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We use OBNA to inform our readers of books and occasionally films, recordings or museum exhibits which they might not otherwise know about and which don't belong in our book review section or in our news column on page 4.

The authors of THORSTEIN VEBLER: A Reference Guide. By Jerry L. Simich and Rick Tilman. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1985, \$39.50, are political scientists who have written articles about Veblen and see him as one of the few Americans who ranks with Marx and Weber as a social theorist. David Noble says that their book will be invaluable to all students of American social theory. They have "attempted to annotate any book, chapter or portion of a book, dissertation, article, significant portion of an article, or book review on Veblen" that they could locate. They also "abstracted reviews of books on Veblen when it was obvious that the reviewer was making an independent judgment on Veblen." They suggest that these materials fall into four paradigmatic categories, those by liberal, radical, conservative and cultural-aesthetic critics.

Ed Grier, Chairman Emeritus of our Editorial Board, writes us that PAINTERS OF THE HUMBLE TRUTH: Masterpieces of American Still Life, 1801-1839. By William H. Gerds. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1981, \$54.95, is a handsome volume by the leading authority based on an exhibition at the Philbrook Art Center in Tulsa. Splendid illustrations. The very readable text is in the best tradition of popular (not popularized) art historical writing, but unfortunately is rarely interdisciplinary.

Grier's *magnum opus* is a stellar edition of the Whitman notebooks, so we asked him also to look over WALT WHITMAN: Here and Now. Edited by Joann P. Kreig. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1985, \$29.95. He says, This volume, which seems overpriced for 236 pages of reduced typescript facsimile, presents selected papers from a 1980 conference at Hofstra University. The useful bibliographical

essay by William White covers the years 1980-1984. Since space is limited one can comment on only the most noteworthy papers. Whitman's homosexuality is given considerable attention, a fact which seems to disturb Professor White, who draws a distinction between "homosexual" and "active homosexual" which is meaningless for literary criticism. Joseph Cady perceptively describes Whitman's use of the elegiac and soldier-comrade traditions in the homosexual poems of "Drum-Taps" as attempts to adapt traditional genres to hitherto inexpressible feelings. Alan Helms treats Whitman's use of various literary devices as "disguises," and M. J. Killingworth characterizes Whitman's "pose" (an unfortunate term) as a "great romantic" in the same way. Of course, Whitman *was* a great romantic poet. Both papers are worth reading, but Cady is nearer the facts of the matter in treating the "disguises" as bold attempts at a new form. Harold Aspiz carefully defines the limits of Whitman's feminism. Similarly, Jerome Loving points out the limits of his antislavery feelings. Robert J. Scholnick enlarges our knowledge of the context of "Democratic Vistas." Too much space in the collection is given to papers on Whitman for our times and on irrelevant comparisons to other writers.

The screen can hold no more: asked for comment for Obnafrucepbopitroas on AMERICA ON FILM AND TAPE: A Topical Catalog of Audiovisual Resources for the Study of United States History, Society, and Culture. Edited by Howard B. Hitchens. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1985, \$45.00, Warren French responded: this is a valuable list under fourteen headings, with a title index, of valuable resources for an American Studies program; but, like all such laboriously compiled and published catalogs today, it was out of date before it could even be published. Schools are going to have to find means to keep lists like this as up to date by retrieval methods as our neighborhood groceries keep their shelf lists.

Hamilton Cravens reports the arrival of yet

another volume (Ham wrote this lead-in himself. We detect a note of fatigue which suggests that he earned his current leave) from the journal's office, Nathan Reingold, editor, *THE PAPERS OF JOSEPH HENRY: JANUARY 1841-DECEMBER 1843: The Princeton Years*, Volume 5, handsomely published by the Smithsonian Institution Press, 1985, \$45.00, and at slightly more than 500 pages, virtually running to fat. The Henry Project has been in existence for about twenty years; we have yet another thirty five years of Henry's life to be so treated and documented. Given the scarce resources available to research in the humanities and social sciences, Cravens has always been skeptical of large editorial projects devoted to the lives of a handful of "great men," especially when the option of a relatively inexpensive microfilm project is available. In the larger scheme of things, the Henry Project is hardly the most expensive or elaborate of these ventures, and does not qualify as a kind of "Project Mohole." The editing in this volume has been carefully done, and, if some of the annotations are a trifle discursive, nevertheless some will gain value from reading it. The Project is based upon an interpretation of the development of American science, in which an elite group of scientists such as Henry created a "national scientific community and profession" in the pre-Civil War era which became the basis for the modern national scientific community and national science policy. Cravens has long dissented from this interpretation (see *American Studies*, 17 [Fall, 1976], 49-70, for example) as based on the notion that the agenda of historical research is to search for the "roots of today," but notes that this notion is so widespread in the profession that it seems futile to protest. These reservations aside, Cravens notes that the editor and his staff have worked diligently to ferret out documents and to explicate them according to their own standards of editorial production; that the job has been done quite well; and that the documents so published are valuable and capable of being interpreted in various ways.

