

Oklahoma Books

THE University of Oklahoma Press is steadily adding to its distinguished series on Civilization of the American Indian. No phase of this vast story is so filled with a turmoil of human emotions as the clash between the Indian and white ways of life, and particularly is this true in the life of Elias Boudinot, Cherokee, and the New England Puritan girl who became his wife.

This story, full of heartaches and bitterness and high idealism and self sacrifice, is ably related in the new University Press book, *ELIAS BOUDINOT, Cherokee, and His America*, by Ralph Henry Gabriel (\$2.00).

Mr. Gabriel is Larned professor of American History at Yale University and is general editor of the 15-volume series, *The Pageant of America*. He is author of a number of books on regional history and the history of thought in America. *Elias Boudinot* is the result of an accident which brought the Vaill letters into Mr. Gabriel's hands a few years ago. He found the story so absorbing that he put it into book form.

Galagina, a Cherokee Indian boy, was educated by Moravian missionaries in the old Cherokee country of Georgia. A promising student, he had the good fortune to be admitted to the new Foreign Mission School at Cornwall, Connecticut. It was there that he adopted the name of the New Jersey philanthropist, Elias Boudinot.

In the town of Cornwall he fell in love with Harriet Gold, daughter of a substantial citizen. The Puritan community became violently aroused when it discovered that one of its most eligible young women had decided to marry an Indian.

The girl remained steadfast in her decision, however, being filled with a desire to work with Elias in the missionary work he planned to do among his people.

The book is essentially the human and dramatic story of this unusual romance, but it also tells of Boudinot's work as a publisher and the part he played, along with a few other forward looking Cherokees, in forcing through the treaty for removal of the Cherokees away from the encroaching whites of Georgia to the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). The book also tells of Boudinot's work with Samuel Worcester at the press at Park Hill after the removal to Indian Territory, and about his death at the hands of assassins in 1839.

Frontier Story

Northern Mexico and the present American Southwest presented great difficulties to the Spanish program of colonizing the Americas. And the story of the one man who visualized best the whole problem of Indian-Spanish conflict is told in the

University Press book *TEODORO DE CROIX: And the Northern Frontier of New Spain, 1776-1783*.

The author is Alfred Barnaby Thomas, former faculty member at the University of Oklahoma and now a professor of history in the University of Alabama. Dr. Thomas, author of *After Coronado* and *Forgotten Frontiers*, is historian and authority on the Spanish southwest.

He has written *Teodoro de Croix* from the original documents in the archives of the Indies, Seville.

Don Teodoro de Croix was commander general of the interior provinces of New Spain from 1776 to 1783. His records and correspondence concerning the administration of this vast inland empire extending from Louisiana to the missions of California provide a comprehensive account of Spanish colonial administration for that period.

A "trouble shooter" for the Spanish government, Croix rose rapidly in the military service. After valorous service in Flanders, he became a military administrator in Mexico and Cuba, and because of his ability to solve difficult problems was chosen to rule the interior provinces and attempt to organize the northern frontier.

Threatened by savage Indian tribes, torn internally by graft and personal ambitions, and hopeless of reinforcements from home because of Spain's war, the small force of Spaniards in the interior provinces were in a critical situation.

Croix organized a mobile patrol to operate from Texas to Arizona, which could be summoned to any trouble spot. He took steps to stop the graft. And he made alliances with some of the Indian tribes to gain strength against the others. He managed to bring some order out of the frontier chaos, and the story of how he did it is an interesting chapter in the history of the southwest.

Sooner Writers

Doubleday Doran has announced a new mystery book by Todd Downing, '24ba, '28 ma, of Atoka. It is called *The Lazy Lawrence Murders*, and the setting is the Texas-Mexican border country which Downing favors for his stories. The hero is Peter Bounty, who has appeared in previous Downing books.

► Articles by Grace E. Ray, '20ba, '23ma, assistant professor of journalism in the University, have appeared recently in *Coronet* and *Publishers Weekly*.

► Merle Hoyleman, '35, Ponca City, is author of a book of poetry, *Asp of the Age*, published by Compass Editions of New York and Illinois. The book has received warm praise from John Gould Fletcher, poet and critic.

Sports and Games

ANY ACTIVE BOY who loves to play or to watch games will think this is about the swellest book he has ever seen. Written by Harold Keith, O.U. graduate who is director of sports publicity at the University, the book tells authoritatively how all the most popular games are played—from football to badminton—and weaves into this information a wealth of colorful background on each sport.



Harold Keith, '29ba, '39ma

SPORTS AND GAMES is a "natural" for a gift to a boy. And plenty of grown-ups would enjoy reading it for tips on golf and badminton and other games, as well as to gain a new appreciation of the inside technique of spectator games like football and baseball and basketball. The price is only \$2.50.

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