

BOOK REVIEWS

An Aristocracy of Color: Race and Reconstruction in California and the West, 1850-1890. By D. Michael Bottoms. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2013. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, and index. xiv + 274 pp. \$34.95 cloth.

Reviewed by Kyle Iwasaki, Independent Scholar.

In his fascinating work, *An Aristocracy of Color*, D. Michael Bottoms contends that in order to understand fully the implications of Reconstruction in the post-bellum United States, it is necessary to divorce this issue from its commonly accepted southern context and consider the legal actions occurring in California and the West during this period. Through his analysis of a variety of legal documents, court cases, and federal, state, and municipal ordinances, Bottoms argues that California's unique context of racial diversity during the late nineteenth century not only challenged certain concepts connected to Reconstruction, but also helped define Reconstruction legislation for the rest of the country. This book examines the racial relationships among whites, blacks, Chinese, and Native Americans, and Bottoms exposes how these groups interacted with each other and within the hierarchy created by the state's white inhabitants. While California's white population worked to maintain this hierarchy, which placed them at the pinnacle, the state's minority groups, specifically black Californians and the Chinese, pulled Reconstruction west, as they attempted to chip away at white privilege.

By analyzing the legal challenges brought to the state's courts by California's non-white populations, Bottoms reveals the constantly evolving racial landscape present in California during this time and shows how Reconstruction expanded beyond a white/black racial binary. The state in the post-Gold Rush years not only had a significant, albeit rapidly decreasing, population of Native Americans, but numerous Chinese immigrants settled in the region as well. Legal and social ideas connected with Reconstruction that worked in the eastern and southern United States failed to provide workable solutions to the state's diverse population. This context allowed segments of the state's non-white population to challenge discriminatory legal codes, whites' domination and control over access to schools, and a narrow definition of equal protection. Black Californians and the Chinese won victories in several of these areas; however, these triumphs often came at the expense of other minority groups.

In order to justify the reasons why they warranted access to certain rights, various non-white groups contrasted themselves against each other. This would weaken the position of the minority group serving as a comparison, and it would

simultaneously strengthen the overall position of the white population. In his examination of black Californians' quest to have their testimony be admissible in a court of law, Bottoms argues that black Californians intentionally differentiated themselves in the racial hierarchy from the state's Chinese population in order to be accepted in a judicial setting. Through appeals to a common religion and civic culture, black Californians emphasized their shared traits with the state's white population in addition to affirming white views of supposed Chinese cultural stagnation and decay. This strategy, although successful for black Californians, further reified the construction of white superiority present in the state during the late nineteenth century.

Two ethnic groups, while present in California, that are almost non-existent in *An Aristocracy of Color* are Californios and Mexican immigrants. Bottoms does address these groups in a few passing remarks. He states that since they were legally defined as "white" many of the laws and conflicts did not directly apply to or affect them. These groups did, however, occupy a key portion of the state's legal landscape, specifically related to the California Land Act of 1851 and the Foreign Miners Tax, even if they were not directly linked to Reconstruction. By incorporating these groups into his examination of race and Reconstruction in California, Bottoms' contribution would have been even more robust and nuanced.

Such criticism notwithstanding, Bottoms' work provides an insightful analysis of California's unique racial climate and the national ramifications of California's relationship with Reconstruction. By providing a new lens through which to view the shifting landscape of nineteenth-century racial politics and law, *An Aristocracy of Color* serves not only as an interesting addition to Reconstruction historiography but also as an important analysis of race in California.

Los Angeles in Civil War Days, 1860-1865. By John W. Robinson. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2013. Maps, photographs, notes, bibliography, and index. 185 pp. \$19.95 paper.

Reviewed by Theodore A. Strathman, Lecturer, Department of History, California State University San Marcos.

