

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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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

a monumental contribution to the understanding of immigrant communities and the process of their assimilation into American life. This book, in exhaustive detail, investigates every aspect of Italian immigrant life in Chicago from the origins of the immigrants in the old country to the flight of their assimilated children to the suburbs. Without a doubt this volume is the most thorough treatment of the subject available.

In tracing the origins of Italians who settled in Chicago, in analyzing their settlement patterns once in the United States and particularly in Chicago, in reconstructing their economic activities and political behavior, in dissecting the relationship between Italians and crime, and in describing the role of community institutions in the process of assimilating Nelli has touched on practically every important aspect of immigrant life. What makes this tour de force even more impressive is the solid and exhaustive research on which it is based. The ample complement of maps and tables alone gives graphic testimony to the thoroughness and imaginativeness of Nelli's methodology.

Yet the sheer quantity of information, the vast array of facts and statistics should not obscure the new interpretations coming from this study. Ethnic neighborhoods, in Chicago at any rate, had none of the rigidity and cohesiveness that immigrant folklore would give them. Indeed, residential mobility turns out to be a major characteristic of Italian settlement patterns. Equally interesting is Nelli's description of Italian crime. While showing the independence of American Italian crime from control or indeed any substantial links with old world organizations, he also illustrates how crime helped Italians assimilate. "The 'syndicate' required the repression of lingering old-world prejudices against fellow members from other provinces or countries Because of its function as a means of economic betterment and social mobility, crime occupied a place in the acculturation of Italians in the United States, along with immigrant-community institutions, education, the padrone system, and politics" (p. 155).

While this study will surely become required reading for all those interested in immigration history, it does present some difficulties. Its major failing stems from the sheer quantity of material accumulated and compiled by the author. This is a hard book to read. Events, illustrations, statistics, and analysis follow one upon the other with little time out for reflection or summation. Time and again the reader looks in vain for a pause for perspective. Each chapter, it is true, ends with a summing up, but these small summaries do not add up to the interpretive overview that would give this book a cohesiveness it

now lacks. But despite this weakness Nelli has produced a first rate study.

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The Inland Ground: An Evocation of the American Middle West. By Richard Rhodes. (New York: Atheneum, 1970. Pp. 351. Illustrations, notes, index. \$7.95.)

Richard Rhodes' Middle West is a sweep of the American earth from the St. Louis arch to the eastern border of Colorado. It includes, principally, the states of Missouri and Kansas, where he was born and grew up and to which he has recently returned after an education at Yale University, a brief stint on the staff of *Newsweek* magazine, and a tour of duty with the Air Force.

In an introductory chapter recalling his boyhood on a farm near Independence, Missouri, the author explains that succeeding chapters will discuss many different subjects but will, in the end, "come together to demonstrate something of the region, this place or these places, this inland ground" (p. 10).

The book is what the subtitle promises: an evocation. Short on historical background, it treats the "forbears" of the region with three pages about Thomas Jefferson, who "shaped the inland ground," and with somewhat longer passages about Josiah Gregg, who published a book of his travels as bookkeeper for a Santa Fe trader in 1844; Henry Chatillon, Francis Parkman's guide; William Hornaday, who reported on the vanishing buffalo herd to the Smithsonian Institution in the 1880s; and a Nebraska settler's wife named Mollie Sanford, who kept a diary in the 1850s. Nothing more.

The rest is a twentieth century kaleidoscope. Fulton, Missouri, where Winston Churchill gave his famous address in 1946, is, more importantly for Rhodes, the home of Jesse Ernest "Outlaw" Howard, locally famous for his roadside signs—"Whatever Became of John the Baptist's Head?"—and the author of an unpublished autobiography. Independence inspires a moving tribute to Harry Truman and Abilene an equally moving eulogy of Dwight D. Eisenhower. Iowa City is Paul Engle and the program in creative writing of the University of Iowa. Kansas City is Homer Clark Wadsworth of the Lincoln Foundation. St. Louis is the Reproductive Biology Research Foundation of sexologists William H. Masters and Virginia Johnson and the arch.

Inland Ground is an uneven book. On the subjects of wheat, coyote hunting, hog butchering, Truman, and Eisenhower Rhodes is poetic. At other times, as in his chapters on Wadsworth and Masters and Johnson, he hardly rises above the journalistic level of the Sunday