp. 240. Illustrations, maps, bibliographic essay, index. Clothbound, \$10.00; paperbound, \$7.50.)

The current fashion for awareness of the national patrimony has sparked activity in cities across the country to preserve buildings (houses in particular) as physical evidence of achievement and ambition in earlier eras. The Kalamazoo Historical Commission published this volume no doubt with heightened local awareness in mind, and Peter J. Schmitt has illustrated the changing tastes of that growing midwestern town in the nineteenth century through selection of particular residential examples. The book is organized in chapters based on architectural styles and arranged chronologically. Each chapter begins with a general background on economic and social conditions in Kalamazoo and the way in which architectural trends have reflected them. Following the introductory pages of each chapter, individual houses are illustrated. Material about the original builder or owner is exhaustively documented by data from the censuses and city directories. Although this information may be of some local interest to the residents of Kalamazoo, and particularly to the owners of the houses illustrated in the book, the great volume of local research is of limited use to other readers, since the author did not attempt to draw general conclusions about the social motives of the original owners.

The book is attractive, well designed, and beautifully illustrated. Historic photographs are combined with delicate drawings and current architectural photography by Balthazar Korab, the well-known architectural photographer whose darkened sky technique is effective here in creating a mood. If Schmitt is to be faulted at all, it is for his infrequent, but (to the purist) devastating, aesthetic judgments. The unfortunate alteration of a Greek Revival cottage by the addition of alumi-

num siding, plastic shutters set outside the window surrounds, and loss of most original detail is dismissed with the comment "tasteful modifications in the twentieth century" (p. 116). Although the book might mislead the casual-reader with such judgments, its broad style and skillful format make it a generally useful addition to a preservation library.

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Caesars of the Wilderness: Médard Chouart, Sieur des Groseilliers and Pierre Esprit Radisson, 1618-1710. By Grace Lee Nute. (New York: D. Appleton-Century Company, Inc., and the American Historical Association, 1943; reprinted, St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1978. Pp. xx, 386. Maps, notes, illustrations, appendixes, bibliography, index. Clothbound, \$12.50; paperbound, \$5.95.)

Nearly four decades ago Grace Lee Nute told the story of the brothers-in-law Médard Chouart, Sieur des Groseilliers, and Pierre Esprit Radisson. These intrepid seventeenth century French adventurers made several journeys off eastern Canada, into Hudson Bay, and into the Great Lakes region. Greedy Quebec governors who wanted too large a share of their fur trading profits propelled des Groseilliers and Radisson into history as the Frenchmen who convinced King Charles II of England to charter the Hudson's Bay Company, thereby contributing to the eventual downfall of New France.

Nute's *Caesars* is a thorough treatment of this and much more. She rescues des Groseilliers and Radisson from biographical oblivion and unravels the confusion about their several explorations and fur trade activities in the political, diplomatic, religious, and economic contexts. *Caesars* remains the best treatment of the subject, even though the French, Hudson's Bay, and other archives are far from exhausted on related areas. This reprint edition gives availability to a long out-of-print standard work. No changes have been made except for the deletion of an inconsequential illustration and the addition of a helpful map of the travels of des Groseilliers and Radisson. A new introduction explains the relocation and reorganization of some of Nute's sources.

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