

## from sooners and the university of oklahoma press

**FIRST COMERS: INDIANS OF AMERICA'S DAWN** by Alice Marriott  
Harms, Green & Co.

What child hasn't longed to go exploring to dig up relics of ages past? For most, such desires are a passing childhood fancy that is realized. But to others, such investigation becomes a lifelong hobby—if only indulged in from the armchair by way of the printed word. Now a new book is available for young people with inquiring minds—a book with an air of professional straightness from one who has made a profession of her own insatiable curiosity.

*The First Comers* is the latest in a long line of books for young people (and adults as well) by one of O.U.'s favorite people, the anthropologist Marriott, '35ba. Miss Marriott has drawn upon a lifetime of experience in her field to present a handbook of the whys and wherefores for the amateur archaeologist—how to find artifacts and what to do with them, how to make use of information in museums and libraries.

As with Miss Marriott's previous books, *The First Comers* is a workmanlike job, written with clarity and simplicity, yet interesting enough for almost any age reader. —CJR

**FOLLOWING THE INDIAN WARS**

by Oliver Knight  
University of Oklahoma Press

Probably as many books, articles and movies have been done about the Western Indian Wars as any other subject in our country's history. Now Mr. Knight has done such a work, but from a new angle, which proves to be highly readable.

The followers of the Indian Wars, referred to in the title, were newspaper reporters, and it is this new look at the skirmishes and battles, as seen by reporters, that gives the book a unique freshness. Knight covers thoroughly every Indian campaign from 1866 to 1891.

The unusual thing about this war coverage was the fact that the reporters who followed the troops into the battles with Chief Joseph, Captain Jack, Crazy Horse and the others, were in the battle, whether they desired to fight or not. In no other war re-

porting in journalistic history did the intrepid newshound stand so good a chance of losing his life as in this type of fighting. Once an Indian battle commenced, it generally swirled over a wide area, and the Indians made no distinction between a uniformed white man and one with a press card stuck in his beaver hat.

*Following the Indian Wars* can be extremely interesting for two types of readers. The person with an average interest in the Indian campaigns as a part of Western Americana will find the book exciting reading, while the student of journalism will discover a little-known sidelight in the history of war reporting. —SRP

**THE PERALTA GRANT** by Donald M. Powell  
University of Oklahoma Press

*The Peralta Grant* is the story of one of the West's shrewdest and most unscrupulous personalities, James Addison Reavis, and his near-success in claiming over 7,000 square miles of Arizona's richest land.

In 1882, Reavis, the "Baron of Arizona," presented to the U. S. surveyor general in Tucson some genuine Spanish documents stolen from the archives in Guadalajara and carefully altered. These were only a small part of the false credentials which he had artfully composed to prove his claim in this phenomenal scheme.

With these as a basis for his title, he solidified his position by "discovering" in California the sole surviving heir of the original grantee and subsequently marrying her and presenting a second claim to the Peralta grant in her name.

Slow and methodical work on the part of government agents finally exposed the conspiracy; Reavis was convicted by a U. S. court in 1895.

Author Powell, head of the reference department of the University of Arizona, has presented collectively for the first time the vast number of original documents which develop this fantastic hoax. Historically this job of original research is a masterful accomplishment; however, to the lay reader the presentation is often jumbled, and much of the excitement and romance of the tale is lost in disorganization. —CAR

**MOTION PICTURES** by A. R. Fulton  
University of Oklahoma Press

The story of the birth and growth of the motion picture is an intriguing tale, and no one tells it better than A. R. Fulton. Probing behind the scenes, Fulton brings out the real, factual account of the infant art's development and the men who made it the magic medium it is today.

The book traces motion pictures from Edison's first flickering two-reelers through the many refinements that enabled movies to become life-like in their presentation.

Famous films are discussed with intelligence, and the elements that made them great are pointed out. The careers of such movie stalwarts as D. W. Griffith, director of the immortal "Birth of a Nation," and Academy Award Winner John Ford are described with candor.

The serious student of the motion picture art form and the casual moviegoer alike will find this book an entertaining and informative history. —WHB

**THIS WAS HOLLYWOOD** by Beth Day  
Doubleday

Taking an inside peek at Hollywood—its people and its fabulous motion picture industry—is a treat that almost everyone would enjoy, but few ever have the opportunity. Beth Day, '45Let, provides the next best thing in a nostalgia-crammed, drama-packed account of the weird and wacky life of the "golden years" of Hollywood, the 1930s and 1940s.

This wild and wonderful era was a fairyland of glamor, humor, riches and never-ending parties. Screen idols, brilliant producers, tame lions and elephants, and stunt men all populated this Never-Never Land where the unbelievable was commonplace.

Clever anecdotes about the big stars give an insight to all sides of everyday living in Hollywood, both good and bad. Author Day also reveals a number of techniques enabling studios to produce hurricanes, shipwrecks, battles and landslides on cue, as well as fascinating studies of how the many motion pictures of this time were produced.

This is an absorbing book of a time that is gone, but not forgotten. —WHB