

Book Reviews

Indian Oratory: Famous Speeches by Noted Indian Chieftains. By W. C. Vanderwerth. Forward by William R. Carmack. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1971. Pp. xviii, 292. Notes, illustrations, appendix, bibliography. \$8.95.)

W. C. Vanderwerth has compiled speeches made by thirty-seven well known Indian chiefs whose words were recorded at significant councils or momentous occasions. He gives a brief biography of each man and an equally brief explanation of the occasion for the speech. The arrangement is chronological, extending from Teedyuscung's oration at Philadelphia in 1758 to three short speeches by Quanah Parker in 1910. An appendix adds the full speech of Nez Percé Chief Joseph as reported in the *North American Review* of April, 1879.

A brief forward by William R. Carmack describes the importance of Indian oral tradition in Amerindian history. Vanderwerth has wisely confined his examples to conform to the title of the book. He no doubt was tempted to include many other speeches solely because of their Indian wit, pathos, or careful rationalism, but which would have obscured the theme of his book.

Indian oratory was a long established and much practiced art, but it owed much to the personal accomplishments and the impressive delivery of its speakers, who were notable chiefs. Even the most skilled interpreters and secretaries could only imply the chiefs' personal qualities in the written reports. It is fortunate that these recorders could convey the nuances of Indian thought and expression as well as they did since speakers obscured as well as emphasized their messages by elaborate figures of speech.

By using a chronological presentation the author shows Indian recognition of a decline from equality to an inferior and hopeless condition. Tecumseh's inspiring appeal for war in 1763 and his acknowledgement of defeat in 1765 indicate the change in the plight of one chief. Later speeches show pathetic acceptance of the futility of resistance. The Indians' position is emphasized by the author's unavoidable use of orations given after concessions or defeats.

A more exciting view of Indian oratory and imagery would have been presented if Vanderwerth could have assembled speeches made in the deliberative councils which preceded major decisions. Most of the speeches which are included represent conclusive decisions and do not hint of the dissent or compromise which preceded them. Such oratory is more reasoned, the product of interchanging opinions of

many men, but the reviewer regrets the absence of dissenting speeches by younger men. Of course, government officers and interpreters could not have witnessed such councils, but the author has tried to fill this void by giving Tecumseh's speech to the Choctaws and Chickasaws in 1811 and Kicking Bear's to the Sioux in 1890.

The author has added a useful collection to the growing body of authentic Indian history. He has supplied useful background material, and the portraits of these grim orators tell much of lives which led them to positions of leadership. The bibliography is varied and useful, and the University of Oklahoma Press has achieved its customary excellence in editing and printing.

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Bert Anson

Architecture of the Western Reserve, 1800-1900. By Richard N. Campen. (Cleveland: The Press of Case Western Reserve University, 1971. Pp. xii, 260. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$20.00.)

The author is a well qualified architectural historian and photographer; he was a founder and first president of the Western Reserve Architectural Historians, a chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians. Campen traces the eastern historical concepts that had a considerable influence on Ohio designers and builders and their solutions for residences and commercial, civic, and religious buildings.

The volume is illustrated with over 400 photographs; their quality ranges from good to excellent. The photographs vividly show the variety of styles, richness of texture, and numerous forms that resulted in a rich regional expression. The captions and text are clear, concise, and informative.

The visual and written material is organized geographically by county. Each chapter has a brief historical introduction which is most helpful in giving the reader a good background on the development and evolution of the architecture from local indigenous concepts to the late nineteenth century expressions in the Western Reserve.

The glossary is commendable. It is well illustrated and should be most helpful in assisting a lay reader to a much better understanding of architectural terms and forms.

The volume is a welcome and commendable addition to the increasing number of excellent regional publications on midwestern architectural history.

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David R. Hermansen