The Saturday Review of Literature, XXVIII, no. 1, January 6, 1945, was a special issue. It featured "The Ohio Valley, a regional inventory." The "guest editor," Walter Havighurst, is Professor of English at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, whose recent book, *The Long Ships Passing,* was reviewed in our March, 1943, issue. He secured articles from an interesting and capable group of writers including Lieutenant Heath Bowman, a native of Indiana; Philip D. Jordan and Robert F. Almy, teachers at Miami University; Dean Harlan Hatcher of Ohio State University; Clark B. Firestone and Ted Robinson, of the Cincinnati *Times-Star* and the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* respectively; Grant C. Knight of Kentucky University; Louis Bromfield, a writer of note and winner of the Pulitzer prize in 1926; and James H. Rodabaugh of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society.

For "a regional inventory" it is surprising that only one of the authors seems closely identified with "regionalism" or "sectionalism." This is in contrast with the number on "The Old South" (January 23, 1945). Perhaps this is the reason why the general impression a reader gets from the articles is that the Ohio Valley is a region without a regional point of view. Indeed the issue does not establish the Ohio Valley as a region and includes two articles which are centered in Cleveland as though that city were in the Ohio Valley. The authors were not selected with a view to geographical distribution. Half of them came from the Miami Valley and Cincinnati, four-fifths from Ohio, and only one-tenth from each of the states of Kentucky and Indiana. Tennessee and Illinois must feel slighted. It may therefore be suggested that the issue was not well planned, that a wider selection of authors might have produced a better understanding, and a more careful choice of sectional boundaries have yielded evidence of regionalism.

The opening article denies the existence of regionalism in the Ohio Valley and contains little that was not better done by Frederick J. Turner in "The Middle West." Heath Bowman offers an interesting but oversimplified explanation of the rise and decline of the Hoosier literary tradition which leaves one with the feeling that he regards it as mostly tradition. The disciplinary value of footnote citation, had there been footnotes, might have slowed Philip Jordan in his remarks about religion and schoolteachers. Obviously he in-

dulged his opinions rather than described ascertainable facts, and probably erroneous opinions at that, when he wrote the following sentences:

> When Buckeyes embraced religion, they were apt to shun the "desiccated" theology of the Presbyterians and Congregationalists and whoop it up for days at a time with a jug of corn likker and a ripsnortin' Baptist or Methodist circuit-rider.
> While they [pioneer pedagogues] might administer liberal doses of "hickory oil" to recalcitrant pupils, they were about as apt to furnish favorites with pipe and tobacco and an occasional pull from the jug.

These mar an otherwise good article.

Clark B. Firestone also slipped a little. "Most of the immigrants [on the Ohio] came from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland." Why was Virginia omitted?

> The last word in this sketch, therefore, belongs to the almost forgotten canals that in Ohio and Indiana ran northward from the river to the lake, whence the new Erie Canal provided an outlet to the seaboard. They turned the commerce and interests of the Old West towards the North and East. But for them, the Confederate States might have had sister recruits from the right bank of the big border river.

This latter is very questionable. It omits the influence of the railroads and a whole host of factors that influenced the decision in 1861. Certainly it is unfair to assume that the nationalism of the Midwest has such a narrow basis.

SOME NEW AIDS FOR HISTORIANS

A number of aids or tools for the historians and related professions have been appearing from time to time. Some of these may be noted as being particularly interesting and valuable.

A *Map of North American Indian Languages,* compiled and drawn by C. F. Voegelin and E. W. Voegelin (published by the American Ethnological Society in collaboration with Indiana University, n.p., n.d., publication 20 American Ethnological Society, J. J. Augustin, Agent, 125 E. 23rd St., New York, New York, $2.00), places in map form recent scholarly work in Indian language groups in America north of Mexico. It supersedes the older J. W. Powell, "Linguistic Stocks of American Indians North of Mexico," published

in the *Seventh Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology . . . 1885-'86* (Washington, 1891), and in *Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico,* Frederick W. Hodge (ed.), (Washington, 1907). This earlier map has been used extensively by scholars, has been revised, and has often served as the basis of other maps. Note its revision in "Linguistic Families of American Indians North of Mexico," by J. W. Powell, revised by members of the staff of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 1915, in *Indian Population in the United States and Alaska, 1910* (Washington, Bureau of the Census, 1915), facing p. 9. It was used in preparing the map, plate 33, in *Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States,* by Charles O. Paullin (Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1932). Powell showed the political unit of the tribe, while Professor and Mrs. Voegelin show three units, (1) the area of a language which may be spoken by one or more political units, (2) language family which may be composed of several languages, and (3) language type which consists of two or more language families. Differences in lettering and symbols indicate extinct languages, languages still spoken, and subdivisions of language families.