John W. Robinson's *Los Angeles in Civil War Days*, originally published in 1977 and now reissued by the University of Oklahoma Press, is a well-written account of political, economic, and social developments that took place during the secession crisis and war years. Drawing extensively on local newspapers as well

as several memoirs, official records of the Union and Confederate Armies, and an array of secondary sources, the book vividly depicts a town marked by divided loyalties, political dissent and repression, and economic difficulties related to the war. Historians of California and readers interested in the Civil War will find fascinating anecdotes and an engaging account of little-known developments in what was then a remote corner of a nation at war. The republication of Robinson's book may also point scholars in some promising directions, as it hints at issues critical in the historiography of California and the West.

Robinson begins by providing a sketch of Los Angeles in 1860. While the town of fewer than 5,000 was predominantly Spanish-speaking, incoming Anglo-Americans were fast remaking its physical culture and economic and social practices. Los Angeles was also a Democratic stronghold with southern sympathies derived in part from the slave-state origins of many local elites as well as transportation links to the South via the Butterfield Stage and federal patronage from Democratic politicians. Also promoting the southern cause was Henry Hamilton, the staunchly pro-slavery editor of the *Los Angeles Star*. Once the war began, the pro-secession sentiments of many locals became a point of considerable concern for Lincoln supporters as well as U.S. Army officers stationed in Los Angeles. The town witnessed the kinds of political conflict that played out elsewhere in the nation: Union Army officers attempted to suppress pro-southern sentiment, Hamilton faced charges of treason for his anti-Lincoln tirades, and pro-Confederate secret societies tried to help southern Californians flee the state and join the Confederate Army.

One of the book's strengths is Robinson's ability to relate interesting and sometimes poignant vignettes that enliven the narrative. For instance, Robinson discusses several secessionists who resigned their U.S. Army commissions in various parts of the West and decided to lay low in Los Angeles. Captain Winfield Scott Hancock, the only U.S. Army officer stationed in Los Angeles at the beginning of the war, invited six of these former comrades to dinner, suspecting that they would soon attempt to make their way to Richmond to join the Confederate cause. Four of the six would die in the war: Albert Sidney Johnston (at Shiloh) and three others who would fall at Gettysburg, where Hancock himself commanded the Union Army's II Corps. Also present at the farewell dinner was George Pickett, who "would forever relive the agony of watching his splendid troops cut to pieces by soldiers of Hancock's army corps" (p. 63).

Such anecdotes make the book an engaging read, and Robinson's work on a little-known topic may inspire scholars to investigate more fully some paths he has not thoroughly explored. For instance, Robinson notes that Hancock informed his superiors that secessionists posed a significant threat in Los Angeles, as did

some elements of the Spanish-speaking population, who were discontented and might rebel against the government. Some fifty or sixty secessionists also planned to raise a Bear Flag – a “symbol of resistance to the federal government” (p. 55) – and ride into Los Angeles. This group was linked to the “Monte Boys,” vigilantes who had perpetrated a number of lynchings, especially against ethnic Mexicans. Robinson also relates the story of Francisco P. Ramírez, former editor of *El Clamor Público* (a Spanish-language newspaper that spoke out against Anglo-American discrimination towards Hispanics and the Chinese), who challenged Henry Hamilton’s election to the state senate on the grounds that Hamilton (an Irish immigrant) was disloyal and not a citizen of the United States. Robinson himself provides relatively little commentary on the larger significance of such stories, but these episodes--which suggest the intersection of war, loyalty, citizenship, and racial and ethnic identity--could provide fertile fields for future scholarship. Following the lead of Elliott West, who has suggested the concept of a “Greater Reconstruction” in which questions of citizenship and government power played out not just in the South but in the West as well, future studies of Los Angeles during the Civil War may delve into questions of how the war figured in Californios’ conceptions of identity or how pro-slavery figures viewed the diversity of southern California through the lens of war and white supremacy. Such explorations could connect Los Angeles’s Civil War experience to the kinds of patterns observed by historians like D. Michael Bottoms (discussed in the preceding review). For lay readers and academics alike, then, Robinson has performed a valuable service in bringing to light a topic worthy of future consideration while telling an engaging tale.

