

reviews

literature

MARK TWAIN AND "LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI." By Horst H. Kruse. Foreword by Everett Emerson. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. 1981. \$17.50.

An engrossing repository of river lore, historical fact, personal interview, character sketch, scenery description and folk yarn, Mark Twain's *Life on the Mississippi* (1883) has long been valuable to students of American culture. Now Kruse's literary study, discovered by Everett Emerson in a German-language edition of 1970 and translated with new additions, sifts the information known about each stage of the inception and composition of the book, in effect performing for this travel narrative what Walter Blair's *Mark Twain & Huck Finn* (1960) did for Twain's greatest novel. Kruse's investigation refutes many disparaging judgments by commentators like Leo Marx, who assumed that Twain's book was heavily padded, an "uneven, hasty and loosely put-together volume . . . not literature but a disorderly patchwork." According to Kruse, Twain had long wanted to write "a standard work" on the Mississippi River region, and he deliberately and effectively interwove its basic structure (a nostalgic return voyage) with guidebook-excerpts, tall tales and social commentary.

University of Texas-Austin

Alan Gribben

STYLE AS STRUCTURE AND MEANING: William Bradford's *Of Plymouth Plantation*. By Floyd Ogburn, Jr. Washington, D.C.: University Press of America. 1981. \$17.75. Paper: \$9.00.

This is an unusual book, formerly a dissertation, little revised from the original and very specialized. Mr. Ogburn applies an esoteric linguistic method to Bradford's text in a detailed search for a "stylistic center." Such a center exists and is evident in several stylistic devices that unify the whole. The meaning of these devices derives from Bradford's passage about the Pilgrims' debarkation in the New World, and the book, so considered, becomes a metaphorical voyage toward God. Bradford consciously used a set of dichotomous patterns that are familiar to most students of Puritan literature, i.e., visibility and invisibility, lightness and darkness and so forth. Mr. Ogburn's contribution is his method. Within its limitations, he firmly asserts that the Bradford text has none of the flaws that other scholars have assigned it and that it is, instead, a unified and coherent piece of early American literature. Despite some problems with methodological self-consciousness and conclusions that are overdrawn, Ogburn provides a useful example of the distinterested analysis of texts along with some interesting analyses of Bradford's religious consciousness.

University of Florida

Eldon R. Turner

FOUR AMERICAN INDIAN LITERARY MASTERS: N. Scott Momaday, James Welch, Leslie Marmon Silko, and Gerald Vizenor. By Alan R. Velie. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 1982. \$14.95. Paper: \$9.95.

Velie has consulted the best critical works about these writers in doing his interpretive study in which he demonstrates how each writer was influenced by tribal background,

family, academic experience and modern and contemporary writers and literary trends. Although Velie offers the book as an introduction to these writers' works, some well-read readers may question the lengthy treatment of Momaday and the brief discussion of Silko, the selectiveness regarding Silko's works and the lack of it regarding Vizenor's.
University of Arizona Daniel Littlefield

IN THE SINGER'S TEMPLE: Prose Fictions of Barthelme, Gaines, Brautigan, Piercy, Kelsey, and Kosinski. By Jack Hicks. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1981. \$18.50.

Hicks' book explores the various fictional styles of contemporary American writers, particularly those mentioned in the title. Hicks provides a detailed analysis of the major works of these writers and also offers an overview of their lives and the traditions within which their works fall. The dominant strain of contemporary fiction he calls "metafiction"—postmodern consciousness searching for a way out of the self-defined cultural labyrinth currently facing most artists. According to Hicks, this search involves parody, absorption in personal and subcultural experiences, and a movement away from realism and political activism. As an overview of various directions in contemporary American fiction, *In The Singer's Temple* provides a good starting point for exploration. The discussions of Barthelme and Kosinski are especially valuable.
University of Missouri-Kansas City Ralph Berets

JAMES BALDWIN. By Carolyn Wedin Slyvander. New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing Co. 1980. \$10.95. Paper: \$4.95.

James Baldwin is a compact, useful and up-to-date survey of the life and works of a major black American writer. It is also a welcome reminder that Baldwin's literary output and his concern for public issues have continued largely unabated since his glory days of the 50's and 60's. Slyvander's helpful chronology, bibliography, afterword of critical sources and plot summaries should prove a tremendous aid to a student or researcher needing a crash course on Baldwin.
Tuskegee Institute Bruce Adams

EDITH WHARTON'S ARGUMENT WITH AMERICA. By Elizabeth Ammons. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press. 1980. \$15.00.

