

Whatever his reasons may have been (they are not stated, and can only be inferred), the omission is regrettable, since it increases the element of incompleteness in a study which, so far as it goes, is in the main excellent.

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Border Captives: the Traffic in Prisoners by Southern Plains Indians, 1835-1875. By CARL COKE RISTER. (Norman, Oklahoma: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1940. Pp. vii-xiv, 220. \$2.00.)

Professor Rister's work forms a more modern approach to a subject which has been far from neglected in the literature of western American history. It could scarcely be considered either a profound or definitive discussion, but is not without its merits.

The professed purpose of the book seems to be, in the words of the author, "a study of the captive traffic" to "provide a helpful background . . . for a comprehensive view of Indian-settler relations." An unfriendly critic might be inclined to say that *Border Captives* depends too heavily, for its slender thread of narrative, upon a general discussion of the Indian wars of the Great Plains. Moreover, apparently a full two thirds of the subject matter upon which such a book might well have been based—the real Mexican-American borderland, and the Apache wars—have been either ignored or very sketchily treated. Texas and Oklahoma form the chief *locale* of the book; and even their share in its story is largely Anglo-American in viewpoint and limited to a relatively late period of the Indian wars.

The book opens with two chapters (pp. 3-59), on the location, range and tribal habits of the Comanche, Kiowa, Apache and other more or less nomadic Indian nations of the southern plains and Rocky Mountain area, with some slight discussion of early Spanish and Mexican relations with these peoples. Almost no effort is made in these chapters to utilize Spanish or Mexican archival material or manuscript sources; and, as is indeed the case throughout, the sources of evidence are chiefly English or Anglo-American. "Indianizing Texans," the third and longest chapter, is a résumé of old border tales of white captives among the Indians of Texas, including such stories as those of Cynthia Ann Parker, Rachel Plummer, Jane Adeline Wilson, and Sarah Ann Horn.

The remaining four chapters are in large part a summary of the Indian wars of Texas and Oklahoma during and after the American Civil War. As might be expected, they contain numerous details about military affairs, treaties and campaigns, and too often the ex-

periences of white captives seem to be completely lost or forgotten. The book ends rather abruptly with the surrender of the last free Indian tribes of the Great Plains area, and with only a feeble recapitulation of its somewhat hazy thesis.

In format the work is neat, compact, attractively bound and printed, and pertinently illustrated, with two excellent maps. Only one typographical error was noted (p. 193). The bibliography, if perhaps a little pretentious for so small a volume, is at least adequate and helpful, as is the brief index.

To this reviewer, judging the work as a whole, it seemed to suggest a collection of extracts from the old-time, garrulous volumes of frontier folklore, of the type of J. H. Brown's *Indian Wars of Texas*, or J. P. Dunn's *Massacres of the Mountains*, dressed up in a modern, scientific style, and with its stories better authenticated if not much more interestingly told. But the avowal of such an impression need not be taken as a condemnation of the book, for it has some value as a convenient guide for other students of the subject.

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Green Flag Over Texas, A Story of the Last Years of Spain in Texas.

By JULIA KATHEYN GARRETT. (New York and Dallas: The Cordova Press, Incorporated, 1939. Pp. xv, 275. \$3.00.)

Dr. Garrett has written a new chapter in Texas history, based largely on manuscript materials from Mexico, Texas, the Library of Congress, and Bancroft Library. She has pieced together a complex story from the conflicting correspondence of rival factions. Names which would formerly flit like shadows across the pages of history have been replaced by personalities whose dreams, ambitions, and actions take on reality under the facile pen of the author.

The early revolutionary movement in Texas is given adequate and comprehensive treatment, considerable space being devoted to the trends and influences from Mexico and the United States with some consideration for the interests of England and France.

Texas, "Imperial Bulwark," threatened by Indians in the interior, filibusters on the frontier, and by republicans everywhere, was "vibrating with revolution." The first surge of revolution toward Texas was started by Hidalgo and ended by the treachery of Elizondo. But only weak bonds held the restless people of Texas to the royalists. The author has effectively shown the importance of propaganda in creating the royalist and revolutionary factions and how it was equally effective in creating dissension among the republicans.