Wyatt Earp: A Vigilante Life. By Andrew C. Isenberg. New York: Hill and Wang, 2013. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, and index. vii + 296 pp. \$30.00 cloth. \$16.00 paper.

Reviewed by Garner A. Palenske, *Western Historian*.

Since the 1930s there have been over 1,000 books and dozens of movies about Wyatt Earp’s controversial life. Still, however, the intrigue of this American icon draws historians and writers of all types to explore, research, and reanalyze his exploits. Many works have been published in the last two years, which is odd given that the primary source material on the topic has remained relatively unchanged, with some minor exceptions. The continued interest in Wyatt Earp could be due to the increased digitalization of historical material, which has

improved the efficiency of researching. But more likely, it is the fact that when it comes to Wyatt Earp, everyone has an opinion.

Andrew Isenberg's book *Wyatt Earp: A Vigilante Life* is one of several Wyatt Earp books recently published. Isenberg is an accomplished history professor at Temple University where he teaches courses on the West, environmental history, and the nineteenth-century United States. Of special note, Isenberg spent two years of his career on staff at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, which is generally recognized as one of the premier depositories of Earpiana.

The book begins with background regarding the wanderings of the Earp family in 1845, three years prior to Wyatt's birth. Isenberg's discussion about the social and cultural nature of Americans of this period is interesting and informative. It is a theme that is carried throughout the book and clearly shows Isenberg's strength as a well-rounded historian of the period. These interjections are, it seems, intended as an explanation for the future actions of Wyatt Earp.

The book leads the reader through the well-known adventures of Earp's life, starting with his youth growing up on a farm in Pella, Iowa, where, according to Isenberg, Earp developed an aversion to farm work. Then the author writes about the cow town years and of course his time in Tombstone, Arizona. The highlight of this period – or lowlight, depending on your point of view – is his involvement in the Fremont Street Gun Battle, or as Hollywood has termed it, the Gun Fight at the OK Corral.

The concluding chapters of the book relive the period from the late 1890s until Earp's death in 1929. During this time Earp became a sporting man, spending his time running gambling operations, racing horses, and prize fighting. The majority of his time was spent in California, from San Diego to San Francisco. Isenberg's thesis is that Earp "led a life of impulsive law-breaking and shifting identities. When he wasn't wearing a badge, he was variously a thief, a brothel bouncer, a gambler, and a confidence man" (pp. 5-6). Isenberg believes Wyatt was a man who reinvented himself as needed to gain an edge, whether in a business opportunity or during a gun fight. The book's subtitle, *A Vigilante Life*, seems to be inaccurate given the common definition of a vigilante, which is a person who takes the law into his or her own hands to avenge a crime. An alternate definition, however, is one who acts without *recourse* to lawful procedures, which is consistent with the opinion of Earp expressed by the author.

Some portions of the book contain dated sources that have been found to be less than accurate. Isenberg's treatment of Wyatt's time in San Diego and the story regarding Wyatt's appearance in the silent movie, *The Half Breed*, are examples. In addition, Isenberg in some instances relies too heavily on other secondary sources.

Overall, this is an enjoyable academically written book, and after reading it

one will know much more about the bigger picture of Americans and their lives during this extraordinary period of history. To accurately characterize a person who lived when America was a much different place is a daunting task, especially given the differences in contemporary social conventions and attitudes. Isenberg's academic treatment of the subject is commendable; however, the book paints Wyatt Earp as a more complex person than he might have been.

