

BOOK REVIEWS

Colonial Rosary: the Spanish and Indian Missions of California. By Alison Lake. Athens, Ohio: Swallow Press and Ohio University Press, 2006. Appendices, illustrations, maps, index, and notes. 244 pp. \$39.95 cloth. \$19.95 paper.

Reviewed by Robert Senkewicz, Professor of History, Santa Clara University.

This clearly organized book is conceived as a general introduction to the history of the California missions. Four introductory chapters trace indigenous life in California before the arrival of the Europeans and offer a chronological account of the Spanish explorations that preceded the founding of Mission San Diego. Nine thematic chapters deal with various aspects of mission life, such as conversion, the indigenous experience, architecture, farming, women, and soldiers. Four concluding chapters trace post-mission history from secularization through the Spanish revival movement and beyond.

Lake is familiar with the general fashion in which mission history has changed over the last fifty years, and she makes every effort to present a balanced and comprehensive approach. She presents all of the actors as sympathetically as possible and tries to construct her narrative to take into account all the peoples who constituted the mission communities. Unfortunately this book is so riddled with errors that it is impossible to recommend it.

Some of the errors are simply factual. Lake thinks that the term “neophyte” refers to a person “not yet baptized, but studying Catholic doctrine,” (p. 7), whereas the missionaries consistently used the term to describe those who had already been baptized. She calls the College of San Fernando in Mexico City “the seat of government for Spain’s colonies in the New World,” (p. 22), when it was actually the missionary headquarters for a single group of Franciscans who, after 1773, only worked in Alta California. She confuses the chronology of the governorships of Gaspar de Portolá and Pedro Fages (p. 52). She claims that Junípero Serra left Mallorca “soon after the missions had become fixtures in New Spain” (p. 58), when missions had existed for over two centuries when Serra left his native island in 1749.

Other errors betray a lack of knowledge of the context in which the colonization of California took place. Lake states that Serra pushed to have a greater number of civilian settlers brought to Alta California, when in fact he opposed the establishment of the *pueblos* in which the settlers lived. She also claims that the “upper class of California was descended from *gente de razón*, who were handpicked by the Jesuits and brought to the Baja Peninsula,” (p. 94), whereas most of the upper crust californios were mestizo descendents of frontier soldiers who had served in Sonora and Sinaloa. She also states that one of José de Gálvez’s “long-term mission agenda in Alta California” was to “install a Catholic conversion society” (p. 36). However, Gálvez, like most officials of the Bourbon crown, would have preferred not to base the colonization of Alta California on missions, but the realities of the frontier left him no choice. Lake also implies that the inscription on the tombstone of Melchior at Old Town in San Diego represents a genuine first-hand Indian account (pp. 145-146), although the stone clearly reads: “Very little is known about the Indian Melchior. We can only imagine how he might have written his own epitaph...”

The volume is lavishly illustrated, mostly with contemporary photographs of

the restored missions, which have little historical value. Some of the photographs were uncritically obtained from the Internet. For instance, the tourist tower near Highway 101 as one approaches San Miguel from the south is inaccurately identified as the mission's bell tower (p. 184). And an obviously contemporary sign on a wall is bizarrely identified as "Original List of Mission Cattle Brands" (p. 125).

Part of the reason for the problematic nature of this volume is that the author appears not to have fully considered recent scholarship on the mission era. For instance, Lake has read the essays in *Contested Eden* (1999), but reading the articles by that collection's distinguished list of contributors apparently did not spur her to consult their more thoroughly developed books. The bibliography contains no mention of volumes by Douglas Monroy, Lisbeth Haas, James Sandos, Michael Gonzalez, or Iris Engstrand. On the other hand, the author cites Mrs. Fremont Older's 1939 volume, *California Missions and Their Romances*, thirty-two times.

Many of Lake's sources were articles obtained from *The Journal of San Diego History*, posted on the website of the San Diego Historical Society. This points to the wonderful work the Society has done in making its rich resources so widely available. One can only hope that they will be put to better use by subsequent writers.