Here is Ham on another book: "An old theme in American Studies scholarship is the cultural and social response to an explanation of natural phenomena. Bruce Morton has compiled a timely and handy "socio-bibliographic study," *HALLEY'S COMET 1755-1984: A Bibliography*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1985, \$35.00, which is useful on its own terms and a guide to further work. Morton's concern has been to compile a selective bibliography of items published from 1755 through the first third of 1984 in "mainstream" publications in English, meaning both the United States and Britain. Items include articles from scientific journals, newspapers, magazines, books and other kinds of publications. In all, there are 1301 entries, all annotated, which give a reasonably representative picture of reactions to this apparition in American and British culture. Morton estimates that had he not been selective, and included many local newspaper responses, the number of entries would have easily been five times the number in the volume. Included in the full author index are not simply astronomers

such as George B. Airy, John F. W. Herschel and Elias Loomis, but also some who seek the title of polymath, such as Issac Asimov and Carl Sagan, and others more familiar to the journal's readers, including Mark Twain, Kenneth Rexroth and George Will. All in all this seems a useful volume.

"A candid, informative set of letters by Eisenhower to a boyhood friend commenting on a wide range of issues pertinent to his public career" is how Richard Lowitt characterizes *IKE'S LETTERS TO A FRIEND, 1941-1958*. Edited with Introduction and Notes by Robert Griffith. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1984, \$19.95. He continues: It was E. E. ("Swede") Hazlett, a school friend in Abilene, who steered Ike to West Point and a military career. Griffith's headnotes provide the continuity and the details that help make these interesting letters an important source for an understanding of Eisenhower's public career, especially his presidency.

Nicolette Bromberg, who curates an immense collection of photography of the era, remarks on the beauty of J. E. *STIMSON: Photographer of the West*. By Mark Junge. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1985, \$29.95, and adds: J. E. Stimson's detailed and beautifully crafted photographs chronicle the less-romantically regarded period of the West at the turn of the century when it was moving away from the rough frontier toward respectability. They reflect the common optimistic view of progress and economic development. The photographs from Stimson's sixty year career (which began in 1889) focus on the railroads, industry, agriculture, homes and businesses in Wyoming (where his studio was based) and the West.

Even the more conscientious of our journalists often fail to provide enough context for readers to develop perspective on international affairs. Israel seems solidly covered in our media, but Wolf Blitzer's *BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND JERUSALEM: A Reporter's Notebook*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985, \$15.95, will suggest to readers that even nations and topics which are in the news every day are not adequately covered. This is a book by a seasoned, talented, informed and honest Israeli journalist stationed in Washington; it tackles the hardest issues and reveals that the truth about almost any detail about America's special relationship with Israel is a) not what you think, and b) more surprising than you imagine. Blitzer is thoughtful enough to transcend purely foreign policy issues; he therefore fits also into the tradition of bright foreigners who know us well but who are alien enough to see our institutions and attitudes from new perspectives.

This is true also of the writings of an immigrant author not familiar to most of us, Gerald Thorson informs us. He says that *FROM NORWEGIAN ROMANTIC TO AMERICAN REALIST: Studies in the Life and Writings of Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen*. By Per Seyersted. Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey: Humanities Press, 1984, \$17.95, is an important contribu-

tion to our understanding of Boyesen's life and work. Boyesen's efforts to introduce American readers to the new Norwegian literature and to promote literary realism in American literature are well documented in this collection of five previously published essays, two of which appear in English for the first time. Seyersted discusses Boyesen's relations with Bjornson, Kielland and Turgenev, providing valuable insights into Boyesen's motivations. Two essays examine Boyesen's growing disappointment with America and his views on American women. This dissatisfaction came, in part, from Boyesen's reaction to social and political developments; but it also grew out of his "old confusion of identity" as an immigrant. His views on the "new woman" were more complex: although optimistic in his belief that "woman is bound to develop the potentialities of her nature," he was less laudatory in many of his observations. In fact, Seyersted calls him an early American misogynist. This study makes use of several sources unavailable to previous scholars. The volume includes eight essays by Boyesen, a bibliography and an excellent foreword by Marc Ratner.

