

voted against invalidation of the balance of the legislation, had now switched his vote so as to favor invalidation. However, since the Court's conferences are held in camera and since Chief Justice Fuller had, for some reason, made no announcement at the first hearing of how the four-four tie was made up, it was impossible to say with any certainty just which judge had now changed his vote. Judges, of course, are technically entitled to change their minds; nevertheless, popular opinion at the time greeted the Court's final decision with extreme bitterness as being an example of a judicial decision dictated by conscious solicitude for the special interests of the privileged and wealthy classes. An indignant public seems immediately to have fastened upon Shiras as the guilty party in the switch of votes, and though Shiras seems to have accepted the public fury and clamor with outward calm, there is little doubt that he felt the charge very deeply. The authors of the present volume advance the thesis at some length that it was not Shiras who switched his vote at all, but some other justice—a conclusion, it should be noted, to which Charles Evans Hughes also seems to have inclined.⁶

But the evidence seems to be as inconclusive as ever and quite incapable of basing any hard-and-fast proposition as to whether Shiras did change his vote, or whether he did not. What can, however, be said in Shiras' behalf is that there is no justification on the known facts for singling him out in preference to any one of the remaining members of the court majority at the second argument—Chief Justice Fuller, and Justices Field, Gray, and Brewer—as the justice who changed his vote. And this is enough, in passing on the merits of the charge against Shiras, to warrant not merely the somewhat ambiguous Scottish jury verdict of “not proven” but also the more affirmative common law jury formula of “not guilty.”

Yale University

Edward McWhinney

The Real Americans. By A. Hyatt Verrill. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1954, pp. x, 309. Illustrations, glossary, and index. \$5.00.)

According to the author, this book, intended for a popular audience, was written “for the purpose of conveying a better knowledge and understanding of our Indians of the United

⁶ Hughes, *The Supreme Court*, 54.

States, to tell of their lives, customs, arts and industries, their psychology and mental reactions, their religious myths, and their legends—in short their human characteristics, and not the shell they assume when in the presence of strange white men.”

Good and bad information is mixed together in such a way that it is difficult to make an overall criticism. The general picture of the American Indian that emerges is pretty orthodox, although there are some passages that will make the professional anthropologist squirm.

Most of the material in the book has a familiar ring, reflecting standard publications, but no credit is given to major sources. The rather short first chapter, dealing with the origin and racial make-up of the Indian, is the worst. Discredited theories are mixed with generally accepted facts, a few straw men are set up and knocked over, and standard viewpoints are misinterpreted.

Once the historic horizon is reached, the material becomes much more acceptable.

In his introduction the author gives a long list of Indian friends who presumably helped him in formulating the book, but in only a few chapters containing personal anecdotes does this help seem apparent. Most of the myths from various tribes are attributed to particular Indians, who are named. In some instances at least, these individuals would seem to have had access to anthropological publications. Compare, for instance, Looks to the Moon's tale of The First Fire, with the myth bearing the same title published in "Myths of the Cherokee, by James Mooney, in the *19th Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology*, or Smiling Girl's story of The Origin of the Thunderbird Clan, with the "Origin Myth of the Winnebago," published by Paul Radin in the *37th Annual Report*. Rarely do myths recounted by different individuals at different periods show such detailed correspondence.

The last third of the book consists of two parts, a "Glossary of the Principal Tribes now Living in the United States," and "Brief Biographies of Famous Indians."

Both of these sections, alphabetically arranged, are taken almost verbatim from Bulletin 30, "The Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico," a few words being changed or transposed as a rule in each item, and some of the longer handbook articles being somewhat condensed. Nevertheless

in his introduction the author states: "in the Glossaries I have given brief condensed descriptions of every existing tribe in the United States and brief biographical accounts of the majority of Indians of history and fame or who have attained to noteworthy prominence. This never previously has been done, as far as I can ascertain."

In spite of all this, the general reader will get a pretty accurate picture of the Indian, both aboriginal and acculturated, on reading *The Real Americans*.

Much of the criticism of the book as a popular account could have easily been eliminated by a paragraph or two in the introduction acknowledging extensive use of published source material and by naming the sources.

Bureau of American Ethnology
Smithsonian Institution

M. W. Stirling

Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the William L. Clements Library. Compiled by William S. Ewing. 2nd edition. (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Clements Library, 1953, pp. ix, 548. Index. \$4.00.)

The first edition of the *Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the William L. Clements Library*, compiled by Howard H. Peckham, then Curator of Manuscripts, appeared in 1942 and described the 172 collections in the library at that time. New accessions in the intervening years have increased the holdings to 304 collections, ranging in size from one to about 300 volumes and amounting to a total of more than 200,000 pieces.

The present edition of the *Guide* compiled by William S. Ewing, now Curator of Manuscripts, incorporates much of the information from Peckham's *Guide* and adds to it descriptions of all materials acquired since 1942. The descriptions follow the concise form recommended in the tentative rules for cataloguing manuscripts recently issued by the Library of Congress. These rules have been prepared in cooperation with curators of manuscripts from other libraries to provide a uniform system for reporting holdings to the proposed National Register of Manuscripts at the Library of Congress. Each entry carries a description of the types of papers and documents in the collection; a list of writers of letters and