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Review of *Moving Stories: Migration and the American West, 1850-2000*. Edited by Scott E. Casper and Lucinda M. Long

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BOOK REVIEWS

Moving Stories: Migration and the American West, 1850-2000. Edited by Scott E. Casper and Lucinda M. Long. Reno: Nevada Humanities Committee, distributed by the University of Nevada Press, 2001. xvii + 299 pp. Photographs, illustrations, contributors. \$14.95 paper.

This well-written, well-illustrated anthology will gladden the hearts of students of the American West, not least because nine of the eleven authors are young—doctoral candidates or assistant professors. There is hope for Western studies. Five are historians, six trained in and teach literature, but most cross disciplinary boundaries quite easily. The geographical scope of the essays stretches well beyond the Great Plains, but the reader will land squarely between the Missouri and Montana in much of the volume.

Theresa Strouth Gaul introduces the writings of three Pennsylvania sisters named Stewart who crossed the Overland Trail to Oregon in 1853 and their struggle (not always successful) to transcend the guidebook genre in describing their own migrant experiences. Linda Schelbitzki Pickle explains how gender shaped the recollections of Germans who journeyed to Iowa and Kansas between 1852 and 1905, particularly what male and female memoirists thought important to record and what not to. Gioia Woods discusses the life and writings of Sarah Winnemucca and how she worked to explain her Paiute world to a white audience.

Matthew Evertson, focusing on Stephen Crane's stories set in Nebraska and Mexico, shows how Crane devised a literary-realist vision of the West different from Theodore Roosevelt's or Owen Wister's. Douglas M. Edward provides a strongly documented description of boom-and-bust homesteading in Montana from 1908 to the early 1920s, re-

vealing how "both state-builders and homesteaders . . . were motivated and ultimately betrayed by ideologies, . . . the natural environment and global economic systems."

Michael K. Johnson analyzes *Born to Be*, the 1929 autobiography of the African American writer Taylor Gordon, who left a small Montana town with the Ringling circus and joined the Harlem Renaissance. Peter La Chapelle's essay deconstructs the nativist, eugenicist hostility to "Okie" migrants to 1930s California, thereby contributing significantly to the growing historiography on "whiteness studies." Josh Sides details the Black migration from Texas (especially Houston) to California in the 1940s, the "Second Emancipation." Heather Fryer ingeniously links three federal efforts to create—for obviously different reasons—a "prefab West" during World War II at Topaz, Utah (for relocated Japanese-Americans), Vanport, Oregon (for black and white shipyard workers), and Los Alamos, New Mexico (for the atomic scientists). Based largely on her work with oral histories at Brigham Young University, Jessie Embry tells of "Spanish-Speaking Mormons in Utah" both historically and recently. Marni Gauthier concludes by showing how Don DeLillo's *Underworld* (1997) re-works Henry Nash Smith's "myth of the garden"; in doing so she remarks trenchantly on how myth and history are related.

Editor Scott Casper, associate editor Lucinda M. Long, and the Nevada Humanities Committee have made a useful, original, invigorating, and rewarding contribution in this collection.

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