



Book Reviews

AFTER CORONADO. Spanish Exploration Northeast of New Mexico, 1696-1727. Documents from the archives of Spain, Mexico, and New Mexico. Translated and edited by Alfred Barnaby Thomas. With a historical introduction. Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1935. xiv+306 pp.

Even our high-school and grade-school texts tell of Coronado's expeditions, but *After Coronado* fills a great and yawning gap in the history of the Southwest, in which only here and there periods of Spanish exploration and occupation have been studied and written. Particularly is this true of the explorations north and east from New Mexico from the time of New Mexico's founding to the close of the Spanish period in 1821. Three years ago Professor Thomas published his *Forgotten Frontiers* (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1932), edited documents on the little-known career of Juan Bautista de Anza as governor of New Mexico, 1777-1787. Now he gives us valuable, hitherto unpublished documents

on an earlier period, coupling them with a valuable historical introduction.

Very briefly Professor Thomas surveys the history of Spanish explorations and occupation in the Southwest from Coronado's time to the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 and the reconquest of New Mexico in 1696. Then, in more detail, he takes from the documents the story of the intrepid Spanish pioneers who preceded Pike and other Anglo-Americans by a century and more in the penetration of the present-day states of Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma. The rivalry of Spain and France in that area is portrayed; the whole period is brought into the picture as part of the "defensive aggression" which characterized Spain's later expansion policy in the New World. Complementing and fortifying this introduction is a large and valuable collection of "Documents relating to the northeastern frontier of New Mexico, 1696-1727." These—diaries, official correspondence, and the like taken from the archives of Spain, Mexico, and New Mexico—and an excellent bibliography embrace some three fourths of the whole volume. The prospective reader should not, however, allow himself to be turned away by the documentary nature of the entire work, for the whole of it, introduction and documents, is well presented, well written, well translated, and thoroughly readable. Not only is the book of definite and positive

value to the student of history, but it should appeal also to the casual reader of southwestern history.

LEWIS W. BEALER.

WRANGLIN' THE PAST. Reminiscences of Frank M. King. Privately published by Haynes Corporation, Los Angeles.

Mr. King lived through that period of the West's development which the public has found romantic and endowed with all the drama of its personal desires for adventure. He had ample opportunities as a cowboy in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona not only to live precariously but to share vicariously the dramas of other men's lives.

Looking back over the past, the author writes of those by-gone days of youth and uncertainty, and a new country being molded into

the uncomfortable clothes and tight fitting shoes of civilization. The book is packed with events calculated to entertain and inform, but at times becomes overemphatic with the author's insistence that his version—and his only—is the correct historic one. He reiterates tales of lawless gunmen, sometimes adding new material from his personal experiences with them.

Rambling, at times so discursive one has difficulty following him, the author moves among the shades of the past feeling sentimental attachment for the vigorous days left behind. With no pretense of literary flourish or fine writing Mr. King sets forth his life and experiences much as if, sitting on one heel beside a campfire after a day of riding the range, he were talking to a group of fellow punchers.

BERNICE COSULICH.

