

recognized China's potential value as a market and as an ally, but these mundane objectives were not uppermost in his mind: he sincerely believed that uplifting the Chinese people was the principal reason for American interest in their affairs. When he became aware that Japanese aspirations threatened China with domination, he tended to assume inflexible attitudes toward those aspirations. He thought that Japan in statements supporting the Open Door had pledged not to encroach upon Chinese sovereignty. Lansing rarely disagreed openly with Wilson in regard to Far Eastern matters, but the Secretary did not believe that Japan had renounced desire to extend her power and influence in China. While the Secretary sent Japan protests based on broad constructions of the Open Door, he thought it unwise for the United States to found her policy on such interpretations of that doctrine. He did not object altogether to the President's moralistic approach to Sino-Japanese problems, but he was convinced that the chief American objectives in China should have been protection of American lives and business interests. Fearing that excessively stern protests could cause Japan to embark upon more ambitious plans to dominate China or to cause her to desert her alliances, Lansing early came to believe that a bargain partially satisfying Japanese demands was desirable. Occasionally Lansing's views gained limited acceptance, but usually the Secretary found himself checked by the President or by international factors beyond American control. Beers concludes that during the Wilson administration the United States missed opportunities to settle differences with Japan and that a settlement could have made possible "substantial American accomplishments in East Asia" (p. 184).

On occasion one may wish that Professor Beers had included more background material about some of the problems which confronted Lansing, but this carefully written book is nevertheless a highly detailed study. Based largely upon archival and manuscript material, this volume is an important addition to the historiography of American diplomacy.

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A Classified Bibliography of the Periodical Literature of the Trans-Mississippi West (1811-1957). By Oscar Osburn Winther. *Indiana University Social Science Series*, Number 19. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1961. Pp. xxvi, 626. Index. Paperbound, \$6.00.)

Seldom have historians been so marvelously endowed with helpful bibliographical tools as in the past few years. The Library of Congress *Guide to the Study of the United States of America*, the American Historical Association *Guide to Historical Literature*, and the National Historical Publication Commission *Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the United States* are today essential items in any well-stocked scholarly library. To that list must be added this meticulously wrought and utterly essential bibliography of the periodical literature of the trans-Mississippi West. Users of these books should regularly recite

a prayer of thanks to the dedicated authors who have made them available.

Professor Winther's fat volume lists 9,244 periodical, magazine, and journal articles printed between 1811 and 1957. All are classified by subject under alphabetized headings and subheadings for ease of use. Thus a student seeking information on Indian agents has only to turn to the section on "Indians" and the subsection on "Indian Agents" to find twelve articles on his subject, ranging from an 1864 "Report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs" in the *North American Review* to a learned article on "William Ewing, Agricultural Agent to the Indians" in a 1957 copy of *Agricultural History*. To assure even greater usefulness, a symbol indicates the nature of each entry as journal or diary, official document, reminiscence, or article. An author index at the end of the volume allows users to trace the publications of any writer quickly and accurately.

Most of the periodicals used by Professor Winther in compiling his listings are professional historical journals or state and regional quarterlies published in the trans-Mississippi West, although he has included such venerable publications as *Niles' Weekly Register* and the *North American Review*. He has also searched the files of such modern publications as the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Overland Monthly*, the *Political Science Quarterly*, and *Sociological Review*, to name but a few. Any user may be assured that virtually any article touching on his subject, no matter what its source, will be found listed on these pages.

This volume is a revision of Professor Winther's earlier *The Trans-Mississippi West: A Guide to Its Periodical Literature*, published in 1942, and listing all articles printed between 1811 and 1938. A comparison of these two editions reveals a sobering fact. The 1942 edition contained 240 pages of text and listed 3,501 items; the 1961 edition runs to 564 pages and itemizes 9,244 articles. This means that in the nineteen years between 1938 and 1957 historians have produced no less than 5,743 articles on the trans-Mississippi West, or 2,242 more than were published in the 127 years before 1938. If the pace of scholarship continues to accelerate at this rate, Professor Winther's next edition will resemble the unabridged dictionary.

The value of such bibliographical guides as this increases in direct proportion to the multiplication of historical studies. No student of the West should think of launching any project without consulting its meticulously compiled pages.

Northwestern University

Ray Allen Billington

Research Opportunities in American Cultural History. Edited by John Francis McDermott. (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1961. Pp. viii, 205. Index. \$6.00.)

The twelve essays in this book are the result of a conference held under the auspices of the Lilly Foundation in 1959 at Washington University in St. Louis. The aim of the conference was to explore possibilities for research in certain areas of American cultural history which, it seemed to the participants, had received less attention than