Organized chronologically, Ammons' book traces Wharton's public argument with America on the issue of women's freedom. Placing Wharton's canon within its historical content, in Chapters 1-4, Ammons brilliantly analyzes Wharton's intellectual progress from her early exploration of financial obstacles to women's autonomy, through her increased understanding of the "psychological bondage of romantic love," to her sardonic unmasking of marriage as the mercantile bargain it often was. Chapter 5 examines the completion of the major phase of Wharton's work with *Summer* and *The Age of Innocence*, illustrating that Wharton was still committed to the freedom of women. The last two chapters focus on Wharton's marked conservative shift and concomitant decline in artistic talent after World War I, when she endorsed motherhood as a woman's highest goal. Building on Cynthia Woolf's and R. W. B. Lewis' previous work, Ammons brings an original, clear and perceptive approach to Wharton's work.

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THE EDUCATION OF MRS. HENRY ADAMS. By Eugenia Kaledin. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1981. \$22.50.

This book focuses on the social and educational milieu of wealthy Boston women, and on the work and literary scene of Henry Adams. For this reason, it is disappointing as biography; the reader never gets to know Clover Hooper Adams either as a public or pri-

vate human being. We see, for example, a series of her photographs, but never one of her—a symbolic omission. Students of the period will find the book helpful for what it says about this rarefied Boston community, but a definitive study of the talented, tragic women of these historical families—including Clover Adams—is not here. The book might best be described as an “intellectualization of Mrs. Henry Adams”; what is missing is a clear picture of what she was without the Mrs., or without the Henry. Kaledin proposes to illustrate “the ways in which the grudging dilettantish nature of Clover’s education and the critical temperament of her husband might have contributed to her self-diminishment.” The education is clearly defined, as is the critical temperament, but their formative effects on Clover, or hers on them, is not. Kaledin’s title indicates that the approach is deliberate—and she should not be criticized for what she did not intend to do, but neither should this be thought a biography of Clover Adams. It is a study of Henry Adams’ world, and his wife’s.

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DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER: A BIOGRAPHY. By Ida H. Washington. Shelburne, Vermont: The New England Press. 1982. \$13.95.

This biography of a minor writer known primarily for her eleven popular novels and more than one hundred short stories is valuable primarily for what it records about Canfield’s publishing career rather than for what it reveals of her personal life, which is treated with rapidity and superficiality. Organized initially by chronology and then by genre, the book contains plot summaries of Canfield’s novels and selected stories with intermittent, terse critical commentary. The book is helpful for its valuable quotations from Canfield’s own analysis of the popular literary scene of her era (her first novel appeared in 1907, her last book in 1959), a subject she knew intimately through her involvement with the Book-of-the-Month Club selection board. Washington has drawn extensively on Canfield’s letters and papers, and obviously knows her subject well. The reader, unfortunately, does not gain a real sense of Canfield’s personality or life, but does gain an interesting acquaintance with the works of a largely forgotten writer.

MAS

KEN KESEY. By Barry H. Leeds. New York: Frederick Ungar. 1981. \$10.95.

The thesis of this persuasive literary biography is that Kesey’s frequently neglected second novel, *Sometimes a Great Notion*, rather than the more widely acclaimed *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, represents the pinnacle of his art. Leeds defends Kesey from accusations of misogyny and racism, and offers valuable interpretation of Kesey’s symbolic use of “hands.” Contains chapters on the stage and screen adaptations of *Cuckoo’s Nest* and on Kesey’s most recent works: *Kesey’s Garage Sale*, *Spit in the Ocean* and *Seven Prayers by Grandma Whittier*.

University of Northern Iowa

Barbara Lounsberry

ARTICLES ON AMERICAN AND BRITISH LITERATURE: An Index to Selected Periodicals, 1950-1977. By Larry B. Corse and Sandra B. Corse. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press. 1981. \$30.00.

This reference volume is for “students using small college libraries”; it therefore limits itself to 48 journals which publish articles felt to be not too technical for students. In excluding “journals which publish large amounts of other [than literature in English] material,” however, the editors eliminate most of the broad-gauge essays which would be of greatest use to the designated audience: the editors of *this* journal, for instance, or of the good quarterlies, force authors to communicate with nonspecialists, people who are not professional English scholars. *JEGP*, *PMLA*, or the *Journal of Narrative Technique*, in contrast, are designed for a narrow audience, yet they are included. The Corse’s design, in short, is at odds with their goal.

