



its presentation, this work merits a place on the reference shelves of libraries seeking to include works on the Second City. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★ All levels/libraries.—*F. J. Augustyn Jr., Library of Congress*

47-3387 FC3545 Can. CIP
Payment, Diane P. **The free people—Li gens libres: a history of the Métis community of Batoche, Saskatchewan.** University of Calgary Press, 2009. 406p bibl index ISBN 9781552382394 pbk, \$29.95

This handsomely designed title is a revised and expanded edition of Payment's 1990 Parks Canada commissioned and published work "The Free People, Otipemisiwak". Additions to this edition include a discussion of recent developments and trends at Batoche and a review of new literature published since 1990. The first edition is considered a seminal work for its unapologetic Métis-centered stance in approaching the history of Batoche (a central site for Louis Riel and the Métis during the 1885 North-West Resistance). Heavily reliant on oral history and sympathetic to a Métis perspective, Payment (Parks Canada) offers an alternative to earlier historical narratives presented by scholars like G. F. G. Stanley, Donald Creighton, Marcel Giraud, and others who generally characterized the Métis as a static people. Payment presents Batoche as a society in constant flux, adaptive to new economic circumstances without abandoning core Aboriginal values. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ General readers, lower-division undergraduates and above.—*B. F. R. Edwards, Mount Allison University*

47-3388 HT1345 2008-24725 CIP
Peskin, Lawrence A. **Captives and countrymen: Barbary slavery and the American public, 1785-1816.** Johns Hopkins, 2009. 256p index afp ISBN 0801891396, \$55.00; ISBN 9780801891397, \$55.00

Using contemporary newspaper accounts about, and letters from, US seamen held captive on the Barbary Coast, Peskin (Morgan State Univ.) creates a study of the formation of US public opinion and the growth of national consciousness. This is not a "history" of the events, or of foreign policy, but rather a case study of communications theory. Twenty-one US sailors were seized off Algiers in 1785, another 100 in 1793. Their extended enslavement exposed the weakness of the new nation, ultimately resulting in the ratification of the Constitution, the creation of a navy, and the development of a global foreign policy. An analysis of "captivity literature" and of the broader field of "American Orientalist literature" shows how ideas and issues can develop into widespread public opinion leading to public action. In this case, it led to the exploits of Stephen Decatur and the War of 1812. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*R. T. Brown, formerly, Westfield State College*

47-3389 F213 2008-50560 CIP
Schoen, Brian. **The fragile fabric of Union: cotton, federal politics, and the global origins of the Civil War.** Johns Hopkins, 2009. 369p index afp ISBN 0801893038, \$55.00; ISBN 9780801893032, \$55.00

The best way to begin this review is to quote from the book's epilogue. Schoen (Ohio Univ.) contrasts the various romantic interpretations of the Old South with his conclusions: "These postwar explanations had little ... basis in historic fact. Antebellum residents of the Lower South [were] inextricably materialist in their outlook, greedily looking for ways to protect their near monopoly in raw cotton and expand their commercial and industrial capacity." The author reaches this conclusion by keeping focus on cotton growers, especially in the lower South, and the politics that

they produced. Schoen's chronological approach in five chapters develops his arguments and does a masterful job of keeping the focus on cotton, its politics, its exploitation of slaves, and ultimately the self-delusions of the cotton states vis-à-vis the world. Many readers will perhaps better understand why so many secessionists really believed that King Cotton diplomacy was a sure bet. An excellent book on all counts. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★ Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*I. Cohen, emeritus, Illinois State University*

47-3390 KF228 2008-47143 CIP
Smith-Pryor, Elizabeth M. **Property rites: the Rhinelander trial, passing, and the protection of whiteness.** North Carolina, 2009. 391p bibl index afp ISBN 9780807832684, \$65.00; ISBN 9780807859391 pbk, \$24.95

When Leonard met Alice, class and color crossed. The class part (Leonard coming from the wealthy Rhinelander family, Alice from a working-class background) was embarrassing enough; the color part was intolerable. Leonard's marriage to Alice made New York's society pages, and their investigative reporters discovered a fact that Leonard claimed had been hidden from him—Alice's black ancestry. Leonard wanted an annulment; Alice fought it. The resulting trial showed that arguments based on the "possessive investment in whiteness" did not have to wait for George Lipsitz's later famous article on that subject. Smith-Pryor (Kent State Univ.) tells the trial's story in play-by-play fashion, alternating those chapters with analytical interludes that describe the complexities of race in the 1920s US. The title *Property Rites* indicates how the trial should be seen alongside the ferocious attempts of northern whites to protect their more literal property, real estate—a theme of civil rights struggles in the North from the 1920s to the 1960s. Who won the trial? Readers will have to read to find out. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ Most levels/libraries.—*P. Harvey, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs*

47-3391 E93 2008-46683 CIP
VanDevellder, Paul. **Savages and scoundrels: the untold story of America's road to empire through Indian territory.** Yale, 2009. 322p bibl index afp ISBN 9780300125634, \$26.00

Journalist VanDevellder offers a refreshingly new intellectual and legalistic approach to the complex relations between European Americans and Native Americans. Following a brief assessment of 16th-century European attitudes about property rights, the author assumes a chronological approach from the initial policy formulations of the Founding Fathers to the Civil War. George Washington first articulated the hypocritical stance of the young nation, which preached tolerance while simultaneously championing white expansion over aboriginal rights. But it was Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson who created the greatest impetus for the removal of eastern tribes to the unfamiliar habitat of the Trans-Mississippi West. VanDevellder's greatest contribution is his detailed focus on the 1851 Horse Creek Treaty and its impact on more than a dozen Plains and Missouri River tribes. Unlike future treaties that forced land transfers on the tribes, this one dealt with issues of amity and commerce to reduce tensions between whites and Indians, as well as among the tribes themselves. The book concludes with the modern story of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara peoples of North Dakota, who were victimized by the Pick-Sloan Plan, which flooded great expanses of their reservation during the 1960s. This superlative work deserves close attention by adult readers of all levels. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★ All levels/libraries.—*M. L. Tate, University of Nebraska at Omaha*