James Officer writes to tell us that in spite of "occasional lapses," SIPAPU: The Study of the Indians of Arizona and New Mexico. By William E. Coffer. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1982, $14.95, is "a useful addition to the popular works on Southwestern Indians." He says, although more comprehensive than the average tourist folder on America's "colorful" Indians, this small book by Cherokee-Choctaw author William E. Coffer can provide readers useful information about Southeastern tribes without much danger of suffocating them in the process. On the other hand, despite assertions on the cover flap, it is not "must reading for all anthropologists and other social scientists interested in American Indian cultures." It will probably attract criticism from serious scholars for sins of both omission and commission, but it has fewer of both than many other popular works having to do with Indians. The pretensions about the volume that appear on its cover may well be those of the publisher rather than the author.

Although the subtitle refers only to Arizona and New Mexico, the tribes Coffer discusses were, and still are, spread over a much wider area than is encompassed by these two states. Included, for example, are various Paiute groups from the Great Basin and California (but not the Utes from Utah and southern Colorado). In writing of so many different tribes, bands and villages, the author was obliged to be selective with respect to the data presented, and has focused on contrasts between old and new ways of life. His comments on contemporary matters are current to the mid-1970s and, in a few cases, to about 1978. A unique feature of the volume is the section concerned with Arizona's Yaquis.

In the text proper, the author has generally resisted the temptation to blame all reservation problems on the Bureau of Indian Affairs, but he has indulged the urge more freely in the footnotes. He will certainly draw fire for suggesting that the late 18th-century effort to establish missions among the Quechan of the Colorado River was carried out "in typical Spanish-Jesuit fashion" given the fact that the Franciscans and not the Jesuits were involved. His statement that the Jicarilla Apache "were the last American Indian tribe to be permanently settled on a reservation" is incorrect and contradicts information provided elsewhere about the establishment of the main Papago reservation.

From Indianapolis Warren French writes to tell us that he has "been perusing two wonderful bargains" from the Library of Congress: The Library of Congress published in 1983, HISTORIC AMERICA: Buildings, Structures and Sites. Recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey and the Historic American Engineering Record. The first 286 pages are devoted to sixteen essays by divers hands explaining the survey and how it may be used; pages 287-680 are a checklist of the sites documented, and finally pages 681-708 locate the sites by county. All of this, and the essays are truly profusely illustrated, is available from the Superintendent of Documents for $29.00 postpaid (or at government sales offices in many major cities).

Further, the Library of Congress also in 1983 issued a revised and expanded edition of PANORAMIC MAPS OF CITIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, listing 1,726 of these largely late nineteenth-century gems in its collection and reproducing twenty-seven of them. For no more than some dreary exercises in critical futility, much shorter and not only unillustrated but unilluminated cost today, basic tools for the study of nineteenth-century "places" are available.


Earl N. Harbert and Robert A. Rees have edited an updating of FIFTEEN AMERICAN AUTHORS BEFORE 1900/BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ESSAYS ON RESEARCH AND CRITICISM. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1984, $22.50. The essays vary in format, in the method by which they cover material published since 1971 (the date of the first edition) and in cut-off date for inclusion of very recent studies, but each which I have consulted have been judicious and useful. Authors in the present volume (two chapters on southern literature have been dropped) are Henry Adams, William Cullen Bryant, James Fenimore Cooper, Stephen Crane, Emily Dickinson, Jonathan Edwards, Benjamin Franklin, Oliver Wendell Holmes, William Dean Howells, Washington Irving, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, James Russell Lowell, Frank Norris, Edward Taylor and John Greenleaf Whittier. The volume is meant to be used in conjunction with Floyd Stovall's Eight American Authors and Jackson Bryer's Fifteen (Sixteen, now) Modern American Authors. Having seen what word-processors can do to a scholarly journal, I am sure that computers are really a blessing to scholarship, but—if somebody remembers how to access the texts of the last edition—they ought to make it easier and less expensive to revise reference works of this sort.

APPALACHIA AND AMERICA: Autonomy and Regional Dependence. Edited by Allen Batteau. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1983, $26.00. Beth Dillingham writes, doesn't have "much that is new. . . . Three of the fourteen articles (Martin, Bryant and Shapiro) have been published in other forms previously; and not a few of the remaining are on the order of summaries of other published works. . . . However, most of these papers are well written, and re-reading the introduction does tend to tie them together. Further, since the book does cover a number of the issues that are, indeed, of concern to students of Appalachia, it might well serve as an introduction to the problems that are of contemporary concern in the area."

Bunker Clark says that Mark W. Booth's AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC: A Reference Guide. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1983, $29.95, is the first book to consult before undergoing any kind of investigation into one of the several branches of popular music. The categories indicate the scope: general; pre-20th century; Tin Pan Alley; dance bands, Broadway, Hollywood; blues and black popular music; ragtime and jazz; country and folk; rock. Each of these bibliographies is prefaced by an excellent essay describing the books in logical sequence, and the book has a brief Introduction which sketches the history of American popular music.

Warm praise from Rachel Shorthill for TRADITIONAL AMERICAN FOLKSONGS FROM THE ANNE AND FRANK WARNER COLLECTION. By Anne Warner. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 1984, $25.95: Documenting forty-five years of collecting folksong variants from the eastern seaboard, this publication is a fitting culmination to the work of Anne and Frank Warner. Arranged by geographic region and informant, the collection includes a thorough history of each folksong and folksinger, plus photographs of the singers and collectors. The song transcriptions are well done in a manner to facilitate performance, and additional information is provided through notes from the music transcriber. Descriptions of the Warners' fieldwork experiences will be of interest to other collectors. Not merely a compilation of texts and tunes, this collection brings to life the folksingers and their songs.

