UCLA

American Indian Culture and Research Journal

Title

Chief Pocatello: The White Plume. By Brigham D. Madsen.

Permalink

https://escholarship.org/uc/item/8jp2x6g8

Journal

American Indian Culture and Research Journal, 11(3)

ISSN

0161-6463

Author

Walker, Deward E., Jr.

Publication Date

1987-06-01

DOI

10.17953

Copyright Information

This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial License, available at https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/

primary "unit" used in cataloging varies. As noted above, the Indiana Archives catalog is based on collections as accessioned; the Federal Cylinder Project catalogs are organized cylinder by cylinder within ethnic-group designations that frequently split up material attributed to a single collector; a draft of the Lowie index focuses more on individual components (songs, speeches, etc.) of each cylinder in a collection. Thus the researcher needs to start at somewhat different points when referring to catalogs from each archive, to become acquainted with different formats, different types of in-house numbering schemes, and the like.

In "The Role of Sound Archives in Ethnomusicology Today" (Ethnomusicology 1986:216-76), Seeger stresses the importance of well-documented, accessible field collections with clearly established conditions for use (honoring whatever agreements were made with those who consented to be recorded). The work accomplished by the editors and collaborating project staff in preserving and making the Archives of Traditional Music collections even more accessible is consistent with the emphases of Seeger's article. Early Field Recordings is a useful tool for all libraries and archives whose patrons need to locate ethnographic recordings as well as for the individual researcher working with aural documentation of American Indian culture in the early decades of this century.

Judith A. Gray Federal Cylinder Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress

Chief Pocatello: The White Plume. By Brigham D. Madsen. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1986. \$6.95 Paper.

When the historians of the future look back on the work of Brigham D. Madsen, they will see that he laid the first reliable foundations for an adequate history of Indian-white relations in the northern Great Basin. Dr. Madsen has now added another stone to this foundation: Chief Pocatello: The White Plume. Because of his mastery of the sweep of northern Great Basin history, he is unusually capable of interpreting the role of his subject, Pocatello, in this unfolding drama.

Although focused on Pocatello, this book also includes an in-

teresting summary description of the traditional territory and socio-political divisions of the so-called "Northwestern Shoshone" (pp. 7-21 of Chapter 2). Madsen's description of the various emigrant trails that pierced Pocatello's homeland, and the many ways emigrants disrupted the lives of the Shoshone set the stage for the well documented Indian-white conflict that dominates the middle portion of this book. The latter portion of the book then describes the outcome of this conflict including treaties, establishment of reservations, and the subsequent confusion and suffering of Pocatello and his followers.

In assessing Pocatello's historical position relative to other Indian leaders of the period, Madsen presents his own sympathetic assessment of Pocatello on pages 116–117:

"... Pocatello was a border chieftain wandering the sagebrush deserts along the boundary of Utah and Idaho. Operating on the northern fringe of Mormon settlement and at the junction of the California Trail and the Salt Lake Road, he became a shadowy and elusive character who showed up at opportunistic moments only to disappear into his desert environment. . . . He refused to collaborate with government agents although he could join up with the Mormons where food and lodging beckoned. When the starving time came to Fort Hall, he reverted to his lifelong habits of mobility by joining Washakie and Tahgee in search of buffalo on the Plains of Wyoming. Leading his young men against the Sioux raiding parties represented his last fling at his old trade of war chief before succumbing to the inevitable sequestered life on a reservation."

Thus, in Madsen's skillful hands, Pocatello's life becomes a metaphor for the cultural transformation of the Indian peoples of the northern Great Basin. In many respects the challenges faced by Pocatello still confront the current leadership at Fort Hall and Wind River. These include especially what price must be paid by the Tribes for preservation of their political sovereignty and cultural heritage.

Deward E. Walker, Jr. University of Colorado

Cherokee Renascence In the New Republic. By William G. McLoughlin. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986. 472 pp. \$27.50 Cloth.