

Hampsten's fourth and most important chapter, "'Don't Read Aloud': Class and Sexuality, Disease, and Death in Women's Writings" provides further evidence to refute the stereotype of Victorian sexual prudery. Their lack of knowledge about their bodies frustrated and angered these rural women as they sought to gain some measure of control over their reproductive systems. Letters contain both subtle hints and explicit instructions on birth control. Women who frequently encountered gruesome illnesses and deaths in their communities and families did not shy away from the grim details in their accounts. Since many of the letters cited were primarily obituary listings, one has the impression that mortality rates in late-nineteenth-century North Dakota were very high. Failure to include any demographic statistics for the state for the period covered in the study makes it difficult to judge whether or not that impression is accurate or to compare this region to others. Hampsten did not intend to write a social history of pioneer life in North Dakota, but there are places in the book where more information on the social, economic, and historical context would enhance the value of the letters and diaries.

The two chapters in which Hampsten presents detailed accounts of three specific women and those around them constitute the least successful part of the book. Hampsten apparently felt that she had found some potentially rich manuscript collections, but she reproduced these materials without integrating them into the rest of the book. These three case studies were not as illuminating as Hampsten suggests, and information from the two chapters could have been included in earlier discussions. Despite problems with these chapters, the book contributes to knowledge of rural life in the nineteenth century by allowing previously invisible women to address a twentieth-century audience.

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*The Papers of Henry Clay. Volume 6, Secretary of State, 1827.*  
Edited by Mary W.M. Hargreaves and James F. Hopkins.  
(Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1981. Pp. vi,  
1448. Notes, index. \$35.00.)

The Clay Papers Project was conceived "with an assumption that our work served the interests of a wide audience . . . concerned about identification and explanation of Clay's role in the local setting as well as on the national and international scenes. . . . We aimed to illuminate that history,

not merely the life of the individual" (p. iii). To accomplish this goal the editors planned to include in their entirety all but certain formal documents, which would be summarized, and other papers of a routine nature, which would be noted by title entries.

As Clay became more prominent, however, his papers became more voluminous, and the editors wisely decided to relegate more and more of them to the realm of summaries or notations. For the early months of 1827 these summaries are grouped under four headings: Instructions and Dispatches; Miscellaneous Letters; Diplomatic Notes; and Applications, Recommendations. From April on, items that fit the latter category have been omitted. Despite the trimming, this volume is still an unwieldy 1,400 pages in length, three hundred pages longer than any earlier volume.

Though the editors worked largely from photocopies, the locations of the original documents are carefully noted. Extensive footnotes serve to identify Clay's correspondents and persons named in letters, to clarify obscure events that were alluded to, and to provide supplemental information to enhance the understanding of today's readers. The compilers are to be commended for the absence of editorial comment.

The forty-two-page index reveals that during his third year as secretary of state Clay had considerable correspondence with or about such persons as John Quincy Adams, James Barbour, Simón Bolívar, James Buchanan, George Canning, DeWitt Clinton, Albert Gallatin, Andrew Jackson, Richard Rush, John Sergeant, and Martin Van Buren. Frequently listed topics are Administration Party, Bank of the United States, Congress of Panama, Federalist Party, and Jackson Party. Though the index also includes William Hendricks, Jonathan Jennings, James Noble, and a few others from Indiana, there is little in this volume that will be uniquely useful to Indiana historians.

Volume six is the first to appear since 1973, and it is a welcome addition to this very important series, a source which no student of the period can afford to ignore. James F. Hopkins and Mary W.M. Hargreaves served as editors and successively as directors of the Clay Papers Project from its inception in 1952. Since the completion of this volume, both have retired, but the *Papers of Henry Clay* will stand as an enduring monument to their scholarship.

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