A Good Camp: Gold Mines of Julian and the Cuyamacas. By Leland Fetzer. San Diego, CA: Sunbelt Publications, 2002. Bibliography, illustrations, index, and notes. xiv + 104 pp. \$12.95 paper.

Reviewed by Dave Bush, Adjunct History Instructor, Shasta College.

Mention California gold mining and people will likely imagine forty-niners panning for the precious metal in the rivers of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Yet twenty-two years after James Marshall's discovery and far to the south, in the San Diego County foothills, there was another gold rush. The geology, mine operations, and people of the Julian and Cuyamaca goldfields are the topics of Leland Fetzer's *A Good Camp*.

The author's study of the Julian and Cuyamaca mines begins with a succinct geological discussion. Fetzer explains, in a manner accessible to the average reader, the tectonic forces that created the Cuyamaca Mountains and the gold veins hidden below the surface. He then turns his attention to the discovery of gold.

The initial gold strike occurred in 1870 at a creek near Julian; within a mere five weeks miners established forty claims. The number of mines grew throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century and peaked at 120 in 1896. While the author's purpose is to emphasize the lasting impact of a small gold strike on the Julian and Cuyamaca region (the area produced only 0.22% of all California's gold), Fetzer's work also describes the region as a microcosm of Gilded Age California.

A diverse group of people worked in the Julian and Cuyamaca area. Frederick Coleman, a Kentuckian and likely former slave, made the initial gold find. Following Coleman's discovery, William Skidmore, a white Tennessean fleeing the post-Civil War South, named the Stonewall Mine to honor Confederate General Stonewall Jackson. The mine was located in the Hensley Mining District which took its name from an English gold-seeker. Census figures from 1870 show that while

most miners arrived from the Northeast and the Midwest, there were numerous Irish and some Chinese miners among several other nationalities. And California Indians were involved with local road construction.

Not all these groups enjoyed equal access to the region's mineral wealth as San Diego County mines experienced the racial prejudice of the age. When gold was first discovered and it appeared there was very little gold in the region, *The Daily Alta California* despairingly reported that only the Chinese could make a living mining gold in the area. And when a mining company assessed its stockholders to raise money for operations, stockholders often balked at these requests, calling them "Irish dividends."

Soon after Coleman's gold discovery, dangerous and labor intensive hard rock mining replaced placer mining. In some locations, miners were lowered hundreds of feet into the earth in ore buckets. Working underground with a drill and hammer ten hours each day and six days per week, miners first gouged holes in which to insert sticks of dynamite. After blowing out chunks of rock, miners loaded the mineral-laced rubble by hand or shovel into ore carts and pulled it to the surface. A school teacher touring the Washington Mine in 1870 observed, "It seemed to me a gloomy place to work" (p. 18).

Hard rock mining required expensive infrastructure and thus outside capital. Initially investors came from San Diego County, but as time passed the mines came to depend on a web of state, national, and international finance. For example, the Stonewall Mine was originally organized and run by people living in the county who purchased equipment and built water pipelines for the mine's operation. But as production declined, the mine's assets passed into the hands of a series of California investors until finally purchased by a Boston-based company. Although there was no direct international investment in Stonewall, other mines, such as the Descanso Mines, had English investors.

This is a well organized book with one glaring exception—the discussion of stamp mills. These mills were large and expensive pieces of equipment required for gold extraction. Mentioned in chapters two and three, the reader must wait until chapter four before learning the mill's purpose and significance. It is a small but frustrating error.

A Good Camp is a versatile monograph. It is appropriate for both California and American West history classes. Additionally, Fetzer's writing style makes his work accessible to anyone interested in San Diego history, and the addendum, "Seeing the Cuyamaca Mines Today," turns the book into a useful tour guide.

Lay of the Land: The History of Land Surveying in San Diego County. By Michael J. Pallamary. Bloomington, IN: Michael J. Pallamary, 2003. Bibliography, photographs, maps, index. 223 pp. \$26.95 paper.

Reviewed by Jennifer Martinez Wormser, Archivist, Sherman Library & Gardens.

