

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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James A. Glass

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

river systems in the upper Midwest, that led to the preparation of his greatest work, a detailed map of the river and lake system in the northern portion of the Midwest. Nicollet's 1836-1839 explorations are well illustrated in a route map that accompanies the volume, and the 1843 map is reproduced in a superb thirty-by-thirty-five-inch facsimile that is suitable for framing.

A few minor errors were detected in Bray's book. In the sentence "... William Herschel of England, the son of the famous John ..." (p. 20) the names should be reversed. Also, there is no page citation to William Herschel in the index and no reference to page 20 in the index for John Herschel. On page 26 Pierre Simon de Laplace's time of death is incorrectly given as 1825, but on page 37 it is correctly stated as 1827. On page 50 Ferdinand R. Hassler's first name is incorrectly given as "Frederick," and in the index his last name is listed as "Hessler."

The index is adequate, but more subject entries and subentries would have made it more complete and useful. The illustrations are well chosen and enhance the textual matter, but some of them, such as on pages 66, 150-51, and 182, might have been expanded and placed vertically on the page to bring out more detail. The failure to include a bibliography is particularly regrettable because the author drew upon many sources in researching and writing this book. In the footnote citations to manuscripts it would have been helpful to the reader if, after the initial citation to a document, the source of that document had been repeated in subsequent footnotes.

Despite these few technical shortcomings, Bray has written a book that is a welcome addition to the literature on western exploration, the history of the upper Mississippi Valley, and the history of science and cartography.

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Politics and Ideology in the Age of the Civil War. By Eric Foner.
(New York: Oxford University Press, 1980. Pp. 250. Notes,
index. \$15.95.)

Under the banner of *Politics and Ideology in the Age of the Civil War*, Eric Foner has mustered seven essays aimed at returning to center stage in American historical writing "the fundamental reference point in the lives of nineteenth-century Americans," the Civil War. The book is a sort of declaration of