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Hayseeds, Moralizers, and Methodists: the Twentieth-Century Image of Kansas

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westerners to question the efficacy of their agricultural way of life. Finally, since the population and economic base of significant portions of the Midwest is no longer rural, a redefinition or relocation of the region is warranted and, Shortridge believes, has in fact already occurred. He contends that the center of the region has shifted westward in the popular imagination to Kansas and Nebraska, leaving the more urban industrial areas of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio only marginally midwestern.

James Shortridge draws upon the tools of historical, sociological, and literary scholarship as well as those of his own discipline in an effort to better understand the physical and cultural geography of an ill-defined section of the nation. While some readers may find much of the volume imprecise and impressionistic, the author has done an admirable job of dealing with matters that are largely subjective. His study is well organized, lucid, imaginative, and evocative. The growing number of scholars interested in the study of the Middle West will find this volume a valuable addition to their libraries.

Hayseeds, Moralizers, and Methodists: The Twentieth-Century Image of Kansas, by Robert Smith Bader. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1988. xi, 241 pp. Notes, bibliography, index. $17.95 cloth, $7.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY CRAIG MINER, WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

When thinking about the image of Kansas, it should be remembered that Coronado strangled the guide who led him there, and that the Kansas scenes in the movie version of the Wizard of Oz are shot in black and white. In this well-written and broadly researched analysis Bader admits that Kansas has always had an "image problem," but finds that the state was not considered "irrelevant" until the 1930s, when it added a self-imposed inferiority complex to the external criticism.

Bader loves Kansas, and regrets that he was not born there. He has gathered a variety of sources, including novels, art, science fiction, film, essays, television, jokes, and *New Yorker* cartoons. His analysis is objective as well as subjective, as in his quantification of such items as the volume of articles on Kansas compared to surrounding states in the *New York Times* over several decades. He has a good eye for quotation. William Allen White's statement that "a first rate poet in Ford County would do more to bring Western Kansas into the approval of mankind than a packing house" is the perfect illustration of one of Bader's points. The title of the book comes from Henry L. Mencken, who, drawing much material from bitter transplanted Wichitan Charles Driscoll, did important damage to Kansas's reputation in the 1920s.

Bader thinks Kansas's booster genius lasted through the Progressive era. In those "golden decades" the nation affirmed Kansas's values, which in the state "produced a level of cultural aggressiveness and societal confidence that is astonishing to the modern Kansan" (11). Historian Carl Becker went to Kansas to find America, and Vachel Lindsay looked there for the poetic folk soul. The failure of the prohibition experiment—the "Kansas idea"—nationally, coinciding with the dust bowl, dealt Kansas a blow from which it has not recovered.

Half of the book concerns the "eclipsed" state of mind in Kansas since World War II, when nostalgia for a lost past was psychologically central. Kansans began to think that "to look back was to look up," and tried to copy other places, even to the extent of passing "sin amendments" to do away with their Puritan image. The result was a spiritual drabness in a national culture where transportation and communication made physical centrality less important. Kansas, Bader thinks, has made the mistake of trying to promote itself as something it is not—copying from others, instead of emphasizing its strengths. As a local editor wrote, Kansas is no place to sightsee: "Kansas, like the girl with the dumpy figure and the plain face, will just have to concentrate on building a wonderful personality" (172).

One contradiction is that residents think Kansas is a wonderful place to live. "Kansas is a nice place to live but I wouldn't want to visit there," is one of the irony-laced sayings in Bader's collection. In the 1890s the antiimperialists said that they didn't want any more states until they could civilize Kansas. Now, Kansas is not taken that seriously.

Bader's summary of the image of a place such as Kansas in the past is a challenge to such places in a future that will be dangerously homogenized around coastal values without them. It is a seminal book for planners everywhere and a near must for Kansans who love their state and wonder why others do not.

The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition: vol. 2, *August 30, 1803–August 24, 1804;* vol. 3, *August 25, 1804–April 6, 1805;* vol. 4, *April 7–July 27, 1805;* vol. 5, *July 28–November 1, 1805,* edited by Gary E. Moulton. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1986–1988. Illustrations, notes, maps, bibliographies, indexes. $40.00 cloth each.

REVIEWED BY ROGER L. NICHOLS, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

With the possible exception of the astronauts who first landed on the moon, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark are the most famous ex-