California's history is intricately tied to its land. Ownership, natural resources extraction, agricultural enterprises, the built environment, and natural disasters

dominate its story. Michael J. Pallamary's *Lay of the Land: The History of Land Surveying in San Diego County* is a focused look at the history and legacy of land use, development, exploitation, and surveying in San Diego County in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Pallamary's work comprises a detailed series of accounts and anecdotes including the establishment of the International Boundary Line, early coastal surveys, Mexican land grants and the United States Land Commission, and various township and railroad surveys. While many of these anecdotes may not be new to scholars and students of San Diego history, it is interesting to have them assembled together here. As an example, Chapter 10 is entirely devoted to the conflicting boundaries and surveys of Rancho Buena Vista: Jack Hays (1858), Max Strobel (1870), William Minto (1882), Myron G. Wheeler (1884), Harry Willey (1889), J.B. Treadwell (1896), and Lew B. Harris (1908). Pallamary's training and expertise as a Professional Land Surveyor (PLS) is clear in this book; he demonstrates an attention to detail for recording measurements and lot numbers while still creating a readable narrative for those who lack his credentials. However, this work could be vastly improved and more useful had it been reviewed by a professional editor or historian prior to publication. Its index does not list personal names by the last name first, as is standard practice, but Alonzo Horton is found under "A," Senator Cornelius Cole is under "S," and Deputy Surveyor John Adelbert Benson is under "D." Some figures, such as Julius Wangenheim who is quoted in the text, are curiously absent from the index. The numerous illustrations throughout the book have brief captions, such as "Early Military Engineers" (p. 35), "Coronado In Its Glory" (p. 184), and "Poole's Map Showing the Worthless Sand Spit" (p. 317), but none cite their sources. The "Hancock Park" and "The Kumeyaay Territory" illustrations on pages 176 and 363, respectively, appear to have been taken from the Internet, but once again are not cited (the former appears to be from Mapquest or Google Maps).

The poor index and lack of individual illustration credits, combined with the fact that the text does not have footnotes or endnotes to indicate the author's specific sources of information, should prompt other authors to hesitate before citing or using Pallamary's work in their own research. This is unfortunate, because what *Lay of the Land* ultimately demonstrates is how much our understanding of San Diego's history can benefit from the expertise of individuals with training in various disciplines and professions.

Owens Valley Revisited: A Reassessment of the West's First Great Water Transfer. By Gary D. Libecap. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2007. Bibliography, illustrations, index, and notes. viii + 216 pp. \$65 cloth. \$24.95 paper.

Reviewed by Steven P. Erie, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Urban Studies and Planning Program, University of California, San Diego.

Scholarly attempts to use meticulously researched fact to debunk popularly accepted fiction are a noble but often quixotic enterprise. Hopefully this will not be the case with Gary Libecap's valuable new addition to the scholarship on the Los Angeles/Owens Valley water controversy. Following in the footsteps of Abe Hoff-

man's *Vision or Villainy* (1981), John Walton's *Western Times and Water Wars* (1982), and Catherine Mulholland's *William Mulholland and the Rise of Los Angeles* (2000)—all of which featured extensive scholarly research—Libecap breaks new ground by using census and land sales data, economic analysis, and legal and legislative research to refute the tenacious myth that the City of Los Angeles's Department of Water and Power (LADWP) "raped the Owens Valley" and its farmers and storekeepers during the period from 1905 to 1935 when the city built the Los Angeles Aqueduct and purchased Owens Valley land and water rights.

The author carefully documents the impact of L.A.'s aqueduct project and purchases on Owens Valley farmland prices, agricultural production, and the population and assessed value of Inyo County (Owens Valley). He demonstrates convincingly that landowners who abandoned farming did well economically, that the agricultural economy and rural population did not collapse, and that the Owens Valley fared better than comparable farming communities elsewhere in California and Nevada. At the same time, Libecap shows that Los Angeles was able to leverage the low marginal value of farm water to reap much greater urban benefits from the water transfer. Both Inyo County and Los Angeles benefited economically, but Los Angeles much more so. This disparity was a "theft" only if one views water markets as institutions in which buyers are obligated to surrender potential gains in order to equalize the results for sellers.

