... left their mark on the American West through adventures in the fur trade and their close relationship with Indian tribes beyond the Mississippi” (ix).

Their business and political expertise impacted the next generation of fur traders who had their beginnings in St. Louis: William Ashley, Ceran St. Vrain, both the Bent and Robidoux brothers, Ramsey Crooks, Sylvester Pratte. It was impossible to separate fur trade from politics in the years between 1763 and the French and Indian War and the Mexican American War of 1848. Throughout the era the Chouteaus played a critical role, and with uncanny ability always landed on the right side of power struggles in America’s holding and utilizing its Louisiana Purchase, and expanding towards Oregon, California, and New Mexico.

As the beaver trade faded in the late 1830s, “Cabet and his cadre of Chouteau fur-trader siblings did much to help open and explore an untamed half continent for the new nation that was so ambitiously bursting westward” (233). The Chouteaus led the next chapter of fur trade on the plains — the buffalo robe trade. As they plied their business they directly impacted Santa Fe traders, the Mormons, the Forty-niners, the army, the Pony Express, railroaders, ranchers, homesteaders, city builders, and all the rest.

“Despite their flaws, the value of the Chouteaus to the West must be recognized.... With little formal schooling, they read, studied, and educated themselves in the arts of social behavior and trade. They maintained detailed books ...and instituted strict business procedures...they established valuable social relations with Native people and helped advance the trappings of American society beyond the Mississippi” (224).

Hoig has written more than twenty books on the American West from his 1961 Sand Creek Massacre, to this new study on the Chouteaus. The Chouteaus is heartily recommended to all enthusiasts of Western History.

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WILLIAM CLARK IS BEST KNOWN for his role in the famous Lewis and Clark Expedition. Meriwether Lewis died two years after that trek—in 1808, but William Clark settled in Missouri and lived on for more than three decades, serving as Indian agent, territorial governor, and later, Superintendent of Indian Affairs at St. Louis. Post-expedition America (1806-1840) was a time when the country looked inside itself for definition, a time when starry-eyed Argonauts peered out through the misty landscape of dreams that many times cloaked fear, reality, and propriety. They looked to settlement in the West, where opportunities

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based in land ownership were facilitated by dispersal of cheap federal lands. It was an era filled with vision and enthusiasm on the part of white Americans and fraught with nightmares for Native Americans, whose land fell to white settlement. While Anglo-Americans poured over the Appalachians and into the then West, previous denizens of French and Spanish stock also struggled to hold onto land claims held by their families for almost a hundred years. The West was a mishmash of socio-political workings that at times ran silent and deep and other times hot and red on the very land itself. This was a time when Aaron Burr fomented treason in an attempt to make of the West a new, independent nation; an era in which America reasserted its will before the world by fighting Great Britain in the War of 1812; a time of growth, of the advent of steamships on her inner rivers and commerce reaching beyond the Rocky Mountains. This was a time when the antebellum South pressed to have slavery in northern territories and Black Hawk and his people, among other native tribes, fought to hold onto ancestral lands. To study the life of William Clark is to revisit all this and more.

Jay H. Buckley’s William Clark Indian Diplomat is just such a study, an illuminating, sweeping, well paced history that is both straightforward and emotive, causing the reader to feel empowered and righteous one moment and carried away in pathos and introspection the next. It is well documented, laced with seventeen salient pictures, eight maps, and twenty-eight pages of notes. Buckley creates in the reader a vision as complex and compelling as his protagonist was real.

In his long career, Clark signed more treaties between Indian tribes and the United States than any other American. He was involved in nearly 20 percent of all Indian treaties ever negotiated by the United States. Clark personally negotiated thirty-seven treaties that were ratified by Congress, a full one-tenth of the total 370 ratified treaties signed between Indian nations and the United States of America, an astounding statistic. While Clark exhibited deep feelings toward Indians and strove to defend tribal rights and lands and to ease Indian suffering, in the end, demands of office rolled over the top of his good intentions. His public career inadvertently reduced Indian land base and devastated much of Native American culture. From the Treaty of Greenville in 1795 to Clark’s death in 1838, the United States acquired 420 million acres from native tribes, and Clark was accountable for about 100 million of those acres, and responsible for dispossessing more Indians than any other American. Ultimately, he adhered to the notion that if losing land and sovereignty was what it cost native peoples to assimilate, it was a cheap price to pay for survival. It was a conflicted logic built into a complex individual.

Jay Buckley, professor of history at Brigham Young University, has presented a comprehensive history of William Clark, revealing his influence and abilities in Indian–white relations in the trans-Mississippi West, and as a sentimental but yet pragmatic agent of expansion. Buckley intuitively uses words as a shuttle on a great loom of time and ties together a tapestry linking not only Clark, but many...
salient, even visceral underpinnings to this most fascinating era of United States history. Whether one has studied this regional history before or is experiencing it more or less for the first time, this work will not only bring to life William Clark, but will bring perspective to the comprehensive nature of post-expedition America and the trans-Mississippian West. Buckley’s *William Clark Indian Diplomat* is destined to become a forerunner in this genre.

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**BOOK NOTICES**


In this collaborative work by John Sillito, curator, and Sarah Langsdon, associate curator of special collections at Weber State University, the authors have selected 225 photographs accompanied by informative captions to illustrate Ogden’s diverse history. With the photographs included in nine separate chapters—the last being a collection of about twenty postcards depicting scenes from Ogden’s past—the vibrance of the city is reflected in photographs of street scenes, public buildings and private residences, commercial activities, transportation facilities, and views from nearby Ogden Canyon. Individual and group photographs include everyone from World War I soldiers and World War II German prisoners of war, baseball stars who had their beginnings in Ogden, famous writers and artists, commercial and civic leaders, to residents of Ogden’s infamous 25th Street.