

In Chapter 2, McCormack escorts us on an instructive tour across the decades of Tombstone's history, as both locals and newcomers sought to freeze an imagined past into the present. McCormack compares Tombstone with other frozen towns like Colonial Williamsburg and Old Sturbridge Village. True to Henry Ford's vision for his own Greenfield Village, such sites tend to celebrate common people and their material culture rather than historical elites. Tombstone's lesson, however, is different. Even as the courthouse symbolizes the triumph of law, the town emphasizes the West's wildness (rather playfully, I might add). The real 1880s Tombstone, McCormack adds, was on the cusp of civility; its goal was to be respectable.

McCormack then turns to Tombstone re-enactors, who perform lynchings and shootouts. Some aficionados view them as distractions. The people of Lincoln, New Mexico—a much better preserved 1880s town than Tombstone—reject re-enactments altogether. Genuine historical appreciation, it seems, demands meditation. Tombstone's tourists, however, prefer gunplay. McCormack then launches into a probing analysis of the Wyatt Earp mystique, revealing Earp to be a contested figure—noble to some writers, ignominious to other. Battles between Earp biographers, or at least supposed biographers (several have presented fiction as truth) have played out across decades. Foreigners, meanwhile, have developed their own unique fascination with Tombstone's history, going so far as to recreate faux Tombstones in various parts of the world.

Tombstone, then, exists in a netherworld between authentic and inauthentic. It tries to replicate its 1880s incarnation while also replicating the Tombstone of Hollywood. All the while, it seeks to give tourists a fun experience that veers toward the ersatz. For those seeking to understand what makes places like Tombstone compelling—and why Americans (or at least white Americans) hold tightly to memories of the Old West—I highly recommend McCormack's monograph.

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DANIEL HERMAN

A History of Gold Dredging in Idaho. By Clark C. Spence. (Boulder, University Press of Colorado, 2016. x + 331 pp.)

Leaving no stone unturned, Clark C. Spence has produced a history long missing from the mining annals of the American West. Chronicling the evolution from surface or placer mining to underground excavation,

historians often move rather quickly and perfunctorily over the role of the dredge boat in the search for riches. This cursory treatment could lead the unsuspecting student of history to believe that its impact was insignificant, its time brief. But Spence, appropriately called the “Dean of Mining Historians,” demonstrates the importance of the dredge and thoroughly examines the many decades it captivated the minds and money of mining enthusiasts. Spence whet his dredge history appetite over a long career, indicating in the Epilogue that he had originally hoped to write the complete history of dredging in the West. Conducting research for his first publication on the multi-faceted world of dredging in Alaska (*The Northern Gold Fleet: Twentieth-Century Gold Dredging in Alaska*, 1996), however, he quickly ascertained that the mountains of available sources would force him to limit his geographic scope. He chose Idaho as the next dredge-history frontier for a number of reasons, not least of which is that he hails from Southwest Idaho.

Spence explains the various incarnations of the dredge, from the first one constructed in Montana, inaugurated with a bottle of champagne and christened the *Fielding S. Graves*, to the more refined versions used for the excavation of rare earth minerals after World War II. Organized geographically, Spence follows the dredge—the dragline, the bucket, the suction, and the burlap system—as it struggled to collect the powdery gold dust along the Snake River to the “coarser colors” from one end of the state to the other, including the Boise Basin, Salmon City, Elk City, Warren, Stanley, Yankee Fork, the Boise River, and Pierce. Using state mining reports, letters, newspapers, incorporation papers, tax rolls, and numerous photographs, Spence recreates the excitement, the hype, the successes, and the monumental failures as huge loads of ore were processed in the bowels of dredges across the state from the 1880s through the 1960s. His excerpts from regional newspapers are redolent with purple prose and over-the-top inducements to the hopeful and unwitting.

Spence dedicates considerable attention to the many efforts directed at collecting the fine-grained gold along the Snake River—with nearly forty different dredging efforts, only one succeeded. The Burroughs brothers, along with their first partner Lewis Sweetser (all Yale graduates) started their Idaho careers by establishing the Bar Y Ranch (“Y” for Yale) on a tributary of the Snake but expanded their operation to dredging in 1893. This section illustrates Spence’s ability to tell a good story while adhering to excellent history. It entails a successful mining effort, a houseboat, a mid-stream marriage, family squabbles, Edgar Rice Burroughs, and Tarzan. Over the course of nearly

a century, with players ranging from Gustave Pabst of Pabst Blue Ribbon to potato king Jack Simplot, Spence's history is comprehensive, interesting, and entertaining. His attention to detail, his flawless research, his use of language, and his ability to demonstrate the relevance of history make this an essential addition to a fundamental element in Idaho's development. And in true Spence fashion, he brings the story full circle. He begins with the initial gold discovery in each region, moves with clear and full detail through the dredge era (which in many areas lasted into the seventh decade of the twentieth century), and concludes with the current efforts to rehabilitate areas destroyed through enthusiasm, greed, ignorance, and disregard. The history is replete with details on how and why dredges were built, which functioned best (the bucket-line), as well as with the biographies of certain dredges that were built in one place, put to work in another, reconstituted, and renamed. Clark Spence's history of gold dredging in Idaho provides a critical, and happily colorful, addition to our mining past and our restorative present and future.

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HOPE ANN BENEDICT

Coyote America: A Natural & Supernatural History. By Dan Flores.
(New York, Basic Books, 2016. vii + 271 pp.)

Dan Flores's *Coyote America: A Natural and Supernatural History* reads like an unabashed love letter to North America's most distinctive and iconoclastic wild canid. Flores tracks the environmental and cultural history of coyotes from the creatures' initial emergence millions of years ago through the present-day renaissance that has seen the animals pushing into Chicago, Toronto, Manhattan, and other places well beyond their historic range. Throughout, Flores integrates scientific and humanistic perspectives with interviews and his own first-hand coyote encounters. The result is a book that resembles its namesake in more ways than one: unassuming but intelligent, ornery to the core but joyful to the bone, a little ragged around the edges but nonetheless well-worth getting to know.

Flores's longstanding expertise in the environmental history of the American West grounds *Coyote America* in the coyote's native soil. Drawing inspiration from a compelling mélange of wildlife biology, behavioral ecology, and Native American oral tradition, Flores begins by framing the coyote as "a cosmopolitan species, able to live in a remarkable range of habitats" (p. 3). While most wild animals have tended to shy away from people, Flores argues