

Lincoln, the emerging industrial, and the recent. This chronological balance is sound, and the mix of essays—social, political, biographical, and economic—within each section is excellent. Walton has identified each author and provided an ample and interesting introduction for each of the periods. He has also included some useful maps.

Walton selected essays that he liked and that he thought would be of interest to adult readers. He was successful. This reviewer discovered the essays to be as fresh in the rereading as they were when he read them for the first time. These essays have style and pungency. Here is Allan Nevins telling about Lincoln and Lorado Taft; Ray A. Billington describing “starry-eyed speculators”; David Donald noting that “few Negroes have written books about their great emancipator” (p. 255); Harvey Wish explaining John P. Altgeld’s pardon of the Chicago anarchists; and Walter Trohan recounting his life with the owner and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*, Colonel Robert R. McCormick. But each essay offers its reader fascinating fare, and anyone interested in the history of Illinois and the Middle West will find this book a worthwhile addition to his library.

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The Territorial Papers of the United States. Volume XXVII, The Territory of Wisconsin Executive Journal, 1836-1848; Papers, 1836-1839. Compiled and edited by John Porter Bloom. (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1969. Pp. xiv, 1438. Map, notes, illustration, index. \$13.50.)

This first of two volumes for Wisconsin marks the resumption of publication of *The Territorial Papers of the United States* now under the editorship of John Porter Bloom. In three parts this volume contains a representative selection of documents from the period January to June, 1836, preceding the creation of the Wisconsin Territory, the Executive Journal of the territory from 1836 to 1848, and selected papers from the first administration of Governor Henry Dodge from 1836 to 1839. Bloom is generous in his acknowledgments to his predecessor, Clarence E. Carter, who before his death in 1961 had edited the previous twenty-six volumes and done much of the preliminary work on the Wisconsin volumes. But credit for the remarkable achievement of this volume must belong to Bloom and his staff, for they had to proceed knowing that simultaneously with the publication of this volume there would be released one hundred sixteen microfilm reels containing “substantially” all the Wisconsin territorial records now in the National Archives.

One can hardly avoid asking why a small proportion of the

records should be issued in printed form when the microfilm series is so readily available. Leaving aside the greater cost and difficulty of using the records on microfilm, much of the answer to that question resides in the superb editorial work which is one of the triumphs of this volume. Very few users of microfilm command the supplementary information in the form of identifications, citations, and other data providing a context for the documents that is contained in this volume's brief and unobtrusive footnotes. The editing is not perfect—something no reviewer or reader should reasonably expect. There are a few minor errors in the otherwise magnificent index of nearly two hundred pages. Occasionally one would have liked a footnote giving the outcome or result implied in a few of the documents which appear to be left hanging. But these errors and omissions are insignificant in comparison with the compact wealth of information which will make this volume a pleasure for scholars to use; they also in no way challenge the sound and sensitive judgment that has produced such a balanced selection of documents.

A more surprising part of the answer lies in the literary quality of the volume. Ordinarily nobody except reviewers is expected to read a book of documents from cover to cover. This volume is an exception to the rule, and readers who do read the book through should be delighted with the result. Much of the interest revolves around the two dominant figures of territorial Wisconsin, Henry Dodge and James Doty, whose contrasting political attitudes and styles emerge so distinctly from these documents. Back of them are a fascinating array of individuals, ranging in temperament and activity from precisely formal military officers to zealously reform minded Indian agents. Whether they intended to or not, Bloom and his associates have in fact selected a sequence of documents which in the variety of situations and personalities portrayed and in the pacing of events over a relatively few years produces what can be described in simple words as just plain good reading.

This volume is convincing evidence that renewed publication of *The Territorial Papers of the United States* will produce volumes fully equal in quality and interest to their distinguished predecessors.

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William F. Thompson

Italians in Chicago, 1880-1930: A Study in Ethnic Mobility. By Humbert S. Nelli. *Urban Life in America* Series. Edited by Richard C. Wade. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970. Pp. xx, 300. Maps, tables, notes, note on sources, index. \$8.50.)

Professor Nelli's analysis of the role of Italians in Chicago makes