

The second half of the book is devoted primarily to Norvelle's struggle to establish theater as a legitimate academic field at Indiana University, which now is the home of one of the country's finest university theater programs, largely because of Norvelle's persistence as he fought conservative administrators each step along the way.

This part of Norvelle's story is disappointing, though. We get too much detail about petty bureaucratic squabbles, too many amusing little anecdotes; nowhere are the author's views on theater discussed. For forty years Norvelle was a pioneer in American educational theater. But readers look in vain in this memoir for his views on his life's work, his field, his causes. Why was he so dedicated to university theater? What sorts of theater did he especially love? What did he learn about directing and teaching that he might have passed along to us?

And his publisher should hire an editor; nearly every page contains an ungrammatical construction, a misspelling, a punctuation error, or a typo.

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*Preservation Comes of Age: From Williamsburg to the National Trust, 1926-1949.* By Charles B. Hosmer, Jr. Two volumes. (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, for the Preservation Press of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States, 1981. Pp. xiii, 1291. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Set, \$37.50.)

Charles B. Hosmer, Jr., states modestly in his introduction to *Preservation Comes of Age* that in this work "there has been an attempt to touch much more than the surface of the story" (p. 8). There can be little doubt of his success in "getting beneath the surface" in chronicling the historic preservation movement during its adolescent years. In this immense opus, which required over fifteen years of research, Hosmer provides a satisfying account of nearly all of preservation's many facets during the second quarter of the twentieth century.

The book begins with John D. Rockefeller, Jr.'s reconstruction of Colonial Williamsburg, probably the period's single most influential private preservation project, and then describes other towns and villages "assembled" by philanthropists interested in history: Henry Ford's Greenfield Village, Stephen Clark's Farmer's Museum at Cooperstown, New York, and Albert Wells's Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts. At the

regional level, the author describes the principal preservation organization during the period, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA). Indiana, Illinois, California, and Pennsylvania serve as examples of early state leadership in preserving historic sites.

Hosmer next concentrates on the involvement of the federal government (specifically the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior) in historic preservation. The second volume concludes with chapters on the evolution of professionalism in the preservation movement, differing schools of restoration philosophy, and modifications in preservation theory during the period discussed.

Beyond its obvious character as a compendium of case histories on historic preservation, *Preservation Comes of Age* makes other important contributions as a history of the period from the 1920s to the 1940s. For instance, in using a particular organization as an example of preservation practice, Hosmer sometimes furnishes the only published historical account of the organization and its endeavors.

In every chapter the author presents vivid biographical portraits of some especially influential figures in the movement, including W.A.R. Goodwin and Kenneth Chorley of Williamsburg; Horace M. Albright, Ronald F. Lee, Charles E. Peterson, and Newton B. Drury of the National Park Service; William Sumner Appleton of the SPNEA; Fiske Kimball of the Pennsylvania Museum; and Colonel Richard Lieber, father of the Indiana state park system.

Hosmer reveals Lieber as an influential figure nationally in historic preservation councils. The former Indianapolis brewer launched one of the first state historic sites programs in the United States, purchasing the J.F.D. Lanier Mansion in Madison, Indiana, reconstructing a pioneer village at Spring Mill State Park, and restoring the Corydon statehouse. In the late 1930s, Lieber served on the National Park Service's Advisory Board. There he exhibited a radical philosophy of preservation by opposing reconstruction of historic buildings and conjectural restorations—two philosophical positions that have since become established tenets of National Park Service policy.

Historians may find of interest Hosmer's skillful use of taped interviews as a major primary source for the book. Although he utilizes a large number of documentary sources, the author fills in gaps in written information by drawing on eighty-five interviews. Document and interview are nimbly interwoven throughout the text. Quotations from interviews add

an appreciated element of authoritative commentary to the events being described.

Hosmer's primary audience will surely be the preservationists of the country. They will enjoy the multitude of case histories depicting preservation battles of the era, the author's heavy emphasis on individual champions of preservation who influenced events, and the generous use of contemporary photographs illustrating the text. Within the preservation community, the book should have special appeal to preservation educators and their students. Too long has the field of historic preservation lacked a textbook on its twentieth-century origins. *Preservation Comes of Age* has supplied that need bountifully.

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*Joseph Nicollet and His Map.* By Martha Coleman Bray.  
(Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1980. Pp.  
xv, 300. Illustrations, notes, index, maps. \$15.00.)

The subject of this study, Joseph Nicolas Nicollet (1786-1843), cartographer, explorer, and scientist, has long languished in such historical obscurity that his name is sometimes confused with that of Jean Nicolet (1598-1642), a French explorer of North America. However, with the publication of Martha Coleman Bray's well-written and thoroughly researched volume on Nicollet and his work, he has been rescued from this obscurity, his achievements have been reemphasized, and, for the first time, his "Map of the Hydrographical Basin of the Upper Mississippi River" (1843) has been made accessible to the general reader.

Born in Cluses, Department of Savoy, France, Nicollet was the son of a watch-finisher of modest means. He received training in mathematics, but he achieved fame and received awards for his work in astronomy. From 1817 to 1830 he was secretary of the Paris Observatory, and during most of that period he was also a professor of mathematics at a prominent Paris college. After he was financially ruined in 1830 in the collapse of the Bourbon Restoration, Nicollet fled his native country in late 1831, never to return. After arriving in the United States, he settled in the Baltimore area and was befriended by a number of prominent scientists. In 1832 he took the first of a series of trips, beginning with a tour of the South and culminating in 1836-1839 with an exploration of the Mississippi and Missouri