Jack Levine's luminous paintings tie technically to the old masters and to Rouault; the satire comes as a surprise. His graphic works tie to old masters, too, and to George Grosz; the satire here is no surprise. Levine teaches well in American Studies courses: his style touches important forces in twentieth century art, his life says things about American society and about values; his career teaches "art and audience": his work, moreover, is poetic, incisive, beautiful. Dover (Mineola, New York, 1984) gives us a sumptuous paperback, THE COMPLETE GRAPHIC WORK OF JACK LEVINE for $8.95, most intelligently edited and annotated by Kenneth W. Prescott and Emma-Stina Prescott, in collaboration with Levine, and we should be grateful.

John Braeman checks in with an account of an American Studies pamphlet series from Great Britain: The British Association for American Studies has issued a series of pamphlets containing relatively brief interpretive essays (roughly 40 pages), each with an accompanying "Guide to Further Reading." The authors are mostly British scholars, but a number are Americans. The series is billed as "designed to make widely available the fruits of recent research and current thinking on major problems in all areas of American Studies." For the literary area, there are the following: Stan Smith, A BADLY CONTRACTED HERO: The Comic Self in Post-War American Fiction (No. 5); Malcolm Bradbury, THE EXPATRIATE TRADITION IN AMERICAN LITERATURE (No. 9); Edward A. Abramson, THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE (No. 10); and A. Robert Lee, BLACK AMERICAN FICTION SINCE RICHARD WRIGHT (No. 11). Aspects of popular culture are dealt with in Robert H. Fossom and John K. Roth, THE AMERICAN DREAM (No. 6) and Mark Gidley, AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHY (No. 12); contemporary social problems, in Philip Davies, THE METROPOLITAN MOSAIC: Problems of the Contemporary City (No. 4) and David Murray, MODERN INDIANS (No. 8). The rest are primarily of interest to historians: Peter J. Parish, SLAVERY: The Many Faces of a Southern Institution (No. 1); J. A. Thompson, PROGRESSIVISM (No. 2); John D. Lees, THE PRESIDENT AND THE SUPREME
COURT: New Deal to Watergate (No. 3); James T. Patterson, THE WELFARE STATE IN AMERICA, 1930-1980 (No. 7); and Edward Countryman, THE PEOPLE’S AMERICAN REVOLUTION (No. 13). One is uncertain of the intended audience. On the one hand, specialists will not find much that is new. On the other, most undergraduates will lack the requisite background knowledge presupposed by the authors. Copies are available from: B.A.A.S. (Pamphlets Dept.), University of Durham, Elvet Riverside, Durham, DH1 3JT, England.

Speaking of pamphlets, Albert Stone looked at the latest in a series of fifty-page essays on significant (and obscure) Western writers: WILLIAM SAROYAN. By Edward Halsey Foster; WESTERN AMERICAN LITERARY CRITICISM. By Martin Bucco; MARI SANDOZ. By Helen Winter Stauffer; BARRY LOPEZ. By Peter Wild; TILLIE OLSEN. By Abigail Martin. (Boise, Idaho: Boise State University Western Writers Series Nos. 61-65, 1984, $2.00 each.) They offer, in addition to comprehensive essays, useful bibliographies. An exception is No. 62, which is itself a running bibliography of writers on and of the West from Crèvecoeur to Etulain. However, Bucco’s limitation of literary criticism in a scope to “description, interpretation, and judgment of individual works” (50) is too narrowly traditional and leads to some obtuse judgments and sniping comments on theoretical critics. Thus Leslie Fiedler and Max Westbrook are arraigned for “playing ring-around-the-text with the shades of Kant and Jung” (Westbrook) or following “in the wide wake of Freud and Frye” (Fiedler). A similar penchant for the straightforward biographical sketch and chronological summary of major works characterizes the essays on Sandoz, Lopez and Olsen. Somewhat more ambitious is Foster’s William Saroyan. Organized thematically, this essay is a balanced and wide-ranging survey of the Fresno writer who taught the Beats how to “achieve a unique individual voice rather than a style based on respected literary antecedents” (46). Tillie Olsen, too, is properly presented by Abigail Martin as a catalyst and inspiration for present-day feminist writers and critics.

american studies column

(continued from p. 4)

SATURDAY, April 13

8:30-10:15

SESSION 3-A: ROMANTICISM AND SCIENCE, Bryan Le Beau, Creighton University, Chair.


“Emerson’s Uniformitarian Geology,” James R. Saucerman, Northwest Missouri State University.

Comment: Richard L. Herrnstadt, Iowa State University.

SESSION 3-B: ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE, Kathryn H. Anthony, University of Illinois-Urbana, Chair.


“Jens Jensen’s Sittings,” Tom Scanlan, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Comment: Joan E. Draper, University of Illinois-Chicago.

10:30-12:15

SESSION 4-A: THE LIBRARY IN AMERICAN CULTURE, Joe W. Kraus, Illinois State University, Chair.

“Azariah Smith Root: The Librarian as Spokesman for American Ideals,” Mark Tucker, Purdue University.

“American Public Libraries During World War I,” Wayne A. Wiegand, University of Kentucky.

Comment: David Kaser, Indiana University.

SESSION 4-B: WOMEN, TRADE UNIONS, AND SOCIAL REFORM, Jan Reiff, Northwestern University, Chair.