To test, I looked up entries for authors I know well, and asked colleagues to do the same, to see whether the Big Stuff one wants good students to use and know is present. In

the areas we tried, the answer, alas, was “No,” which is a shame, because this project was a good idea, honestly carried out.

SGL

THE ASTONISHED TRAVELER: William Darby, Frontier Geographer and Man of Letters. By J. Gerald Kennedy. Baton Rouge and London: Louisiana State University Press. 1981. \$22.50.

In the first half of this book, Kennedy presents the biography of William Darby, an early nineteenth-century geographer who published in the 1830's under the pseudonym “Mark Bancroft” a popular series of “Cooperesque border narratives.” The second half consists of a literary analysis with accompanying reprinted samples of Darby's border narratives and geographical writings. Although Kennedy has done an admirable job of historical detective work in tracking down the elusive facts of Darby's life, his protagonist appears of limited interest and significance.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

peace movements

A decade ago, *American Studies* published a special issue (XIII, 1 [Spring, 1972]) on this subject. A number of places used it as a textbook, so we printed extra copies. A few are still available at the classroom adoption rate of \$2.00 (see inside front cover for details).

ABRAHAM WENT OUT: A Biography of A. J. Muste. By Jo Ann Ooiman Robinson. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1981. \$22.50.

A. J. Muste (1885-1967) was America's foremost twentieth-century pacifist, a radical activist who opposed American militarism from World War I to Viet Nam and who was a mainstay of such organizations as the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Committee for Nonviolent Action and the Congress of Racial Equality. Robinson's work is the first thoroughly scholarly treatment of his life. Although the book's pedestrian style and indifferent editing make it less readable than the one earlier biography of Muste (Nat Hentoff's *Peace Agitator*, Macmillan, 1963), its scholarship is exhaustive, and it provides a comprehensive overview of Muste's pilgrimage from the Protestant ministry to secular leftist political activism of a Trotskyite variety to a thoroughgoing Quakerish pacifism. Scholars of the American Left will find useful not only the main text of the book but the extensive footnotes and bibliographical essay as well.

TM

CLASS, CULTURE, AND THE CLASSROOM: The Student Peace Movement of the 1930s. By Eileen Eagan. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1981 [1982]. \$22.50.

The turmoil on the college campuses of the 1960s and early 1970s has stimulated historians to investigate earlier examples of student dissent in the United States. Eagan focuses upon probably the foremost example of a widespread student protest movement before the 1960s which, like its later counterpart, had the peace issue as its driving force. She traces how the conjunction of the Great Depression with the Marxist, pacifist and social-gospel ideologies then popular spurred a large-scale student movement to resist involvement in war. Though a workmanlike account of student activism in the 1930s, this volume suffers from an uncritical and unsophisticated eulogistic tone. What Eagan's evidence shows—although she not surprisingly shies from the implication—is that the key role of the Communists in the antiwar campaign and their shifting positions in accord with the changing party line proved the movement's Achilles heel.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

the courts

AMERICAN LEGAL CULTURE, 1908-1940. By John W. Johnson. Westport, Connecticut, and London: Greenwood Press. 1981. \$23.95.

The underlying premise of this study may be regarded as a truism: during the course of the twentieth century, American "legal culture" was radically transformed. In tracing this transformation, Johnson covers familiar ground: the Brandeis brief—the switch from judge-made common law to statutory and administrative law; the court's increasing reliance upon "legislative history" for statutory construction; the broadening of the case-method approach in the law schools; the rise first of "sociological jurisprudence," then "legal realism." His contribution is to link these developments into an over-all synthesis whose central theme is the "seemingly ubiquitous concern for finding, fashioning, and using new sources of information." There was, Johnson argues persuasively, a consensus among the movers and shapers of American law during the first four decades of the century that "the procurement of proper information was the essential key to an improvement in the state of American law." And in a provocative final chapter, he suggests that the years since 1940 have witnessed a decline in the influence of this "informational penchant" most strikingly exemplified in the Warren Court majority's absolutist approach.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

HOW COURTS GOVERN AMERICA. By Richard Neely. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1981. \$15.00.

