Recovering the Hispanic History of Texas (review)

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book a pleasure to read. For instance, many laborers working so near the border used the opportunity to make their way clandestinely into the United States. Although Border Patrol officers frustrated many of these attempts, a number got through due to tip offs. Cook includes the story of how a number of undocumented immigrants eluded capture after a friend of their employer warned them "Keep to your toes boys, they are picking guys up" (97). Years of fieldwork provides Cook with stories that wonderfully capture the nuances of conducting business on the border. In speaking of their frustrations with corrupt Mexican Customs agents extorting bribes, or *mordidas,* to allow their bricks to be exported, one businessman summed it up saying he "conducted business in spite of the government" (109).

Altogether, Cook offers a fine book. Readers wishing to learn the details of making and selling Mexican handmade brick will happily revel in Cook's descriptions, while readers interested in the labor and social history of the border will benefit from the wealth of information Cook presents. More than one hundred photographs illustrate the book and are included in an appendix. While the images are black and white and a bit small, these are minor blemishes in book well grounded in research and humanity.

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Recovering the Hispanic History of Texas. Edited by Mónica Perales and Raúl A. Ramos. (Houston: Arte Público Press, 2010. Pp. 192. Illustrations, notes, references, works cited. ISBN 9781558856912, $27.95 cloth; ISBN 9781558855915, $22.95 paper.)

Drawn from presentations at the 2008 annual meeting of the Texas State Historical Association in which the University of Houston's Recovery Project participated as a partner, the essays in this book seek to "reimagine the dominant narrative of Texas history and also to transform the very way in which the archival enterprise is viewed and knowledge is produced." The editors make a call to use alternative sources and to expand the archives' "boundaries into communities and individuals who have, for generations, been the keepers of history." While the editors acknowledge the importance of the Hispanic counter-narratives to traditional Texas historians and Chicano scholarship, they assert that new analytical tools and perspectives serve to enhance and sharpen the Hispanic experience in Texas, "recover[ing] a whole new set of stories and experiences and gain[ing] a better understanding of the world in which we live."

The essays are divided into three sections, with the first section examining social landscapes of the Spanish Texas-Louisiana borderland community of Los Adaes, a study of Mexican and Native healing practices as used by the U.S. Army in frontier forts, and Texas Mexican support for public schools in Mexico in honor of the centennial of its independence. The second section, called "Racialized Identities," examines the lived experience of two Hispanic communities that struggled to improve educational opportunities during the Chicano era. The last section, "Unearthing Voices," demonstrates ways in which the Hispanic narrative in Texas history can be recovered.

In the first section, three solid contributions cover the eighteenth, nineteenth,

and early twentieth century. Francis X. Galán's account of Tejano roots on the Louisiana-Texas borderlands provides interesting biographical and historical data on Spanish presidio soldiers. Galán also notes the importance of frontier women settlers, describing the role of St. Denis's wife, Manuela Sánchez Navarro, who resided in Natchitoches. Mark Allan Goldberg utilizes surgeons' reports of illness and treatment to document how Native American and Mexican plants were adopted and effectively used to treat U.S. soldiers. Emilio Zamora focuses on the way in which the Mexicans in Texas under the leadership of San Antonio publisher Ignacio E. Lozano contributed to the memory of the centennial of Mexican independence by providing funds to build two schools in Dolores Hidalgo.

The second section's two essays discuss the Mexican American and Chicano experience in public education. Virginia Raymond explores the role of a key participant, Alberta Zepeda Snid, in the *Rodríguez et al. v. San Antonio ISD* case and the implications of its legal strategy. Dennis J. Bixler-Márquez provides an account from Crystal City, Texas, about the making of a controversial film on the role of local Chicano activists in shaping public school curriculum along the lines of the Raza Unida Party. Not to the liking of the old political guard, including the sitting governor of Texas, the film was essentially not distributed.

In the final section, the three articles challenge us to find the true voices of Tejano agency. James E. Crisp offers examples of how historians sometimes misread and misunderstand Tejano actors, Norma A. Mouton documents a Protestant minister's life story within a larger societal and religious context, and D. M. Kabalen de Bichara examines the meaning and assertiveness of women agency in the writings of Leonor Villegas de Magnon and Jovita Idar.

All of the essays succeed in presenting elements of the larger Hispanic Texas story, with the use of mostly traditional sources, including oral interviews, and the use of newer methodologies and perspectives. However, it is debatable whether the sources are new or different in kind than those commonly used by historians. Still, this work lends support to the continuing efforts to recover Tejano and Tejana voices.

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Unfinished Revolution: The Early American Republic in a British World. By Sam W. Haynes. (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2010. Pp. 400. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. ISBN 9780813930688, $29.59 cloth.)

Unfinished Revolution is a book that, better than any before, details how divisive, difficult, intense, and traumatic the American break from Britain really was. Yes, the American Revolution ended one hundred and sixty-nine years of knowing Britain was "home," but it only began the process of finding a national "self" in contradistinction to proud membership in the British Empire. Despite winning the Revolutionary War and attaining both political autonomy and some degree of federative coherence, Americans found the British to be everywhere, condescendingly constrictive, confining, dismissive, and hollowing out. Dr. Haynes points out how "to a considerable extent, Americans still felt anchored in a British world, and [were] acutely aware of their second-class standing within it" (22). British standards of literary and theatrical excellence remained deeply rooted in all sec-