The Indiana Gazetteer or Topographical Dictionary. By John Scott. Reprinted from the Original Edition: 1826. Volume XVIII, Number 1, Indiana Historical Society *Publications.* (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1954, pp. 129. $1.00.)

In publishing this reprint of Indiana's first gazetteer, one of the earliest books produced in the state, the Indiana Historical Society has made a significant contribution to the observance of the 150th anniversary of the free press in the Hoosier state. It was in 1804 that Elihu Stout brought the first printing press into Indiana Territory.

The reprint contains an excellent introduction of twenty-three pages by Gayle Thornbrough, editor of Indiana Historical Society publications. Not only does Miss Thornbrough give a detailed description of the work of John Scott from the time he emigrated to Brookville, Indiana, in 1816 to his death at Logansport in 1838, but she also includes a critical analysis of the *Gazetteer* itself. A reviewer could hardly improve on the evaluations given in this introduction.

John Scott was one of Indiana's foremost printers, at least in the pioneer period. He grew with the state which entered the Union in the same year that he arrived within its borders. He and other early printers were largely responsible for raising the cultural level in the raw West, although it is not known how many copies of the *Gazetteer* were sold for twenty-five cents each or two dollars for a dozen.

The original work has been reproduced as nearly as possible. Apparently the volume which was used in this project is in good condition. Only in one or two instances did the editor encounter any difficulty due to illegible print or worn paper where the type was lost or obscured. The reviewer feels, however, that the original pagination should have been followed in the reprint. It would have made easier reading, and the general appearance of the pages would have been improved. However, the editor may have had some practical reason for this decision. Three photostats from the original indicate the type and page form.

The original *Gazetteer* contains a title page, a copyright page, and three pages of preface by Scott. A general description of the geological, political, religious, cultural and economic conditions of the state is given in the next twenty-one pages. The following 107 pages contain descriptions of all the

towns, counties, lakes, rivers, streams, etc., listed alphabetically from Abington to Winchester. Two pages of *Appendix* give a list of several of the principal roads and distances in Indiana. There are four pages of *Addenda,* "consisting of several items of information received too late for a place under their proper heads." The book concludes with nearly two pages of "Recommendations" from Governor James Brown Ray and other state political leaders.

As a companion piece the Indiana Historical Society has published a reprint of Scott's 1826 map of Indiana. This is a fascinating map, partly because of its inaccuracies, but it also has value in showing the political subdivisions as they existed at the end of Indiana's first decade of statehood. The Indiana Historical Society has rendered a real public service in publishing the reprint and the accompanying map.

Franklin College I. George Blake

George Mercer Papers: Relating to the Ohio Company of Virginia. Compiled and edited by Lois Mulkearn. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1954, pp. xxxviii, 731. Illustrations, bibliography, and index. $10.00.)

In the last few years there have appeared several volumes of edited documents concerning the pre-American period in the Ohio Valley. Generally they are of such significance to the history of the area that new and revised chapters will have to be written from them. Of such is the stuff contained in the *George Mercer Papers.*

The story of the Ohio Company of Virginia is familiar to American historians. But many of the details of the story as here presented have not been known, and some of the ideas and theories already in common currency will now have to be changed.

In the proceedings of the Ohio Company, for example, there is a resolution of 1753 which contains enlightening detail concerning "a [projected] Town to be called Saltsburg" (pp. 147-148). It was to be the first English town on the Ohio River, but it was never built. Lois Mulkearn's careful editing also serves notice that Croghan chronology will now have to be revised (note 78, pp. 478-479). These are illustra-