Particularly impressive is Libecap's comprehensive analysis of the economic impact of the bargaining between Los Angeles and Owens Valley sellers' pools—which did particularly well—as well as individual farmers. The analysis extends to the impact on Inyo County home values, which by 1930 were 13 percent greater than the California statewide median value, and 84 percent greater than the median value in neighboring Lassen County. Local merchants complained that their business was drying up, but the complaints, to the extent they were valid, reflected the general deterioration of the U.S. agricultural economy in the 1920s—not just the impact of water transfers and land acquisitions. Such complaints, however, fueled the increasingly acrimonious relations between the Owens Valley and the City of Los Angeles after 1923 as the city increased the pace of its acquisition (by 1935) of 281,000 acres for almost \$24 million plus an additional 1,300 town properties for nearly \$6 million.

This does not mean that there were not winners and losers among affected valley residents. Holdouts, who sometimes preferred dynamite to the negotiations that ultimately resulted in the City of Los Angeles acquiring 96 percent of Owens Valley farmland, did not fare well. Also, Libecap recognizes that water diversions became a legitimate issue in the 1970s when a newly constructed second Los Angeles Aqueduct, substantially increasing water exports, raised concerns about environmental damage and lost recreational opportunities. Following a detailed analysis of the subsequent tortuous history of Los Angeles's attempts to acquire water rights in the adjacent Mono Basin, the author places the Owens Valley experience in the broader context of the proliferation during the last two decades of agriculture-to-urban water transfers in the western states.

Libecap's book represents a powerful critique of what has become the conventional wisdom both in the popular press (even the *L.A. Times* accepts the notion that Los Angeles exploitatively "colonized" Owens Valley) and in scholarly literature—especially William Kahrl's *Water and Power* (1982). Libecap also provides a

useful historical and analytical context for understanding current controversies over rural-to-urban water transfers including those between Imperial County and San Diego that may significantly influence the future of Southern California. Do not expect, however, that the historical allegory of how the Owens Valley's bucolic innocents were swindled by L.A.'s devious city slickers—dramatized in the highly entertaining but also highly misleading film, *Chinatown* (1974)—will lose any time soon its firm grip over the popular imagination.

Black, Brown, Yellow, and Left: Radical Activism in Los Angeles. By Laura Pulido. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2006. Bibliography, index, and notes. ix + 346 pp. \$55.00 cloth. \$22.95 paper.

Reviewed by David Kenneth Pye, PhD candidate, Department of History, University of California, San Diego.

In *Black, Brown, Yellow, and Left*, Laura Pulido presents a refreshing portrait of Left politics in Los Angeles during the 1960s and 1970s. Rather than focus on one particular ethnic group or emphasize relations between male and female activists, Pulido boldly attempts to tell the story of how activists of color became politically engaged and then took the next step to become involved in leftist politics that went beyond those of their respective communities. Los Angeles presents an appealing site for such a study because, as the book makes clear, the city had large populations of residents from various races and ethnicities who found themselves segregated into certain areas by official decree and the actions of private yet powerful actors like real estate agents and lenders. Though separated physically, these groups still suffered discrimination daily from the same power structure. The reality of discrimination served as the catalyst for some members of the community to attempt to affect change.

Even though the minorities experienced discrimination by the same sources, African Americans, Latinos, and Asian Americans received differential treatment. In fact, as Pulido asserts, this treatment not only differed depending on the minority group involved but also depending on the historical context; groups held in esteem or valorized at one time in Los Angeles could be denigrated when times changed. Moreover, the valorization of one group usually depended upon the degrading of another people along the racial hierarchy. When Asian Americans were upheld as a "model minority," the book points out, their relative success was used as a means of highlighting supposed deficiencies in black and Latino communities. Nevertheless, these activists transcended this racial triangulation through Left politics, says Pulido. It is the exploration of this complex racial dynamic in Los Angeles that makes the book valuable today when the city is still experiencing racial problems often stemming from its diversity.