Wyatt Earp is best described by Mabel Earp Cason, who was a relative of Wyatt and co-author of the Cason Manuscript, the unpublished biography of Josephine "Josie" Marcus Earp, Wyatt's common-law wife of some 40 years. Josie lived with the Cason family for many years after Wyatt's death in 1929. Referring to Wyatt and other Tombstonians of the period, Mabel states, "These old-timers who lived lives that were in no way above reproach, but who are being represented to a growing generation as super-men should be presented as they were, men of their generation with all the shortcomings as well as virtues, of ordinary men."

Balboa Park and the 1915 Exposition. By Richard W. Amero, edited by Michael Kelly. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2013. Illustrations, notes, and index. 286 pp. \$24.99 paper.

Reviewed by Jane Kenealy, Archivist, San Diego History Center.

San Diego has much to be proud of, and Balboa Park is one of its finest achievements. Although its roots can be traced back to 1870, its birth as the Park we know today was conceived in the Panama-California Exposition of 1915. Richard Amero spent almost seventy years researching the history of Balboa Park and he chose to start with the Panama-California Exposition, a pivotal event at a time when San Diego announced its intention to be a major player in the race to invite the world to celebrate the completion of the Panama Canal. For a city so small to aim so high was implausible at the time, and in retrospect what the city accomplished is impressive indeed.

Amero conducted vast amounts of research that allowed him to produce in-depth narratives pertaining to the park and the exposition. He died in 2012, and Michael Kelly edited his writings into this posthumous book. The initial chapter covers the events from the exposition's conception in July 1909 to the opening on January 1, 1915, and is followed by chapters that detail both the 1915 and 1916 Expositions, as well as what the author titles the "mop-up" in 1917. The path to the Exposition was not easy, and Amero's opening chapter takes the

reader on a breathtaking rollercoaster ride through its conception, planning, and implementation. This complex trail through five years of civic intrigue, posturing, and planning provides a wealth of information that should be welcomed by all researchers. This information allows Amero to address all the pertinent issues, although unfortunately none is examined with any great depth. Amero does revisit this time later in the book when he expands on the involvement of the Olmsted Brothers who eventually resigned as landscape architects due to disagreements over the plans for the Park. Amero's discussion of these kinds of issues allows the reader to appreciate more fully the intricate negotiations it took for the event to come to fruition.

There is a welcome change of pace in the chapters that detail the events that took place and the attractions on display during the exposition. Amero continues to present the reader with a wealth of information as we hear about "three hundred Indians" living in a Pueblo Village, multiple military maneuvers, exhibitions of art, agriculture, anthropology and archeology, the "Isthmus" with its replica of the Panama Canal, and the "War of the Worlds" depicting the destruction of New York City in the year 2000.

The final chapters are devoted to the other aspect of Amero's work where he uses his research "to tell the real story of the park and the exposition" (p. 8) Here we can appreciate the true extent of his knowledge as he examines the representation of both the Indians and the Japanese at the Expositions. His knowledge of their cultures extends beyond their presence in San Diego and he appears genuinely concerned with any misrepresentation of these cultures. We are also treated to a chapter on the most abiding of his interests, that of the architecture of the Exposition, which is perhaps the subject he wrote about most extensively.

There could be a case for the first chapter on the planning phase of the Exposition being lengthened into several chapters to enable a more detailed examination of the intricacies of the events. Comparison with the chapter on the architectural origins presented later in the book leaves a desire to hear more of the author's views on the other events leading up to the Exposition. Given Amero's remarkable store of knowledge about the planning leading up to 1915, he could have provided more discussion of the political wrangling and negotiations of this period.

In consideration of the extensive amount of work Amero completed in his lifetime, this book is only a minor representation of what he achieved. The extent of information it contains, however, and the span of knowledge it represents should encourage readers to seek out further examples of his work. It is unfortunate that this book was produced posthumously as there is a wealth of material that could

have spawned several more. Amero's dedication to discovering the facts behind the history and his extensive research and literary material are an impressive legacy that will be hard to equal. Mike Kelly's comprehensive notes and addition of numerous photos make the book even more impressive.

