

the American West, organized around famous expeditions of explorers such as Lewis and Clark, Stephen Long, and John Wesley Powell. Each chapter includes a biography of the explorer featured in the chapter, and approximately ten selected excerpts of primary sources that usually run a page or two in length. Each excerpt has an introductory paragraph that provides historical context for the excerpt, and a few paragraphs of analysis that go beyond summarization and point toward the historical significance of the primary texts.

The work includes one female source in Susan Shelby Magoffin and one African American source that is also sensitive to American Indian perspectives in James P. Beckwourth. This is an appreciable attempt at an element of diversity in a historical arena that includes mostly white men: expedition leaders of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The work includes a useful, selected chronology of the exploration of the West that runs from the foundation of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1670 to the death of John Wesley Powell in 1902. It also includes a thorough index of entries that are mostly historical people, American Indian tribes, geographic formations and locations, historical professions, events such as battles, wild and domestic animals and plants, and a few other entries.

The real value of this work is as a teaching tool. The primary sources are selected to be interesting and readable. Taken together they paint a picture of a time when the very little was known about the interior of the continent to those back east. They serve to educate and to pique curiosity.

The analytical paragraphs conscientiously teach about the processes of responsible historical research, using the primary texts to illustrate these. In particular, they communicate the importance of context and provide examples of ways in which historians make use of primary texts. They do so in a way that is neither condescending nor detached.

One could easily imagine a ten-week course using this work as its text book, that introduces this interesting period in American history while also teaching about the responsible use of primary sources in historical research.

One could imagine reading this book cover-to-cover with great interest, studying this work as a text book, or browsing the work in a leisurely fashion. It is accessible to all these pursuits.

Compared to Sara Pendergast's *Westward Expansion: Primary Sources* (UXL 2000), Buckley and Nokes's work is geared toward a slightly more advanced reader, as Pendergast's work is for an adolescent audience. *Explorers of the American West* is more appropriate for lower division undergraduate students or advanced secondary students.

This attractive and convenient hardcover volume would be appropriate for a reference collection, a browsing collection, or among textbooks.—*Steven R. Edscorn, Executive Director of Libraries, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma*

Fashion Fads through American History: Fitting Clothes into Context. By Jennifer Grayer Moore. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 325 pages. Acid free \$89 (ISBN 978-1-61069-901-3). E-book available (978-1-61069-902-0), call for pricing.

Many works have explored the history of dress and its significance in larger cultural movements, such as the detailed overviews of clothing customs addressed in *Clothing through American History* edited by Amy T. Peterson and Amy T. Kellogg (Greenwood 2008) or the insightful works of Valerie Steele including the *Berg Companion to Fashion* (Oxford 2010) and *Fifty Years of Fashion* (Yale 2000). However, most of these works look at the seminal movements and most enduring fashion statements while this volume addresses the more ephemeral but still significant fads in fashion culture.

Moore offers nine common threads that appear in various times frames, including foreign influences, media influences, technology, repurposing, and statement fads, that she then places in chronology. Each grouping provides an introduction to the overarching theme and insight into both the context of individual trends and subsequent reinventions in later decades, presented in chronological order. For example, purple shirts in the mid-nineteenth century parallel arcade watches of the 1980s or cell phone purses at the turn of the twenty-first century as responses to technological advances. This use of both theme and chronology allows for cross-referencing a period while also presenting key trends.

Some of the items are more mainstream while others are more related to subcultures. The focus on these more passing fads does fill a gap, with many items such as the Rachel haircut and leg warmers showing the impacts of media culture on fashion, but some of the more obscure trends, such as grills, could use a bit more context into the subculture as well as the transition into some mainstream aspects. Also, while many of the sections explore the evolution of the fads, such as the Keep Calm t-shirt that ultimately became a gag, other sections could but don't fully develop the trend's impacts, such as the Livestrong bracelet which opened up a whole trend of social advocacy. Finally, the photographs throughout the book show the various items, though the reliance solely on black and white doesn't provide as much insight as color photos would.

While no single volume can fully explore the interactions of society and clothing choices, this volume does meet its purpose "to document fashions that are typically overlooked" (ix) and to demonstrate their cultural relevancy as commentary against more mainstream trends or as part of a subculture. Because of its broad overview and unique perspectives, this volume would be relevant in a wide range of cultural and sociological studies as both a starting point as well as niche focus in gaining a fuller understanding of the nuances within fashion trends.—*Donna Church, Reference Librarian, Webster University Library, St. Louis, Missouri*