

tinguished, and that the individual household is not the appropriate unit for the study of family relations.

Theoretically, Smith's conclusion that there is a serial order in the three mating alternatives in Latante and Rural Jamaica should not be based on an "einmalig" survey: one would need life histories. Also, the repeated statement that all the populations have a formal commitment to monogamy, probable as this may be, cannot, so facilely, be derived from purely statistical-demographical data. Where the author, comparing the history of marriage in the West Indies and Europe, states that the Europeans, since Tacitus and before, have had unions of the life-long, exclusive type "and knew no other" (263), his vision of the history of mating organization of the different European social strata proves to be too simplified. The ease with which the West Indian white ruling group came to a fusion of marriage and extra-residential mating, very similar to that which Smith describes for the Carriacou Negroid lower class, is at least partially explainable as the continuation and/or imitation of a European feudal pattern of life, just as, maybe, Smith's Carriacou population knew itself backed in its mating organization by the example of its social elite.

The singular in the title of Smith's work suggests a general Caribbean character, both social and geographic, that actually is not present. How fertile would a comparison be with the Spanish Caribbean, where the Carriacou pattern is, or was, practically universal. In spite of these critical remarks—and mainly because of the care with which the terminology was coined—and the hypotheses tested on the basis of extensive quantitative material, I consider the book under review the most important one that in recent years has been written on British West Indian family structures.

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The Chamizal Settlement, A View from El Paso. By GLADYS GREGORY. El

Paso, 1963. Texas Western College Press. Southwestern Studies. Vol. I. No. 2. Notes. Pp. 52. Paper.

Mexico and the United States have finally settled the disputed boundary between El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico; or have they? Although the senates of both countries have approved the 1963 treaty, Dr. Gregory's short, legal, and historical study indicates that anything can happen, or has in the past.

Instability of the Rio Grande River, which periodically flooded and changed courses, is at the root of the Chamizal controversy. This monograph traces boundary surveys, litigation, and diplomacy from 1848 to mid-1963. A high point was reached in 1911 when the parties agreed on arbitration. An international commission headed by a Canadian divided the territory between the litigants, but the United States refused to accept the decision.

Future books on Mexican-American relations will list this as the best work on the Chamizal dispute. With the assistance of an excellent map, good organization, and documentary footnotes, the reader is conducted through the legalistic and geographic Chamizal jungle without getting lost in the "avulsion of alluvial valleys." However, it does seem strange that a book printed in Texas and written by a Texan should state that "Texas was voted into the Union on March 1, 1945. . .," when most of us recognize a much earlier date.

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Sam Houston American Giant. By M. K. WISEHART. Washington, 1962. Robert B. Luce, Inc. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiv, 712. \$10.00.

M. K. Wisheart, an accomplished journalist with all the higher gifts of writing as well as the historical perspective necessary to make a valuable contribution to history, has produced a fascinating addition to the private life, character, and public career of a re-

markable man of destiny—General Sam Houston. This biographical narrative, which was written with an ease and grace that any novelist might envy, has a real quality of growth and is not merely a record of things that happened. The large volume contains much information that has not been hitherto accessible.

Those who have known Sam Houston only as a figure in history books will suddenly realize that they are being introduced to a person different from any other they have ever known or read about. The magnetic attraction of the general's personality is sure to stimulate the reader throughout the book. This atmosphere prevails equally during Houston's wildcat childhood days as during the stormy years of his adult life. He is always up to some venture that few would choose to undertake and all would yearn to possess the valor to challenge.

In historical substance the author has succeeded in making a striking character study of a historically great man by re-evaluating the outstanding traits of his complicated personality and blending them with the great events of the day in which he participated. The narrative of the events is consecutively told, section by section, tracing the major phases of Houston's career: his decision to go to Texas; his relations as Commander-in-Chief with the General Council, the legislative body of the first provisional government; his plans for defending Texas without sacrificing the Alamo garrison; his strategy during the forty-day campaign which culminated in victory at San Jacinto; his anti-war policy as president of the Texas Republic; his annexation policy; his thirteen years of service in the United States Senate and his attempts to check the drift toward war and to heal the breach between North and South; and his anti-secession policy as governor of Texas.

In a singularly unbiased account the author draws the likeness of Houston as a human of great courage in the face of hardship, privation, and peril, of a man of broad mental vision, of rich imagination and deep intuition, destined to

become great in his country's service. Yet at no time does Wisehart ignore his subject's many personal weaknesses. Pages are devoted to Houston's moments of defeat, despair, and drunkenness. There are many equally humorous and diverting incidents which cause the reader to become even more attracted to the main character as well as to the book. The entire volume is a good example of straightforward writing abounding in human interest and unmarred by any attempt at dramatic effect. It will be recognized as an endeavor of first-rate importance written by a man who may be considered thoroughly qualified for the task.

The work is particularly rich in quotations and references and is capped with a bibliography which is abundant without seeming to be a wanton display of industry minus judgment.

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Inter-American Efforts to Relieve International Tensions in the Western Hemisphere, 1959-1960. Washington, D. C., 1962. U. S. Government Printing Office. Department of State Publication 7409. Appendices. Pp. xiii, 410. Paper. \$1.25.

This volume, prepared by the Historical Division of the Department of State, consists of a one hundred-page narrative summary followed by three hundred pages of documents. It provides a detailed account of efforts of the OAS to resolve the international crises that disturbed the Caribbean area in 1959 and 1960.

In 1959, crises caused by invasions and rumored invasions of Panama, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic—allegedly sponsored by the Cuban or Dominican governments—required numerous meetings of the Council of the OAS. Finally, the problem of Caribbean tensions was referred to the Fifth (Santiago) Meeting of Foreign Ministers held in August, 1959. But the pious resolutions approved at Santiago demonstrated the failure of the American states to agree upon a specific