Trailblazer: A Biography of Jerry Brown. By Chuck McFadden. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013. Photographs, appendices, notes, bibliography, and index. xiv + 230 pp. \$29.95 cloth.

Reviewed by James W. Ingram III, Ph.D., Lecturer, Department of Political Science, San Diego State University.

Chuck McFadden's *Trailblazer* resembles a campaign biography, intended to market Jerry Brown for yet another of his endless bids for the presidency. The book spins Brown's career, such that the exploits that earned him the moniker "Governor Moonbeam" demonstrate that he has always been willing to think outside the box--clearly a virtue for anyone who desires to face the challenges the Oval Office now poses.

McFadden's inability to secure an interview with Brown creates the appearance that the book is (like its subject) neutral and nonpartisan, written by an author independent of any connection to and influence from Brown himself. McFadden never explains the biography's title: is it ironic, indicating that Brown is on the cutting (or falling) edge, or is it serious, implying that Brown is an intrepid pioneer, perennially setting out into the undiscovered country of innovative policies and political strategies? In his choice of title and themes, McFadden's bio ultimately mimics Brown's 1992 presidential campaign, which was not disorganized, according to Brown ally Jacques Barzaghi, but merely transcended understanding (p. 109).

The book is written in engaging prose, so it is more accessible to a popular audience than an academic treatment would have been. This is a plus, in the sense that it is free of the jargon that plagues *ex cathedra* pronouncements from the ivory tower. But this is also a tradeoff: the book's bibliography is only two pages long and misses some good sources on Brown's career. The author does provide the reader with endnotes, but they are unfortunately sparse.

Trailblazer follows Jerry Brown from his birth up to the present day, providing details of Brown's development from his quixotic quest for enlightenment as a young seminarian and midlife crisis Zen learner. The book recounts his use

of such unlikely positions as community college trustee and Secretary of State as springboards for his 1975-83 governorship, and of the similarly improbable launching pad of state party chair and Oakland Mayor for his post-2010 stint as California's CEO. His interactions with such interesting characters as B.T. Collins, Jacques Barzagli, and Ivan Illich aid McFadden in illustrating the way in which Brown developed his style of a "mosaic of leadership" (as apt an oxymoron as one could find for Brown, coined by Gray Davis, appropriately) (p. 115).

Besides the secondary literature on Brown, McFadden consulted the existing archives and library collections. Such sources are limited, however, and thus McFadden conducted a number of interviews. His informants included journalists who have covered Brown over the years, political operatives who have assisted and opposed Brown in the past, and academics specializing in California politics. His qualitative data are thus useful, although he made less use of his sources than he could have. Steve Glazer, the consultant who ran Brown's 2010 gubernatorial campaign, has delivered lectures offering more insight on Brown's rebirth than this biography provides.

Still, *Trailblazer* is thorough, with such insider details as the fact that former Governor Gray Davis recently attended an event where the hosts misspelled his first name. Yet the biography is occasionally cryptic: McFadden notes that during state budget delays shoe stores lost business (p. 159). Are these now the canary-in-the-coal-mine indices of financial instability? Unfortunately, the book's details do more to explain Brown's personal quirks than they do to provide the reader with historical and political context. Surely, Prop 13 was one of the most important legacies of Brown's followership, but one can better understand the measure by reading Peter Schrag's *Paradise Lost*.

McFadden cites Kevin Starr's work, but Jackson Putnam would have provided a better handle on the liberal-conservative fusion that Brown personifies. Putnam's neo-progressive concept would help readers make sense of the political chameleon and ideological hybrid that is Brown. According to Putnam, California's governors have often been neo-progressives, who may have been elected to the office from the right or left, but ultimately ended up being pulled to the center of the political spectrum by the demands of the job and the challenge of retaining their popularity and thus political influence in such a diverse state. Jerry Brown's combination of Prop 13-enforcing fiscal conservatism with pro-farm labor and minority cause-related social liberalism is intelligible in the context of California's neo-progressive tradition of governors. While the book shows Brown rediscovering his father's future-oriented policies (p. 168), such an eventuality can be more fruitfully understood with reference to neo-progressivism.