The valuable manuscript collection of the Wisconsin Historical Society is now described in a guide to aid scholars in using the many papers and volumes of papers. The collection is estimated to contain 2,500 volumes and approximately seven hundred thousand unbound pieces. The present work *Guide to the Manuscripts of the Wisconsin Historical Society,* edited by Alice E. Smith (Madison: The Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1944), was preceded by a *Descriptive List,* as of 1906. The notes for this recent volume were taken in 1940. The Draper Collection which was treated almost exclusively in the earlier *Descriptive List* is not included in the later work. Very small collections are also omitted. No attempt is made to evaluate the various collections. The description of various items is arranged alphabetically. At the end of the volume there is an extensive index. The state of Wisconsin is fortunate in having these valuable papers, and scholars generally will appreciate the usefulness of this descriptive guide.

Another bibliographical aid for the historians is *The United States, 1865-1900, a survey of current literature with abstracts of unpublished dissertations,* edited by Curtis W.

Garrison (published by The Rutherford B. Hayes-Lucy Webb Hayes Foundation: Fremont, Ohio, 1944). This bibliography is volume two of what is intended to be a series. It covers the months from September, 1942, to December, 1943. It includes appraisals of the contributions made by books and articles classified topically and regionally. The appraisals were made by a large number of historians, experts in the field in which they prepared appraisals. Each section or division of the work contains a summary of the contributions of the various books appearing in the field. An interesting evaluation of textbooks in history is a new feature added to this volume. It should prove to be very helpful as far as it goes, and, if continued in future volumes, may become quite significant. Finally a section containing abstracts of unpublished dissertations is included. This should prove to be very useful. An index and list of contributors concludes the work. Students and teachers may secure a copy for fifty cents, but libraries will find the cost to be one dollar.

Two atlases of American history have appeared in the last two years. *The Atlas of American History,* edited by James T. Adams and R. V. Coleman (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1943, pp. xi, 360. $10.00), appears to be the most useful historical atlas in the American history field. The maps were drawn under the supervision of one or more historians and each map was developed to illustrate a phase, period, or event. Sixty-three maps are included in the colonial period, fifty-eight cover the history from the beginning of the Revolution to the beginning of the Civil War, while twenty-six illustrate American history from 1861 to 1912. There are none for the years since 1912. Indeed beginning with 1861 nothing receives adequate treatment except the Civil War and the Trans-Mississippi West. The work is strongest in the period of settlement or the frontier and in the military phases of the various wars, except the Spanish-American and World War, I. Although minute criticisms can be made, the outstanding characteristic of the volume is its excellence.

The Historical Atlas of the United States, by Clifford L. Lord and Elizabeth H. Lord (New York: Henry Holt and Company, c. 1944, pp. xviii, 253. $1.75), contains 312 maps picturing a very wide variety of subjects of interest to students

and teachers of American history. Most of the maps are in black and white with a few in brown, black, and white. If one were to criticize unfavorably, the criticism would perhaps be that the maps are quite small, many not containing the necessary detail that would make them most useful. The material upon which the maps are based is such that it can be shown by three to six degrees of shading or by more or less simple lines. It is likely to prove quite useful, and everyone must be pleasantly surprised at the quantity of maps given for the very reasonable price.

Interestingly enough, these two atlases are not competitors. The technics, material, and types of subjects are different. They are, therefore, supplementary. Every good library, private or public, should have a copy of each.

A work, which would be an aid if properly prepared, is so poor that a notice of it in this connection is somewhat questionable. It is a *Bibliography of County Histories of the 3050 Counties in the 48 States,* compiled by Ex-Lieut. C. Stewart Peterson (a mimeographed publication; Baltimore, Maryland, 1944, pp. 49. $1.25). The character of the work may be illustrated by a quotation: "Histories have been written of nearly all of the Counties of California in some form or other. The counties, of which no histories have been written are . . . [nine counties are listed]." Then follows the name of one county history. There are fifty-eight counties in California. For Illinois the reader is referred to Solon J. Buck, *Travel and Description, 1765-1865, . . . (Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library,* IX, Springfield, 1914), and is given a list of histories most of which have been published since the appearance of the above bibliography. In respect to Indiana we are told "County histories have been written in some form or other for every County in the State," but not one is listed.

The urge to publish should be restrained until the publication can be more complete. There is need for a bibliography of county histories but it should be an actual biblography.

Graduate students and their instructors will find virtues as well as defects in Sherman Kent, *Writing History* (New York: F. S. Crofts & Co., 1941, pp. xi, 136. $1.00). It is a brief, rather breezy, little book, with considerable emphasis upon writing and style, and much less upon the problems of

extracting the truth from imperfect documents and of recognizing error, bias, and misstatements. Very little is included about the necessity of consulting eye-witness accounts rather than investigating writings of all kinds. Ten per cent of the work concerns the making of an index. Many will take exception to the recommendation "Modernize all spelling in quoted passages." The chief advantage of the work lies in the possibility of its being read by those unwilling to read a more substantial work. Most efforts to offer something lighter than the excellent work of C. V. Langlois and Charles Seignobos have lost more than they have gained. Is it not possible that this work deserves to be republished?