Pulido supports her argument that the three minorities covered here experienced discriminatory treatment by the same power structure by focusing on the Black Panther Party, the Center for Autonomous Social Action (CASA), and East Wind of the Japanese-American community. Each group got its start in the city as a result of issues affecting their specific communities. For the Black Panthers,

for example, it was police brutality, symbolized by the 1965 disturbances in Watts that served as catalyst for the Los Angeles chapter. Meanwhile, CASA's founding had more to do with economic class and Mexican nationality/identity issues as the Latino community was comprised heavily of working class people with experience in union politics. For East Wind there was the need to foment change within a community that presented itself as the "model minority" and ignored indicators of inequality based on race.

To Pulido, the fact that each of these groups went beyond the issues affecting their individual communities to embrace a Third World Left perspective seeking class-based change for all oppressed people of color is significant. The book seems wistful of what could have been and what could still be possible if the Left could again find a moment to coalesce against common oppressors. Doing so has never been easy, however, and Pulido offers a good example why this has been so. In a chapter on "Patriarchy and Revolution," Pulido argues that minority women in the Left had difficulties fighting a revolution on multiple fronts. Despite being an integral part of the mainstream Left's assault on the capitalist structure, minority women also had to battle discrimination within the movement from minority men and white middle class women, all of whom often failed to comprehend the need to address the gender issues affecting minority women in particular.

Pulido presents a complex story here that should be of interest to scholars in various fields dealing with race and ethnicity, urban studies, and gender. As for historians, this book can be frustrating at points. For example, it is not clear whether the three main groups of activists all operated contemporaneously. Pulido mentions that the Black Panther Party was a precursor to the other groups which can leave one wondering exactly what the group's status was when CASA and East Wind were increasingly active. Nevertheless, readers of history will find much to like about the book; in particular, the section exploring the 1940s and 1950s as the formative era of residential segregation goes a long way in explaining neighborhood patterns of today.

Earning My Degree: Memoirs of an American University President. By David Pierpont Gardner. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2005. Epilogue, bibliography, illustrations, appendices, index, and notes. ix + 432 pp. \$40.95 cloth.

Reviewed by Christopher J. Lucas, Professor of Research Methods and Policy Studies, College of Education and Health Professions, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville

David Gardner's account of his long association with the University of California avoids most of the egoism, false modesty, and special pleading sometimes found in autobiographical reminiscences. Eminently readable and instructive throughout, *Earning My Degree* offers a revealing if sometimes disturbing look at American academe and its vicissitudes in the waning years of the twentieth century, as seen through the self-reported career of one of its most distinguished contemporary leaders.

David Gardner had a lengthy association with the University of California as a

graduate student at Berkeley and holding a succession of administrative appointments at the Santa Barbara campus in the 1960s and early 70s. He was then invited to serve as president of the University of Utah where he remained at the helm for the next ten years. Then in 1983 he accepted a re-appointment at UC, this time as the system's fifteenth president. It was a position he occupied until his retirement in 1992.

At the time of his arrival, UC was, as he describes it, a "complex and far-flung enterprise" consisting of nine semi-autonomous campuses scattered up and down the length of the state, an enrollment of 141,000 students and over 6,500 faculty members, together with another 100,000 auxiliary staff. Its facilities included five major medical centers and clinics, dozens of concert halls, museums, a vast array of research centers and institutes, theatres, sports arenas, playing fields, and, collectively, libraries housing over 20 million volumes and archival collections. Also included in the university's holdings was a fleet of oceangoing ships operated by the Scripps Institute of Oceanography at the San Diego campus. Managing this unwieldy behemoth—the largest public research university in the entire country, as the author repeatedly reminds his readers—was bound to be a daunting challenge.

As president, Gardner derived great satisfaction and pleasure from the life-style afforded by a major academic institution: congenial associates, stimulating conversation, interesting visitors to campus, and so on. But budgetary shortfalls in the 1980s brought home lessons about the fundamental difference between managing affluence and allocating scarcity: "In times of prosperity, conflicts have to do with the play of greed in the context of opportunity, whereas in tough times conflicts grow more bitter and desperate" (p. 323).

