and sang on these mesas is a mystery; either the world that sustained them withdrew its beneficent hand, or they lost the will and imagination required to survive. In addition, the book questions our modern hubris. In particular, at the conclusion of the book, Susan Lamb reminds us that not only have we vandalized and looted the world of our ancestors, but we blithely continue to destroy the land and poison the sky for a quick profit.

The sensuality of the book's images, its warm colors and generous forms, are seductive; but below the surface lies a deep melancholy. The effect of the lush photography and evocative narrative is to spin these distant images into a personal reverie. The authors gently challenge us to question our place in the world and to wonder how future people will imagine us by musing upon what we have left behind. With all of our technological wizardry, will we receive as much respect from our descendants as we now have for people who lived on cliff ledges and did not even know of the wheel?

Ancient Walls thus has two lives. Pick it off the bookstore shelf, thumb through it, and you will be struck by the high quality of the photographs and the elegant format in which they are presented. It is, however, much more than merely another slick coffee table decoration. Although most people will buy this book for its color-saturated, calendar-style photography, if they take the time to read the sensitively crafted text, they will discover another book. The images will then be transformed; what seemed merely pretty will become ironic. Beauty and tragedy become fused, and the reader may catch a glimpse of the sublime in the ruins of ancient people.

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Campaigning with King: Charles King, Chronicler of the Old Army. By Don Russell, edited and with an introduction by Paul L. Hedren. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1991. 187 pages. $25.00 cloth.

Charles King (1844–1933), an 1866 graduate of West Point, carried on a lifelong love affair with the army. His career brushed with the end of the Civil War and stretched from the Indian wars through World War I, including service as a general officer in the Spanish-

American War. But in his day, King was best known as a novelist who wrote stories that were short on characterization, long on contrived plot, and steeped in the military traditions he loved so well. His vogue had faded before his death at the age of eighty-eight, but his books are still admired, studied, and collected for what they reveal about life in the "old army."

Don Russell (1899–1986), a Chicago journalist and able Western historian, was a warm admirer of that old army and of the soldier-writer who was its best chronicler. He regarded King, whom he knew, and his fellow officers as neglected heroes—honorable, conscientious, unfailing in their devotion to duty, under-appreciated, and serenely confident in themselves and their cause. They had performed thankless service in the years after the Civil War. Russell did not question what they were assigned to do, whether it was to quell disorder in the Reconstruction South, pacify Indians in the frontier West, or disperse labor protesters in the urban East. That they did their duty and did it well was enough for him; in his later years, he had no patience with the antiwar agitation and the disrespect for law and order that seemed to him endemic in the 1960s. Like King, Russell believed that the patriot should honor the pioneer whose sacrifices built the nation. Most historical revisionism struck him as misguided and naive. He was unsympathetic to the charge that the United States government had waged a genocidal war against the native peoples. Statistics, he argued in a controversial and much-quoted essay, proved the Indians more murderous than the army ever was.

These are not fashionable views, and Russell's *Campaigning with King*, written in 1933, is not a fashionable biography. It does not psychoanalyze its subject, nor does it pry into his domestic affairs. On page 40, King meets and in 1872 weds Adelaide Lavender Yorke; apart from a passing mention on page 93, she does not reappear until her death in 1928, on page 145. Russell was content with the impression that their marriage was "ideally happy," and that was that. As the title *Campaigning with King* suggests, this biography belongs in the category of military history, not ethnohistory. Thus it contrasts with recent biographies such as Joseph C. Porter's *Paper Medicine Man* (1986), which examines another soldier-author, John G. Bourke, to elucidate nineteenth-century military and scientific attitudes towards the Indian. Porter stresses the ambiguities in Bourke's dual role as soldier and ethnographer. King's world, as Russell presents it, possesses no nuances and is as clear in its certainties as the military fictions King

concocted. It is a world in which labor protesters are always a "mob," their leaders "Plug-uglies." Government officials gave "little attention" to the grievances that sparked the labor troubles in 1877 and again in 1886, Russell admits, but "in any case, suppressing disorder was the business of professional soldiers" (p. 92). That pretty much sums up his viewpoint. Filipino insurgents failed to appreciate the "high idealism" that actuated America's policies in the Philippines and forced the government to take on the burden of governing them as well "until they were capable of governing themselves" (p. 119). For balance, one might read Richard Drinnon's *Facing West: The Metaphysics of Indian-Hating and Empire-Building* (1980), which is as relentlessly condemnatory of America's involvement in the Philippines as Russell's book is complacently accepting.

Older values surface with regard to race especially. Russell appears uneasy about Black rights in the Reconstruction era, while his accounts of Indian battles are primarily Uncle Sam versus the hostiles. Language is part of the problem. Russell recounts a successful action against the Apache in neutral terms:

> On the night of June 2, 1874, the troopers of the Fifth Cavalry scaled Diamond Butte and found their quarry, the Apache rancheria . . . . Just at dawn . . . the troopers rushed in to do what they could. There followed fifteen minutes' sharp work with pistol and carbine; fifteen Indians were killed, three women and some children were taken prisoner, and the rancheria with all its supplies was captured.

This action, Russell continues, was "typical":

> Small expeditions were sent out to harry the Apaches on every occasion. Notable among these raids was the virtual annihilation of one band of Indians at the Cave on Salt River, where seventy-six Apache-Mohaves were killed, eighteen women and children were captured, and only six or seven women and one man escaped the trap set by three companies of the Fifth Cavalry and Indian scouts under Captain William H. Brown.

Well and fine—such is the tone of the histories of Indian wars. But the very next sentence begins, "Another band of Apaches perpetrated the gruesome killing of a small party of emigrants at Wickenburg (pp. 45–46). That "gruesome" belongs to the illogical

language of a former time that could matter-of-factly report an army attack on Indian families while deploring an Indian attack on white families.

In *Campaigning with King*, Russell, who knew the Indian wars thoroughly, passes over this phase of King's service in quick order. His best chapters deal with army routine and the war in the Philippines. He also does an expert job in discussing King's fiction. He is as admirably concise as King was occasionally prolix, his journalistic training preparing him to rapidly sketch in the historical and fictional backgrounds necessary for understanding. King published 250 short stories and fifty-two novels between 1883 and 1909, and Russell is especially adept at correlating certain plots with actual incidents in King's career. His judgment about King's contribution to literature (negligible) and history (considerable) still stands, as books like Oliver Knight's *Life and Manners in the Frontier Army* (1978), which rests on King's novels, attest.

Paul Hedren, a leader among the new generation of historians of the Indian wars, is responsible for reviving Russell's long-dormant manuscript and seeing it into print. Superintendent of the Fort Union Trading Post outside Williston, North Dakota, and possessor of a King collection nonpareil, Hedren has written an informative introduction that places the biography, its subject, and its author in perspective. His bibliographical essay is also useful, as is the concise listing of King's books. Hedren's appreciation of the contribution made by Don Russell, like Russell's of King's, continues an old and honorable tradition in the writing of American frontier military history.

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Converting the West: A Biography of Narcissa Whitman. By Julie Roy Jeffrey. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991. 238 pages. $24.95 cloth.

Biography is a challenging genre. After years of research, one's subject becomes, as Julie Roy Jeffrey states in her preface, "a near family member" (p. xvii). Empathy seems essential to creating a humane account of any individual, yet critical distance is required to place the subject's life in perspective, to understand her in her appropriate context, and to elucidate the meaning of her life for