

Bulge. His straightforward narrative is replete with horrible details:

"Two of the boys were still there, blown to Kingdom Come by an 88. I looked at them, but didn't recognize either one. Tupper told me who they were. I still couldn't recognize them. . . . I remember one rifle which had part of a man's forearm blown into the stock. . . . The pig went a little farther and started munching on a German body. . . . We went to sleep [in a basement] immediately and were awakened by Tupper who told us before we were fully awake that we were going out and dig in in front of the town. I choked back some tears and told him this was suicide, but the officers were back in the town now and they wanted a place to sleep. The basement we were in looked pretty good to them and they started gloating over it before we were out."

There is nothing specifically Hoosier about this book. It is a book about Americans, who might have come from any state in the Union. They faced death, and some of them met death, with a courage which knows no boundary. Every American should read them at least once a year, and should spend some time contemplating the frontispiece, a superb photograph of a G. I. who combines the utter weariness of a Bill Mauldin figure with the tragic dignity of a Rembrandt portrait. The book should be read, and the portrait studied, with special intensity and prayerfulness by those persons who prate with callous ease or even satisfaction about "the next war."

Indiana University

C. Leonard Lundin

Old Cahokia, A Narrative and Documents Illustrating the First Century of its History. Edited by John Francis McDermott. (St. Louis, Missouri, The St. Louis Historical Documents Foundation, 1949, pp. 355. Illustrations, end maps, and index. Cloth \$4.50, paper \$3.00.)

This volume is, as its title suggests, a collection of documents which purport to illustrate the first century of the history of Cahokia. The reason for its appearance is the desire "to focus attention on Cahokia in commemoration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its founding." To attain this end, five different writers edited vari-

ous sections of the documents, while an introductory chapter by the editor himself is devoted to a sketch of Cahokia and its people. In the body of the book, Joseph P. Donnelly, S.J., treats material relating to the founding and history of the Holy Family Mission, the church burial records from 1784 to 1794, and letters from Monk's Mound, 1809-1812; the section on life in Cahokia as illustrated by legal documents, 1772-1821, is the work of Rose Josephine Boylan; the balance of the book includes the letters of Charles Gratiot, 1778-1779, edited by Brenda R. Gieseke; documents on Fort Bowman, 1778-1780, Charles van Ravenswaay; and two nineteenth century law cases, Irving Dilliard.

The book is open to some criticism on several points. In the first place, it is marred by far, far too many typographical errors, a shortcoming which arouses a sense of caution—perhaps unwarranted—toward acceptance of the accuracy of the contents as a whole. Then, too, the table of contents would be more useful if it were completely paged; and a more sharp distinction between the text and the long quotations, particularly in the first chapter, would have been helpful to the reader. As far as subject matter is concerned, the scholarship is uneven, for some sections are edited with excessive minuteness, while others leave unexplained questionable points. Furthermore some historians would have been happier had the French been included whenever a document was originally written in that language. Finally, the material on Monk's Mound dates a decade and more after the end of Cahokia's first century, while no really good reason is given for this departure from self-imposed time limits.

The value of the documents will necessarily vary with the needs of the person consulting them. Anyone who plans to write a detailed history of Cahokia will of course find them indispensable. The material edited by the Reverend Mr. Donnelly will appeal to those who are interested in ecclesiastical history, while people attracted to social aspects will like Miss Boylan's section. Military and economic historians might be able to use the documents on Fort Bowman as well as the Gratiot letters, the correspondence of a trader at Cahokia during the American invasion. A writer interested in an overall picture of the transition from French to American domination will find material scattered throughout the book. In general, the documents add little of im-

portance to historical knowledge. Aside from their inherent interest and the special uses pointed out above, perhaps the chief contributions of the book lie in its addition to the total store of printed documents available to the historian and in the fact that it contains in compact form Cahokian documents held in widely separated locations.

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Frances Krauskopf

Franklin, Jonathan Williams and William Pitt. A Letter of January 21, 1775. By Bernhard Knollenberg. (Bloomington, Indiana University Library Publications, No. I, 1949, pp. 24. \$1.00.)

The publication of this brochure marks the initial step in disseminating to the public a knowledge of the rich special collections of the Indiana University Library. The proposed series, supervised by Robert A. Miller and Cecil K. Byrd, is "designed to make better known to students the source materials in the Library." The core of this pamphlet is a letter written by Jonathan Williams, Benjamin Franklin's great-nephew, describing the debate in the House of Lords, January 20, 1775, in which William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, proposed "that immediate orders may be dispatched to General Gage for removing His Majestys Forces from the Town of Boston." In his introduction Bernhard Knollenberg describes the background of this "crucial moment in British and American history" particularly as it relates to Franklin and Chatham.

The letter is of interest to Anglo-American historians as a supplement to Franklin's "Account of Negotiations in London" and as a capable report of the debate in which Chatham played the leading role. Dr. Knollenberg's assertion that it is "superior in terseness and vivacity" to the reports of Josiah Quincy, Jr., and Hugh Boyd is not necessarily proof of its accuracy. The manuscript serves rather to strengthen the phraseology of Quincy's report by linking it more closely with Boyd's thus lending more authority to Chatham's comments on the Continental Congress and supplementing Quincy's version of the opening sentences which Boyd missed. At the same time it corroborates portions of the version printed by George Kearsley (*The speech of the right honourable the Earl of Chatham*) which was with-