Gardner is nothing if not candid as he depicts the political and social upheavals, the personality conflicts, and the major confrontations that plagued UC over the course of his long affiliation with the system: a loyalty oath controversy, the free speech movement at Berkeley, disputes over affirmative action and equitable admission standards and policies, controversy over animal rights and AIDS research, campus protests against the Vietnam War, opposition to UC's funding of laboratories supporting weapons research, student demands for ethnic and women's studies programs, and calls for UC to divest itself of stocks, bonds and other equities from global businesses implicated in South Africa's apartheid regime. His narrative's tone becomes heated when he talks about the "churlish" behavior of the more radical students he was forced to deal with during the era of campus protests, describing the worst of them as "cowardly, cynical, hypercritical, manipulative and duplicitous" (p.59). Of all the disruptions UC endured over the course of three decades, he felt the greatest danger had been posed by radical student activism. "The university's very *raison d'être* was put at risk," he recalls. Conflicts between administration and radical students pitted "direct action versus contemplation and reflection; ideology versus evidence, especially negative evidence; advocacy versus impartiality in teaching and scholarship; incivilities and crass personal behavior versus personal restraint, tolerance and respect for the views of others; free speech for those whose views accorded with 'truth' or 'right' thinking and interrupted or suppressed speech [for] those who disagreed" (p. 37).

All told, at a hefty 432 pages, Gardner's memoir includes considerably more material about his life and experiences than a casual reader might welcome. A stringent editor willing to excise whole sections of text would have been helpful.

But surfeit of detail notwithstanding, the picture that emerges is basically one of a fundamentally decent gentleman, collegial, fair-minded, hard-working, and very smart—an ideal dinner companion perhaps. Above all, he comes across as an authentic leader who guided one of the nation's premier institutions of higher learning through several critical junctures in its history, in times of relative tranquility and peace no less than in periods of confrontation and turmoil.

Jack Peltason, Gardner's successor and sixteenth UC president, offers a relevant comment. In the final analysis, he observes, Gardner will likely be remembered "less for the dramatic moments of his presidency than for the quiet and steady building up of the university that he pursued with such remarkable success" (p. 358). Given the evidence at hand, the encomium seems well deserved.

The Black Panther Party Service to the People Programs. Edited by David Hilliard. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2008. Illustrations. ix + 158 pp. \$19.95 paper.

Reviewed by Jeffrey O. G. Ogbar, Associate Professor of History, University of Connecticut.

A renewed interest in the Black Power movement in scholarly circles has created what is increasingly known as "Black Power studies." From national conferences and undergraduate and graduate classes to new and innovative scholarship, academics have been exploring the movement with expanding interest over the last several years. No group from this period has received as much attention as the Black Panther Party. Before the important volume *The Black Panther Party Reconsidered*, edited by Charles Jones (1998), the BPP was often viewed as a band of wild-eyed, violent, immature, misogynistic militants by the laziest of examinations. And the popular historical snapshot of the Panthers in high school and college survey textbooks generally reduces the organization to violent rhetoric and police shootouts, leaving little information on the wider scope of Panther service activities that were more common for Panthers than target practice. Alternatively, the Party's defenders have, at times, offered a corrective that tends to view the group as idealistic noble revolutionaries (or even reformists) who sacrificed youth, life, and comfort to serve the people. This book represents the agenda of the latter. A reprint of a 1970s *CoEvolutionary Quarterly* special issue on the BPP written by the Panthers, the book provides a useful primary source for the BPP's community service programs.

An ideologically dynamic group that evolved from being a self-described black nationalist group to revolutionary nationalist and ultimately "intercommunalist" organization, the Black Panther Party, founded in Oakland in 1966, spread across the country, reaching a peak of around 5,000 members in over thirty chapters. From policing the police to free breakfast and sickle cell testing programs, the Panthers inspired many young people of various ethnic backgrounds, domestically and abroad. Most of the members were women by 1968 and in 1970 the Panthers became the first national coed black organization to declare its support for the Women's Liberation movement and the Gay Liberation movement. With alliances

with Asian American, Latino, white, and Native American radicals, it viewed itself as a vanguard of revolutionary nationalism. By 1973, however, with over twenty Panthers killed, many more imprisoned, and violent internecine disputes taking their toll, most chapters shut down, as leadership shifted focus to local electoral politics in Oakland. By 1982 the Black Panther Party ended its last program.

