

Review Notices

Virginians at Home: Family Life in the Eighteenth Century. Second printing. By Edmund S. Morgan. *Williamsburg in America Series*, Volume II. (Williamsburg, Va.: Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., [1959]. Pp. ix, 99. Illustrations, note on sources, index. \$2.75.)

This small book by Edmund S. Morgan is second in a series of "popular histories of Williamsburg and Tidewater Virginia in the eighteenth century." In it Morgan describes the upbringing and education of young people, courtship and marriage customs, the position of women, the life and status of indentured servants and slaves, houses, family customs, and social life. Although the author touches upon life and customs among the small farmers of the Piedmont and among the Scotch-Irish in the Shenandoah Valley, he concerns himself largely with family life among the Tidewater aristocrats, in accord with the scope of the *Williamsburg in America Series*. Perhaps also, the emphasis in his treatment of the several social groups in Virginia has been influenced by availability of sources, for the well-educated citizens of the Tidewater no doubt left a fuller record of their ways in the form of diaries and letters than did the humbler folk of the Piedmont and the valley. In any case, Morgan has written a spritely and informative narrative in which he has made singularly effective use of the apt quotation.

Historian's Handbook: A Key to the Study and Writing of History. By Wood Gray *et al.* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1959. Pp. vi, 58. Paperbound, \$1.00.)

A highly distilled guide for historical research and writing, *Historian's Handbook* contains suggestions for selection of a topic for investigation, lists of the more important bibliographical aids, and information on the taking of notes and their evaluation. The remaining one-third of the booklet is devoted to instructions for putting the results of research into acceptable written form. Although its brevity limits its usefulness, the *Handbook* has a surprising amount of information crammed onto its pages. The would-be historian will find it a helpful introduction to historical method and its footnotes miniature essays on the bibliography of that subject.

Organizing a Local Historical Society. By Clement M. Silvestro. *Bulletins of the American Association for State and Local History*, Volume II, No. 8. (Madison, Wis.: American Association for State and Local History, 1959. Pp. 189-220. Appendices. Paperbound, \$.75.)

In this bulletin, Clement M. Silvestro, executive secretary of the American Association for State and Local History, briefly discusses the values and functions of local historical societies, but his principal emphasis is on practical suggestions regarding the organization of such societies. Appendices offer sample copies of articles of incorporation, a constitution, and a set of bylaws, which are useful guides in drafting these documents during the formation of new groups. For further

information interested persons may write Mr. Clement M. Silvestro, American Association for State and Local History, Madison 6, Wisconsin.

The Museum: A Living Book of History. By Edward P. Alexander. (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, for the Detroit Historical Society, 1959. Pp. 22. Bibliography. Paperbound, \$1.25.)

As the tenth annual Cass lecturer for the Detroit Historical Society, Edward P. Alexander sketches the development and present status of museums in the United States. In this lecture Mr. Alexander notes the natural connection between museums and historical societies, a connection illustrated by the fact that his sponsor, the Detroit Historical Society, had opened a museum in 1928. He also notes recent trends toward rotating exhibits, orientation programs, and extension programs. But Mr. Alexander warns that orientation films, art work and labels, and the like can be overdone.

Publication Guide for Literary and Linguistic Scholars. By Milton Bruce Byrd and Arnold L. Goldsmith. (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1958. Pp. xiii, 146. Paperbound, \$1.95.)

This guide attempts to summarize policies and preferences of some 180 American and Canadian periodicals to "help solve some of the problems of busy scholars, critics, and editors." Though obviously a pioneer work with gaps and inadequacies, Professors Byrd and Goldsmith's *Guide* offers much useful information to authors seeking publication outlets for literary and historical articles. Of particular value is the Foreword by William Riley Parker with its suggestions to both scholars and authors. If Professor Parker's suggestions were generally followed, perhaps fewer manuscripts would be submitted, but very likely more and better articles would be published in scholarly periodicals.

Rand McNally Abridged Historical Atlas: A Selection of Historical Maps from Atlas of World History. Edited by R. R. Palmer et al. (New York: Rand McNally & Co., 1958. Pp. 48. Paperbound, \$.95.)

Rand McNally's inexpensive *Abridged Historical Atlas* contains thirty some maps illustrating the development of western civilization and its world-wide expansion. The maps are clearly presented, without undue crowding of locations. Various of the maps are equally useful to students of American and European history.