



Proposal

for the general layout
and design of the book

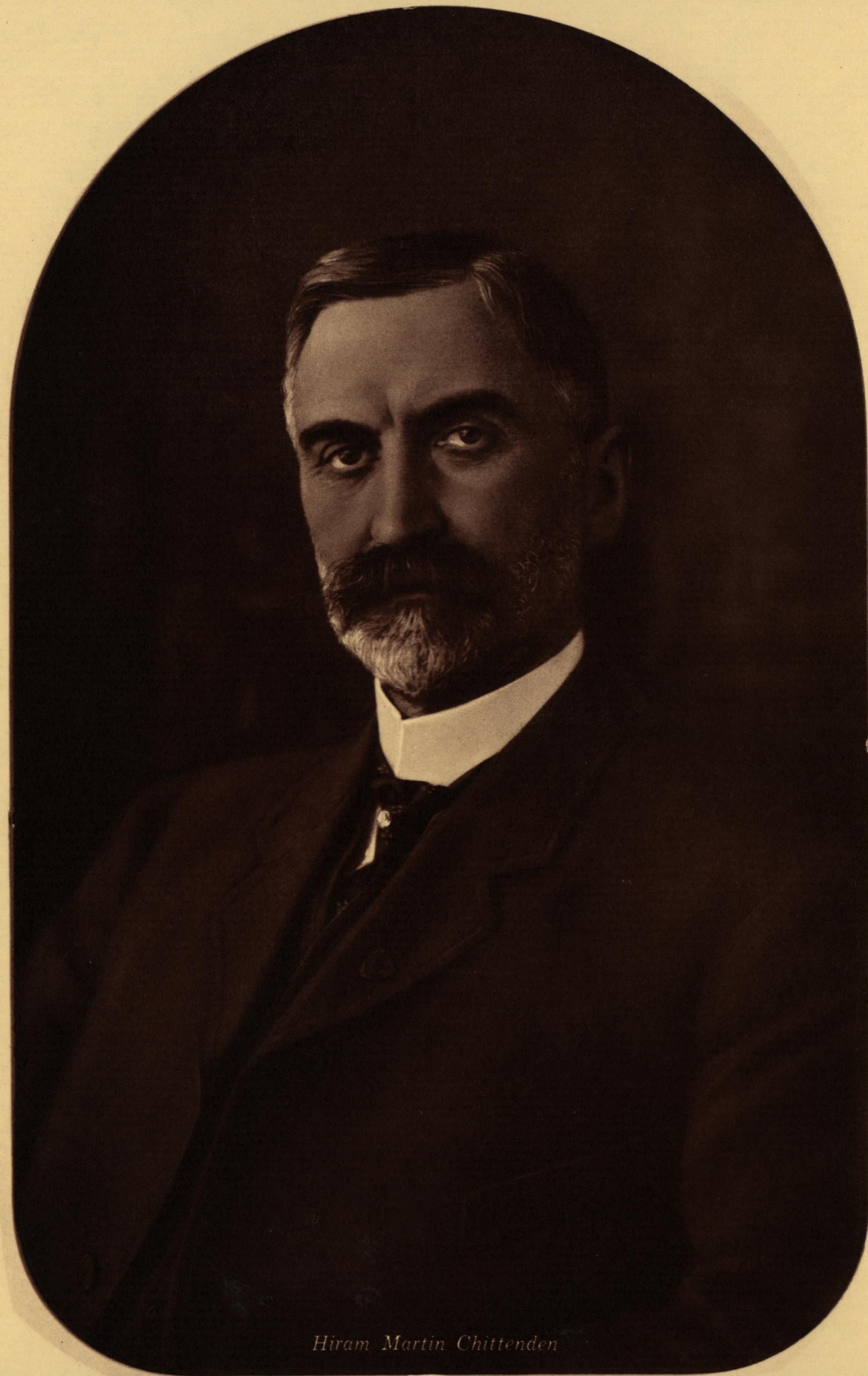
H. M. Chittenden

to be published by the
Washington State Historical Society

This brochure shows the
format, style, type of illustration
material and actual size of the
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Johnson-Cox Company

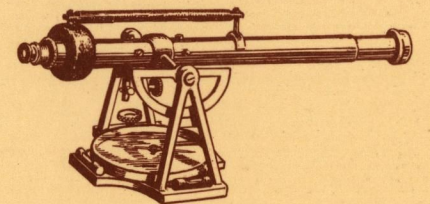
Tacoma, Washington



Hiram Martin Chittenden

H. M. CHITTENDEN

A Western Epic



*Being a Selection from His Unpublished
Journals, Diaries and Reports*

Edited with Notes and Introduction
by Bruce Le Roy

Washington State Historical Society Tacoma

FOREWORD



Editor's Notes

This area will normally be filled by the Editor's notes on the chapter.

Please Note: This brochure is printed by the offset lithographic process for convenience only. When the book is actually printed, all type matter and line drawings will be printed by letterpress.

The stock used in this brochure is a type, color and weight recommended for use in the finished book. Half-tone illustrations will be printed by offset lithography to insure maximum possible detail, without adding to the expense of production by using tipped-in enamel sheets for photographic illustrations. This insures complete unity of book design, as there will be no change in the appearance of the pages throughout the book, due to the use of both coated and uncoated sheets.

Foreword

WHEN JUDGE C. H. HANFORD addressed a distinguished group who were meeting at Glacier National Park in 1925 to celebrate the Upper Missouri Historical Expedition, he spoke of General H. M. Chittenden in terms normally reserved for a national movement rather than for a single individual. The General's compass, he averred, ranged "from the state of Ohio to Puget Sound — the Great Lakes, the great rivers, harbors, forests, parks, climatic conditions, enterprises of Adventurers and Pioneers, the deeds of missionaries and benevolent endeavors to christianize as well as to civilize the wilderness."