The book's contribution is to dispel the unfairly flaky Moonbeam image that

became conventional wisdom on Jerry Brown during the Malathion-Medfly years. From one angle, Jerry Brown apparently fits the comment on Pierce Patchett by the Sid Hudgens character in *L.A. Confidential*, "All in all a powerful behind-the-scenes strange-o." Perhaps no one would ever accuse Brown of being a behind-the-scenes kind of guy, with his nearly obsessive-compulsive need for the limelight, but his eccentricity reflects the state where he has made his career.

The central irony of *Trailblazer* as a title for a Jerry Brown biography is that unlike Edmund G. Brown, Sr., Junior has been the practitioner of a form of leadership that is less about vision and leading than it is about running to the front of an existing parade and taking the baton from the drum major. If one wants to understand how the Golden State lost its glitter, and its status as a national bellwether, this book is ideal. California went from building freeways to the future when it was led by Brown the Elder to marking trails to nowhere under his less pioneering progeny.

The Way We Were in San Diego. By Richard W. Crawford. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2011. Maps, photographs, notes, and index. 159 pp. \$16.99 paper.

San Diego Yesterday. By Richard W. Crawford. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2013. Maps, photographs, notes, and index. 158 pp. \$16.99 paper.

Reviewed by Matthew G. Schiff, Marketing Director, San Diego History Center.

San Diego historian and author, Richard W. Crawford, has published two titles that should be considered amongst the "must-read" books exploring the historic fabric of San Diego and its surrounding region. Both books are quick and rewarding reads, each around 160 pages, and summarize many stories of San Diego's past that are both well known and little told. Taken together, these titles broadly explain San Diego's past in a way that a reader with even a mild interest in the subject would come away satisfied by the ease and accessibility of the text and the richness of information without being daunting. More discerning students of San Diego's history will largely be satisfied with the breadth of research—drawn from a fairly strong variety of primary and secondary documentation—and will come away better informed about subjects and stories which they formerly considered themselves well-versed.

The author's research is well documented and the writing is succinct yet descriptive. Both books are a compilation of articles written by Crawford in and around 2008 as a weekly submission to the Metro Edition of *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. This concise format is present throughout both titles and is the reason

for the easily accessible narrative, making them attractive to a wide audience.

For example, today, if a newly transplanted resident to the Ocean Beach neighborhood of San Diego picked up a copy of *San Diego Yesterday*, he or she would probably be surprised to learn that a large amusement park, Wonderland, once dominated their new surrounding's landscape. It was thriving for two years before competition from the Panama-California Exposition and a flood put it out of business. The newcomer would be further surprised to learn that the zoo animals at the newly shuttered Wonderland would be some of the first attractions at the Exposition and also at the newly created San Diego Zoo six years later.

With each story only three to four pages long, one could read either book for 10 minutes each night at bedtime and in less than a month have been exposed to a multitude of San Diego's key events, characters, and outcomes. Both new and long-time residents could gain a greater appreciation and fondness for the region's character.

Crawford weaves all kinds of these connections throughout both books and, when read together, do cover a large swath of San Diego's history during the American period. What is noticeably lacking are stories that explore the three other important periods of San Diego "occupation:" Kumeyaay, Spanish, and Mexican. While understandably more difficult, at times, to study given language barriers and the comparative rarity of sources, a new transplant to San Diego should have some explanation about San Diego's formative beginnings. The opportunity lost is the ability to showcase for readers that San Diego's story is not only an American one.