Carol Pozefsky of CBS News files this report on **THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF JOURNALISM**. Edited by Robert Schmuehl. Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 1984, \$13.95. In 1982, a dozen or so superstar newsmen got together at Notre Dame for a conference on "The Responsibilities of Journalism." This book is a collection of their lectures. Journalists will be reminded of Max Lerner's account of the reasons they got into the business: "... to achieve meaning, which can be done only through the frames of experience and questioning we bring to our observation. . . . your business as thinkers is to see the relation between your parties' fact and the whole frame of the universe." Non-journalists will share some of the ethical and other struggles newsmen face: wrestling with the selection process, self-restraint and the positioning of a story. How nifty an afternoon could be spent chatting with the likes of Ed Newman, Jeff Greenfield and Elie Abel. This book is the next best thing.

From Cambridge University Press comes a new series, under the general editorship of Emily Elliott, on the American novel. Each volume is called *New Essays On . . .*, followed by the novel title. We have the first three in hand; they are **NEW ESSAYS ON "THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN"**. Edited by Louis J. Budd. . . . **ON "THE GREAT GATSBY"**. Edited by Matthew J. Bruccoli. . . . **ON "THE SCARLET LETTER"**. Edited by Michael J. Colacurcio. \$19.95 cloth, \$6.95 paper (each). The dust jacket blurb says that they are for use in undergraduate classes, but I have difficulty imagining situations in the classes in which I teach on American literature which would make these books appropriate or very useful. Though they are supposed to provide a general briefing, they often focus on issues which strike me as not the very first ones would want to bring into a classroom or a term paper context—which is not to say that the essays are not good. Several

indeed, are exceptionally fine, even some which are far more concerned with developing the author's bright new insight into a novel than in giving undergraduates an introduction to the different kinds of studies which have been done, or into currently "received" opinions of the novel. Indeed, the very titles of the essays say to the reader "scholarly article," not "briefing for students." That's not a bad hidden agenda, of course.

Edward Wagenknecht is a writer on literature who seems to produce a book a week, but he has both conscience and taste, and his popular volumes often reflect good scholarship and good judgment. The Northfield Jamesian Carol Holly informs us that **THE TALES OF HENRY JAMES**. By Edward Wagenknecht. New York: Frederick Ungar, 1984, \$16.50, is a leisurely, even casual summary of James' tales, directed at the beginning reader of James—the undergraduate perhaps—who seeks an easy introduction to the prevailing themes of the short fiction. A companion piece to *The Novels of Henry James* (Ungar, 1983), *The Tales of Henry James* surveys in chronological order not only the fifty-five tales included by James in his New York edition but also the five tales which were published as *The Finer Grain* in 1910. Wagenknecht's ample notes guide the reader to much of the pertinent criticism on the tales, and the two appendices to lists of tales not discussed in the text and collections of tales published by James during his lifetime.

John Braeman has this to say about two collections of documentary sources, **CHAINS OF FEAR: American Race Relations Since Reconstruction**. By Michael J. Cassity. Grass Roots Perspectives on American History, No. 3. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1984, \$35.00. **LEGACY OF FEAR: American Race Relations to 1900**. By Michael J. Cassity. Grass Roots Perspectives in American History, No. 4. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1985, \$35.00. Cassity has written brief introductions of approximately twenty pages plus prefatory notes to the documents. There is a substantial amount of overlap between the last part of the second volume and the beginning part of the first even in the materials reprinted. Cassity's thesis—stripped of its turgid jargon—is that black oppression was the product of the rise of "the market economy" (*Legacy*, xvi). Slavery was first instituted in the New World to overcome the barrier to productive labor resulting from the pre-market mentality of the early English settlers.

After emancipation, the "repressive nature of the market" imposed upon the now legally free blacks a new "system of restraints" (*Legacy*, xxiv, xxvii). And the resentments generated by the same marketplace pressures upon whites was diverted against blacks "to perpetuate the power of the few by preventing a real brotherhood of man from becoming an effective political and social force" (*Legacy*, xxxi; *Chains*, xix).