The papers of Hiram Martin Chittenden were recently presented to the Washington State Historical Society by his daughter, Mrs. Eleanor Chittenden Cress, and his sons, H. M. Chittenden, Jr., and Theodore P. Chittenden. These documents go far toward confirming the jurist's appraisal of the General. Hanford's definition might even be broadened, in terms of geography as well as accomplishment. For, from the time of his youth in western New York state, where he was born just one hundred years ago, Chittenden kept a careful record for posterity. Several diaries report the intellectual struggles and gropings toward maturity, from preparatory school through the rigors of cadet life at West Point, through a successful post-graduate study of law, and then into his army career.

The unpublished papers cover the great engineering achievements — the original survey of Yellowstone National Park, the pioneering flood control in the Missouri Valley, the building of the Port of Seattle. Diaries, journals, letters, and scrapbooks attest to the Renaissance vigor of the man. Here, too, emerges an unsuspected Chittenden, a man working toward a United Nations in the years before World War I.

Chittenden's fame in Western scholarship rests upon two deservedly acclaimed classics: *American Fur Trade of the Far West* and the collaboration with A. T. Richardson in *Life, Letters and Travels of Father Pierre-Jean De Smet*. Both were pioneering studies in their particular areas. His *History of Early Steamboat Navigation on the Missouri River* and the perennial *Yellowstone National Park* may not be quite so vital, but in some respects neither has been superseded. Less well-known are his book *War or*

Peace and the articles published in such magazines as the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Century*, and *Forum*. Articles on national questions appeared over his byline in the *New York Herald Tribune* and the *Christian Science Monitor*.

Occasionally these forays into print stirred up a wasp's nest of controversy, as when he debated American intervention with Norman Angell, prior to our entry into World War I. At such times he found champions in men like David Starr Jordan of Stanford, whose correspondence with Chittenden throws an interesting searchlight upon the years immediately preceding World War I. Many significant names appear in the letters: Ellery Sedgwick, Samuel Seabury, Thomas Burke, Will Irwin, Senator Wesley Jones, among others.

The influence of Chittenden's pioneering in the field of Western history has been enormous. He wrote well, and what he wrote was based upon original sources. But since his efforts were pioneering, his books have been to some extent outdated. What he accomplished for his time, however, has been recognized by such eminent scholars as Frederick Jackson Turner, Ray Billington, and Grace Lee Nute. Turner characterized the *American Fur Trade of the Far West* as "excellent," and he added that the map showing Western fur-trade posts "furnished the basis for the map of western post and trails in (his own) *Rise of the New West*." Billington, in *Westward Expansion*, states that "the most useful work on the fur trade is Chittenden's *American Fur Trade*." Grace Lee Nute, referring to the same work, writes that, "faulty as it is in some respects, it remains the best general account available."

The scrapbooks indicate that the fur-trade book received almost instant recognition. In an unpublished memoir entitled *Historical Work* the General commented upon the high praise the book had received. He also noted his immense debt to Elliott Coues. Coues, while helping Chittenden with his research on the Yellowstone, became convinced of the serious purpose and painstaking thoroughness with which the military man attacked a project. He encouraged Chittenden to make a serious study of the history of the fur trade. Chittenden estimates that he went through half a carload of records of the early fur trade while he was stationed at St. Louis. His account of the research and writing of *American Fur Trade of the Far West* is a fascinating report which the potential historical writer might digest to his benefit.

Few authors are capable of an accurate self-rating, and Chittenden is no exception; but he had several interesting comments to make on individual titles. He thought that the book on the Missouri was perhaps the most interestingly written, that the work on De Smet was the most laborious, but that the actual time spent in research for that book paled in comparison with the work done on the history of the fur trade. His first book, *Yellowstone National Park*, he termed "amateurish," a verdict echoed by later critics;

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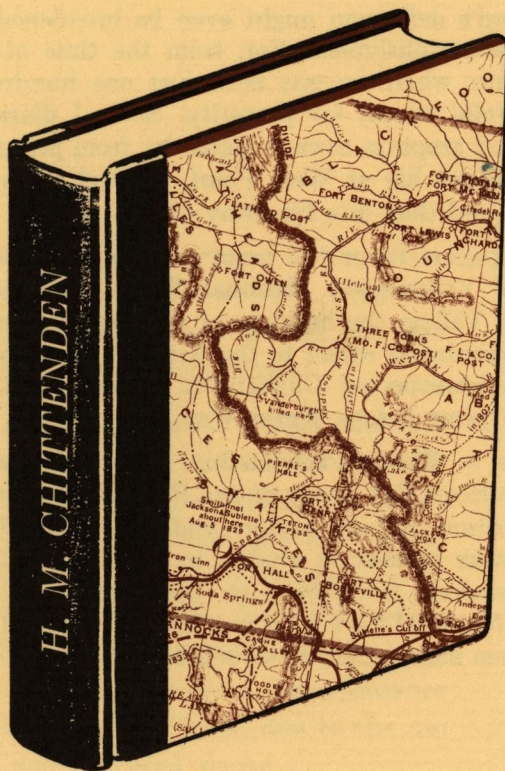
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The above illustration shows the general appearance of facing pages in the book.



The cover design makes use of Hiram Chittenden's own map of the routes used by the fur trade to communicate with the far western United States. The cover to be bound in extra strong board with the spine and map in brown on buff impregnated binders cloth.