The book's presentation and format showcase the Panthers' effort to promote their "survival programs," which reflect an essential component of the Panthers' history. In Part One, which comprises the bulk of the book, the text offers the best detail available on the programs. Though uneven in level of detail, the descriptions work well to promote the BPP and its tempered image cultivated by leader Huey P. Newton following his release from prison in 1970.

Though it is not revealed in this book, these programs were not embraced *en toto* by Panther membership. Minister of Information Eldridge Cleaver famously insisted from exile that the BPP should be passing out more guns instead of more free chickens. Cleaver was expelled by Newton in 1971 for openly challenging the emphasis on these programs. Not totally disavowing revolutionary politics, the programs functioned to sustain poor people until revolution was viable. Moreover, these programs were designed to foment revolution by exposing shortcomings in the extant system.

Though the book is a descriptive narrative, its structure does not make the broader scope of these programs clear. Some activities included are mere proposals or trial programs. Taken as a whole, however, these programs reflected the BPP's identification of a wide array of specific exigencies in the black community from health care, to women's self-defense, to plumbing, with a broader eye to human rights and basic survival. Some programs mirrored those of the most conservative civil rights organizations, like the National Urban League. Programs encouraged people to register to vote and invest in sartorial standards that could increase employment: "dress and good grooming are very important to prospective employers" (p. 66). The recommended guidelines for implementation further reflect the BPP's populist thrust, encouraging everyday people to seize the time and empower themselves.

In addition to the array of survival programs, the book includes poetry and political writing from Panthers, including Huey P. Newton. The book, written decades ago by Panthers as a contemporaneous corrective, functions as a new corrective for a new audience fascinated by the iconoclast organization. To be sure, as a primary source, it reflects a broad and ambitious service agenda that is rarely explored in detail in scholarship on the group.

America's New Downtowns: Revitalization or Reinvention? By Larry R. Ford. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003. Bibliography, index, and notes. vii + 340 pp. \$50.00 cloth.

Reviewed by Hillary Jenks, Assistant Professor, Portland State University.

Larry R. Ford's examination of American city centers at the end of the twentieth century joins several acclaimed works of urban history, planning, and morphology

(including *Cities and Buildings: Skyscrapers, Skid Rows, and Suburbs*, also by Ford) in the "Creating the North American Landscape" series at Johns Hopkins University Press. *America's New Downtowns* offers detailed observation and comparative analysis of the downtown physical and social infrastructure of sixteen mid-size cities, including Atlanta, Seattle, Minneapolis, San Diego, Denver, Baltimore, St. Louis, and Cleveland. Framed by the theoretical and practical questions of urban geography, addressing key issues of planning practice, and illustrated by dozens of well-chosen photographs, Ford's prescriptive definition and discussion of downtowns should be of interest to professionals and academics in the fields of urban planning, architecture and landscape architecture, historic preservation, and urban geography.

Ford, a geography professor at San Diego State University, wrote the book in part to respond to the narratives of urban decline so prevalent in mass media and popular culture during the 1980s and 1990s. Indeed, the first two chapters of the book are devoted to debunking what Ford calls "the myth of a golden age" (p. 22) of downtowns, and presenting his own take on the historical evolution of the urban core from its relatively short-lived role in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as a highly centralized, business-oriented district to its current form and function as "settings for lifestyles as much as places to earn a living" (p. 2). He quite rightly points out that "downtown," while a major focus of urban planners and politicians because of the value of its real estate and commerce to municipal tax revenue, lacks even a commonly accepted definition, sometimes indicating only the central business district but often incorporating adjacent and overlapping tourist and residential areas. Ford's goal, then, is to provide a fine-grained description of several urban centers of similar size to help produce such a definition, along with an analysis of those features which make for successful downtowns (spaces that people use and enjoy and which generate revenue), and those which fail to do so.