One of the recent major topics of research in American cultural studies has been the place of professions and professionals. Good summaries

of the scholarly literature have been partial. John C. Burnham, however, says that *THE AUTHORITY OF EXPERTS: Studies in History and Theory*. Edited by Thomas L. Haskell. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1984, \$22.50, is an up-to-date collection which references much of the scholarship, including important historical and theoretical expositions. As in all collections, there are some miscellaneous pieces that are at best marginal, but in addition, two well known sociologists of the professions, Eliot Freidson and Magali Sarfatti Larson, and several historians together describe the evolving place of professionals in American (and to some degree Western) society—and then argue about whether or not professions have been and are good for society: have they embodied ideal unselfishness or have they acted as agencies of non-pecuniary but selfish interests? can all occupations become professions? are professions inevitable in modernization, much less capitalism? Freidson's clear summary, the arguments about the issues and the historians' explorations of specific materials will probably make this otherwise obscure hardback a widely used point of departure for other scholars.

Max Skidmore writes: Two activists in the 1980 Anderson presidential campaign, Clifford W. Brown, Jr. and Robert J. Walker, have presented a sympathetic analysis of the effort. They provide a useful resource by compiling the extensive platform, along with a brief history of the movement and a discussion of platforms throughout American history. Their book is *A CAMPAIGN OF IDEAS: The 1980 Anderson/Lucey Campaign*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1984, \$35.00. Max adds, the number of citizens who agree with one or more third party candidates, and are dissatisfied with the offerings of the major parties, is not negligible. Some do vote in protest, some fail or refuse to vote and others apparently vote for one of the major candidates, regardless of their preferences, because they fear that to do otherwise is to throw away votes. Of course, this is precisely what a two-party system is designed to do, to reduce the options in order to encourage political stability. The parties generally have done this well. The candidates interviewed would argue that they have done it too well, that the cost is not worth the result. Others may argue that any costs have been justified, and that the current weakening of the party system could well lead to chaos.

Historians of American medicine should be pleased to hear news forwarded by Robert P. Hudson about *DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN MEDICAL BIOGRAPHY*. Edited by Martin Kaufman, Stuart Galishoff and Todd Savitt. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1984, \$95.00. It has now been more than 50 years since the last comprehensive dictionary of American medical biography was published. Thus this two-volume updated version was long needed. It is also superbly executed. Some 100 contributors provided the biographies on a regional basis. Each biography wherein the mate-

rial was available includes date and place of birth and death, area of specialization, parents' names and occupations, marital information, career information, major contributions and a list of writings. The present edition was further improved by the inclusion of non-physician contributors, even to include what might be termed unorthodox practitioners. Helpful appendices list the subject by year and place of birth, specialty or occupation, medical or graduate school attended, state where prominent; there is also a separate listing of women.

The same contributor informs us that *ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF THE SLIDE ARCHIVE OF HISTORICAL MEDICAL PHOTOGRAPHS AT STONY BROOK*. Compiled by Rima D. Apple. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1984, \$55.00, is "invaluable": the design of the book is magnificent. Each of the more than 3,000 photographs is actually reproduced so that one does not have to try to conjure up the image from a written description. The photographs are then indexed by 1) personal names, 2) institutional names, 3) photographers, 4) geography, 5) medical and surgical conditions, 6) chronology and 7) subject. To this are added appendices listing archival and institutional sources, bibliographic sources, and methods for locating historical medical photographs. The book will be immensely useful to anyone wanting to enliven a lecture, as duplicate slides can be ordered from Stony Brook.

Jerry Rodnitzky gives us the word on *BLUEGRASS: A History*. By Neil V. Rosenberg. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1984, \$24.95. This carefully written study shows many of the strengths and none of the usual flaws of books written by scholars who are also fans and performers of their subject. Rosenberg, a professor of folklore, plays bluegrass and has produced bluegrass records. Thus the book benefits from strong anecdotal examples and a feel for individual performers, and avoids the clinical detachment that often turns vibrant popular culture subjects into mere chronology. On the other hand there is none of the industry jargon and name dropping that often occurs in books written by people too close to their subject's commercial side.

Rosenberg defines bluegrass as that music developed by Bill Monroe and his "Blue Grass Boys" band during the 1940s. Surely others will argue tenuous links between Monroe and string band music of the nineteenth and twentieth century, but I doubt that such connections are instructive. This book will be irresistible for bluegrass fans or scholars and helpful to anyone interested in recent popular culture. In the interpretive sense, Rosenberg can't tell us what we don't know about bluegrass, since approaches to the music are necessarily individual and intuitive. However, he does furnish the first industry history of bluegrass by integrating its history with that of contemporary popular music. An especially strong discography and bibliography are a bonus.