In a span of seventy-nine years--from Junípero Serra's arrival on today's Presidio Hill, to the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo—possession of San Diego changed hands four times. The outcomes of those culture clashes have indeed helped to shape the region and would have provided greater context for many of Crawford's topics. This addition would have been a delight for readers to learn through this format, since Crawford masterfully sheds light on San Diego's past in concise, digestible, yet information-laden narratives. Perhaps the *Union-Tribune* requested historical retrospectives on only a particular period, or perhaps there is a third book on the horizon. One can only earnestly wish.

BOOK NOTES

After Camp: Portraits in Midcentury Japanese American Life and Politics. By Greg Robinson. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012. Photographs, notes, and index. viii + 318 pp. \$65 cloth, \$27.95 paper. Greg Robinson examines the efforts of Japanese Americans to reform communities, adjust to everyday life, and develop political strategies in the years after the Second World War. The volume pays particular attention to efforts to build interethnic coalitions, as Japanese American activists attempted, with varying degrees of success, to work alongside African American, Jewish, and Mexican American civil rights groups.

Dolores del Río: Beauty in Light and Shade. By Linda B. Hall. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2013. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, and index. xiii + 358 pp. \$30.00 cloth. Historian Linda Hall of the University of New Mexico explores the life of Dolores del Río from her affluent upbringing in Mexico to her rise to stardom in Hollywood in the 1920s and 1930s, and finally to her return to her native country in the 1940s. One theme of the book is the complicated terrain of race and ethnicity, as movie producers granted white status to del Río even as the actor herself asserted a Mexican identity.

From Coveralls to Zoot Suits: The Lives of Mexican American Women on the World War II Home Front. By Elizabeth R. Escobedo. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, and index. xviii + 229 pp. \$34.95 cloth. This monograph studies the ways Mexican American women took advantage of employment opportunities created by the Second World War to pursue various goals, from staking out positions *vis à vis* their families and the broader society to serving their country and enhancing their economic standing.

The Great Ocean: Pacific Worlds from Captain Cook to the Gold Rush. By David Igler. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. Illustrations, map, notes, bibliography, and index. xi + 255 pp. \$29.95 cloth. At the time of James Cook's first voyage in 1768, the Pacific Ocean encompassed countless territories, peoples, and ecosystems. *The Great Ocean* reveals how by the time of the California gold rush, the Pacific region had become a site of imperial contest and conflict while its disparate parts were drawn into increasingly intertwined networks of commerce.

Hotel Mariachi: Urban Space and Cultural Heritage in Los Angeles. By Catherine L. Kurland and Enrique R. Lamadrid. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2013. Illustrations, notes, and bibliography. x + 106 pp. \$29.95 paper. In 2006

the East Los Angeles Community Corporation purchased the “Mariachi Hotel” in the hope of preserving a low-income housing property that had long served as home to mariachi musicians. This volume brings together photographs and two essays that tell the story of both the hotel itself and the place of Los Angeles in the mariachi tradition.

J. Edgar Hoover Goes to the Movies: The FBI and the Origins of Hollywood's Cold War. By John Sbardellati. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2012. Photographs, appendix, notes. viii + 256 pp. \$27.95 cloth. *J. Edgar Hoover Goes to the Movies* discusses the struggle over the content of Hollywood films in the 1940s and 1950s, as the FBI attempted to identify Hollywood films (including classics such as *It's a Wonderful Life* and *On the Waterfront*) that the Bureau believed subverted American ideals.



Back Row: James Michael Williams, Sue Lavery, Tom Herrington, Leeva Chung, Fred Robinson, Jim Bolender, Noelle Norton, Lukasz Pruski, Lawrence Himman, Del Dickson **Middle Row:** Mitch Malachowski, Florence Gillman, Tammy Dreyer, Cynthia Caywood, Judith Liu, Lisa Baird, Jim Gump **Front Row:** Yi Sun, Iris Engstrand, Therese Whitcomb, Gail Perez, Molly McClain, Virginia Lewis; **Seated:** Darlene Davies. Photo by Christy Howland.