Chapters Three through Five of *America's New Downtowns* consist of this description and discussion of the sixteen case study locations, as ranked by Ford on ten variables: physical site, street morphology, civic space, office space and skyline, retail anchors, hotels and convention facilities, major attractions, historic districts and support zones, residential activity and variety, and transit options. Recognizing that his approach combines objective and subjective criteria, Ford appropriately shares his own biases and assumptions, admitting to an affinity for "traditional, compact downtowns" of "attractive buildings" and "lively plazas" while also pointing out the pragmatic need for "convention centers and parking garages" that "do not always reflect and may even contradict" his stated preferences (p. 14). The final chapter of the book presents Ford's conclusions, which take the form of a model of spatial organization for contemporary downtowns: roughly linear and organized by thematically-defined zones of entertainment and consumption, and marked by public and privatized spaces competing to be the "real" centers of activity, large-footprint "image making" amenities, and lessened concern over crime and congestion (pp. 291-92).

The transformation of many urban cores in the years since Ford conducted his research in the late 1990s is certainly astonishing; loft districts and hip eateries, even in cities that had struggled for decades with downtown depopulation, pollution, and disinvestment, have become the common landscape of contemporary ur-

ban America. These developments support Ford's assertion that downtowns have been "reinvented" with new forms and functions rather than merely revitalized as central business districts. However, the crises over affordable housing, service provision, and land use policies that have recently rocked many cities (including several described by Ford) demonstrate that the political and social consequences of downtown gentrification are far broader and more severe than Ford's rather terse dismissal of them here acknowledges. This noticeable limitation may be a result of Ford's methodology, in which he supplemented his own observations with those of other planners and academics but failed to interview any residents, workers, or tourists about their experiences in, and opinions about, particular downtowns. Nevertheless, *America's New Downtowns* offers a useful collection of comparative data about the urban centers of several regionally distinct mid-size cities, so often neglected in our megalopolis-focused scholarship, on the edge of a period of rapid change. In particular, readers of this journal will appreciate Ford's clear-eyed and informative sections on San Diego.

BOOK NOTES

Hollywood's Cold War. By Tony Shaw. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2007. 336 pp. Bibliography and index. \$29.95 paper. This volume analyzes the content and context of Cold War-era Hollywood films to explore the interaction between the motion picture industry and the perceived threat of domestic and international communism.

Immigration at the Golden Gate: Passenger Ships, Exclusion, and Angel Island. By Robert Eric Barde. Westport, Conn: Praeger, 2008. xv + 285 pp. Illustrations, bibliography, and index. \$49.95 cloth. Robert Barde's monograph discusses the experiences of Chinese and Japanese steamship passengers who attempted to enter the United States through the Angel Island immigration station.

John Mackay: Silver King in the Gilded Age. By Michael J. Makley. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2009. xi + 270 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, and index. \$34.95 cloth. This biography examines the life of an Irish immigrant who made his fortune in Nevada's Comstock Lode and then became a leading figure in banking and the telegraph industry.

Placing Memory: A Photographic Exploration of Japanese American Internment. Photographs by Todd Stewart. Essays by Natasha Egan and Karen J. Leong. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2008. 134 pp. Photographs, maps, and bibliography. \$34.95 cloth. Stewart's present-day photographs of the camps are combined with some made by the War Relocation Authority during the camps' operation to suggest the physical reality of internment. The essays by Egan and Leong as well as an afterword by former Manzanar internee John Tateishi complement the volume's visual record.

The Radical Jack London: Writings on War and Revolution. Edited and with an introduction by Jonah Raskin. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008. xi + 285 pp. Illustrations, bibliography, and index. \$60.00 cloth. \$24.95 paper. The selections presented here highlight the radicalism of one of California's most influential authors. Editor Raskin provides introductory comments that offer biographical information and explain the social and political contexts that informed London's work.

Rocky Mountain Heartland: Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming in the Twentieth Century. By Duane A. Smith. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2008. xiv + 304 pp. Illustrations, notes, and index. \$50 cloth. \$22.95 paper. Smith, a professor of history at Fort Lewis College, presents a chronological account of the twentieth-century history of three Rocky Mountain states.