tory—who enjoys visiting such sites will appreciate this book. These volumes provide an introduction to the mining industries of nearly every region of the United States, with substantial information regarding corresponding exhibits and sites one can visit. The user will find it quite helpful to have such information at hand regarding the potential of an area as a first step in planning a vacation. Educators should be able to select appropriate mineral industry-related topics and field trips to supplement their curriculum. Furthermore, this publication will benefit mineral collectors; they will be able to plan more fruitful excursions to distant mining districts.

The breadth of scope of the historical coverage in the Guidebook is impressive, covering aspects of the mineral industry from mining to transportation to primary processing of mineral resources, from prehistoric times to the present. A selection of interesting examples includes: Thomas Edison's attempts at magnetic beneficiation of iron ores, lead mining and smelting by the Indian tribes of the Upper Mississippi Valley, potash mines in the Southwest, sapphire mines in Montana and diamond mines in Arkansas, historic railroads in Alaska, iron ore boats of the Great Lakes, chromium mining in Maryland, titanium mining in Florida, and sea-salt manufacture on Cape Cod. Of course, you will find California gold and the expected Rocky Mountain mining camps represented, in addition to copper mining in Michigan and gold districts of the Southeast.

Several notable features of the guidebook include an informative glossary of mining terms (in Volume 2, East), extensive cross-referencing of the related sites and topics (i.e. Ely, Vermont to Ely, Nevada, both of which are named for Smith Ely who developed copper mines at both locations), and addresses of state geological surveys and state tourism offices to contact for further information. In order to compress so much information without resorting to tiny print, the author relies heavily on symbols to communicate important information on the many site entries. This can be a little confusing, but if the patient reader first reads the *Introduction* and *Guide to Entries* (in Volume 1, West) and refers back to the legend of *Abbreviations and Symbols* on the inside cover of either volume as needed, a little practice will build familiarity with the system.

Any such Guidebook will always be incomplete, information will be dated before it is published, and inaccuracies are inevitable. The author could not visit all of the sites listed in his volumes, but sought feedback from others and made repeated inquiries to the places he had not visited. He acknowledges and addresses this shortcoming with advice on how to confirm and find out further information. Furthermore, the font selected is quite readable and the scanned photographs complement the text of the entries, adding to one's anticipation of visiting a historic mine-related site.

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Susan Lee Johnson. *Roaring Camp: The Social World of the California Gold Rush*. New York: Norton, 2000, 464 pp., bibl., index.

This provocative new look at the social life of the southern Mother Lode in the frenetic period prior to 1853 may startle readers familiar with contemporary narratives and traditional interpretations. Even insightful modern social histories such as Jim Holiday's *The World Rushed In* and Mac Rohrbough's *Days of Gold* seem a bit passé alongside this postmodern feminist narrative, which began as a dissertation at Yale in 1994.

As the author explains in the preface, she and her "lover and life partner. . .share visions for social justice, and those visions motivate our daily work." Deconstructing the past, in her view, is to read between the lines of diaries, public documents, newspapers, reminiscences and folklore, in order to discover fundamental truths about contemporary issues of race, gender, class and sexuality. Her broad range of reading adds perspective to an essentially regional history. With more losers than winners, the Southern mines, in her opinion, is a study of contradictions, a metaphor for the American success story. Emphasizing pushing, rather than pulling factors, she traces each ethnic path backward from the goldfields to underlying political, economic and social issues

behind decisions to leave home. The Joaquin Murrieta legend, for instance, provides opportunity for a lengthy investigation of various conditions leading to late 18th and early 19th century Mexican migration from northern Sonora to the Spanish borderlands.

Though many of her observations are not new, she ventures into fields others have either feared to tread or have lacked sufficient empirical evidence to analyze. She finds the traditional American work ethic challenged by the reality of life in placer camps, where hard work did not bring success, and where luck was a big factor in rich returns. The absence of women challenged male self-restraint and loosened conventional gender roles. She asserts that white men shared each other's pains and pleasures in the absence of women. They nursed each other, danced together, slept together, and – as at least some court records demonstrate—engaged in homosexual relations.

Race and gender are enduring themes in the wide-ranging narrative. The Joaquin legend for example, is a rich field for example, is a rich field for exploring the genderized nuances of western history. Though Mexican family tradition views Joaquin as a robin-hood figure, robbing only the rich and aiding the poor, contemporary newspapers characterized him as a brute, a barbarian. By defaming minorities, argues the author, the white male establishment made their banishment and even extermination morally palatable. Mexican War animosity also exacerbated the Joaquin hysteria, and the beheading of Joaquin, in the author's view, was a symbolic recounting of the "American conquest of Mexico's upper extremities."

Mining historians have a lot to learn from social history, and vice versa. This book offers many keen insights, and may well set the standard for future studies of Gold Rush society. But interpreting Gold Rush history through a genderized "cultural lens," to borrow a phrase from the late David Potter, may miss fundamental economic truths. It may well be, as the author claims, that historians have neglected the southern mines because "the area fits dominant cultural memory of the Gold Rush. . . less well" and because it "was less successful in following. . . the expected trajectory of industrialization in western mining." (316) But there is a much simpler explanation: the northern mines had more mineral wealth, and therefore got most of the attention, both from miners and historians.

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