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## BOOK NOTES

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*A Prairie State of Mind.* By Larry Kanfer. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2016, 127 pages, cloth \$34.95.)

Larry Kanfer is a well-regarded and accomplished photographer, best known for his depictions of prairie landscapes. *A Prairie State of Mind* is the most recent of seven published works that convey the beauty—both dramatic and subtle—of the midwestern prairie landscape. This current work contains 108 color photographs of scenes. Many are from Illinois, but there are also images of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, and Ohio. Kansas readers may be disappointed that Kanfer includes only one image taken in the state, a spectacular view of a summer shower near Hays. Nonetheless, Kanfer achieved what he set out to do, which is to go beyond conveying the seasons and imprint of human activity on the landscape to portray the breadth and depth of the heartland in images that are both “expansive in geography” and “narrow their focus to the details” (p. 71). This beautifully crafted work would grace the coffee table of anyone who has a passion for the loveliness of the prairie.

*Sign Talker: Hugh Lenox Scott Remembers Indian Country.* Edited by R. Eli Paul. (University of Oklahoma Press, 2016, 272 pages, cloth \$29.95.)

West Point graduate and career army officer Hugh Lenox Scott is perhaps one of the more underrated and unknown figures of his day. His expert knowledge of Plains Indian Sign Language, aversion to violence, and lifelong respect for Native Americans earned Scott a reputation as one of the U.S. Army’s most skilled peacemakers. The Princeton native also served in the Spanish-American War, acted as superintendent of West Point, and became chief of staff (the U.S. Army’s most prestigious position) on the eve of World War I. Because Scott lacked the abundant scholarship of a George Custer or a John J. Pershing (both contemporaries of his), however, his contributions have largely gone unnoticed—until now. Using Scott’s 1928 autobiography, *Some Memories of a Soldier*, as a base, editor R. Eli Paul has created an abridged version of that work, one “confined to his frontier service” that presents “a corrected when needed, consistently edited and annotated, stand-alone text without changing the author’s original meaning” (pp. 9–10). The result is an accessible and engaging narrative of both an important historical figure and the American West.

*Horseback Schoolmarm: Montana, 1953–1954.* By Margot Liberty. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2016, xvi +127 pages, cloth, \$24.95.)

The one-room schoolhouse is an iconic American institution and the schoolmarm who oversees it a classic literary figure. *Horseback Schoolmarm* is the memoir that Margot Liberty (née Pringle), who later became an anthropologist and the author of numerous books, wrote during the year she spent in precisely this role, teaching the children of the SH Ranch in rural eastern Montana. “Miss Margot,” as her pupils called her, fresh from her undergraduate studies at Cornell University, undertook her new job with the barest minimum of teaching qualifications and even fewer supplies, but she approached her duties with inventiveness, good humor, and, most importantly, plenty of empathy for her students. The account, lost for sixty years, provides a unique window into the early postwar West.

*Soldiering in the Shadow of Wounded Knee: The 1891 Diary of Private Hartford G. Clark, Sixth U.S. Cavalry.* Edited by Jerome A. Greene. (University of Oklahoma Press, 2016, 216 pages, cloth \$29.95.)

On December 29, 1890, soldiers of the Seventh Cavalry massacred approximately two hundred Lakota Sioux men, women, and children along Wounded Knee Creek on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Fearing retaliation, the U.S. military sent in reinforcements, one of whom was Private Hartford Geddings Clark of Troop G, Sixth U.S. Cavalry. Clark immediately began to keep a diary, published here for the first time, reflecting his time at Fort Niobrara in Nebraska. Retired National Park Service research historian Jerome Greene states that the diary records Clark’s “daily army activities and experiences as well as his reflections about the people and events that touched him” (p. 13). Beyond descriptions of army life, Clark’s diary also provides a record of the army’s policy of enlisting young Indian men as regular soldiers and, more broadly, Clark’s own evolving opinion of Native Americans. Through this young soldier’s eyes, readers are offered a glimpse into what ended up being the army’s final occupation of the American West.

*The New Kansas Cookbook: Rural Roots, Modern Table.* By Frank and Jayni Carey. (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2016, ix + 357 pages, cloth \$29.95.)

Since the 1989 publication of *The Kansas Cookbook: Recipes from the Heartland*, authors Frank and Jayni Carey have noted the emergence of the “farm-to-table” trend in Kansas, which the Careys describe not as a fad but as a “lifestyle based on rural traditions with modern appeal” (p. vii). Your local farmers market, write the Careys, “is the place to be on Saturday morning” in communities across the state (p. vii). *The New Kansas Cookbook* boasts 222 well-tested recipes from the Careys and other Kansas cooks that provide a wealth of ideas for how to put your weekly farmers market haul to good use. Dishes such as “Gella’s Grebble with Sunflower Seed Pesto” (p. 3), “Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Bacon and Apples” (p. 97), “Kansas-Style Beef and Chicken Tagine” (p. 162), and “Ann’s Caramel-Walnut Cinnamon Rolls” (p. 259) will make you excited to get into your kitchen and cook. The volume is also peppered with feature stories from farmers, ranchers, brewers, chefs, cheesemakers, and others and is illustrated by Kansas artist Louis Copt.

*Odd Evening.* By Eric McHenry. (Church Enstone, UK: The Waywiser Press, 2016, 73 pages, paper \$19.00.)

“Hilarious, dark, tender and formal” are the poems of Eric McHenry, according to noted poet and filmmaker Sherman Alexie. But, Alexie writes for the back cover of McHenry’s third and latest collection, “he’s a formalist interested in the language of now and in the world we currently inhabit. And that turns his rhymes and meters into rock n roll. I love this book.” McHenry, who was named poet laureate of Kansas in April 2015 and has published his poetry in numerous journals and magazines, is a Topeka native and teacher of creative writing at Washburn University. Among *Odd Evening*’s thirty-seven poems are titles such as “The Last Payphone in Topeka,” “Five-Legged Spider,” “At the Baptist Mission,” and “How to Steal the Laptop of Your Childhood Nemesis.” Need one say more?