Richard Neely, chief justice of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals and the youngest judge to be elected to a higher court, comes naturally by his keen understanding of the American political system. His family has long been prominent in West Virginia; his grandfather, Matthew Neely, was both governor and United States senator. In his lively book, Neely compares and contrasts the work of the three branches of government and concludes that the judiciary is not only essential to the balance of separated powers, but that, of the three branches, the courts contribute the most (and the best) to the operation of the system. They are, to be sure, undemocratic. But the people accept—and perhaps even welcome—what courts do because it is by their actions that the flaws of other branches are corrected. Judge Neely is straightforward and convincing. His book deserves a large audience.

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THE AMERICAN IDEAL OF EQUALITY: From Jefferson's Declaration to the Burger Court. By Charles M. Redenius. Port Washington, New York: Kennikat Press. 1981. \$17.50.

"Equality in America," says the author, "has meant a moral intuition that all people are of the same worth and have identical right." Historically this perception, initially embodied in the Declaration of Independence, has been most emphatically expressed by presidents: Jackson, Lincoln, FDR, Lyndon Johnson. By contrast, the Supreme Court's commitment to the Constitution as its prime source of political legitimacy has traditionally pushed equality into a subordinate role in the Court's firmament of values. The period of the Warren Court was a historic first as the Court sought to fashion expansive constitutional doctrine from the sparse language of the Equal Protection Clause. The Burger Court's retreat from this thrust toward judicial endorsement of the goal of equality is, in the light of history, by no means surprising.

University of Kansas

Francis H. Heller

native americans

AMERICAN INDIANS AND CHRISTIAN MISSIONS: Studies in Cultural Conflict. By Henry Warner Bowden. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press. 1981. \$14.95.

Clearly written and based upon wide-ranging researches, this is a compact review and interpretation of the history of Christian missions among American natives from the 16th century to the present. The author concentrates upon sources and shapes of conflict within that history, and provides a broad overview of Indian religion. He surpasses other writers in the field by bringing to the task an equal scholarly command of Indian culture and religion and of Christian theology and missionary intent. Sensitive to the special difficulties of interpreting "religion," he makes judicious use of relevant concepts from contemporary theories of culture. *Certainly the best available study of its kind.*

University of Iowa

T. Dwight Bozeman

SITANKA: The Full Story of Wounded Knee. By Forrest W. Seymour. West Hanover, Massachusetts: Christopher Publishing House. 1981. \$9.75.

This book has many of the better qualities of the author's journalistic background and style—ease of reading and action-oriented prose. Unfortunately, it also has the weaknesses of that style—lack of documentation, unsubstantiated dialogue and overdramatization of events. The book does make use of the important Ricker Collection at the Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, but readers are better advised to turn to other works for the "story of Wounded Knee."

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Gary E. Moulton

philosophy

EVOLUTIONARY METAPHYSICS: The Development of Peirce's Theory of Categories. By Joseph L. Esposito. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press. 1980. \$17.00.

This is an ambitious attempt to show that Peirce, despite many appearances, was a relatively consistent and systematic thinker. To make his case the author places an unusual stress on Peirce's earliest philosophical notes and sketches, arguing that they lay the groundwork for a later systematic adaptation and revision of Hegelian triadic categories. Although the arguments are not always as clear and detailed as possible, the book does make a good case for seeing Peirce as having persistently worked to achieve a systematic and dialectical scientific metaphysics.

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CHARLES S. PEIRCE: From Pragmatism to Pragmaticism. By Karl-Otto Apel, translated by John Michael Krois. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. 1981. \$20.00.

This book, first published in German in 1967, reviews Peirce's entire philosophical career from the standpoint of post-Kantian continental philosophy, and more specifically from that of Apel's concern, as a member of the Frankfurt school, with the possibility of analyzing the form of an ideal democratic community of inquiry. The approach is generally congenial to Peirce, focusing on his "logical socialism" and on his notion of the scientific community. Apel clearly demonstrates the significance of Kantian transcendental themes for an understanding of Peirce and makes a series of illuminating comparisons between the treatment of these themes in Marxism, existentialism and Peirce; there are also useful assessments of the philosophies of Royce, James and Dewey from the same perspective.

University of Kansas

Gary Shapiro

THE ORIENTAL RELIGIONS AND AMERICAN THOUGHT: Nineteenth-Century Explorations. By Carl T. Jackson. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1981. \$27.50.

The author wishes to show that American interest in the thought of India, China and Japan dates back earlier than the Transcendentalists. Though marred occasionally by a lack

of analysis of the levels of Asian traditions with which he deals, this is a significant, absorbing study which uses skillfully a great variety of primary sources to trace the interest in Asian thought from Cotton Mather through the Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893, including the rise of the American Oriental scholar out of missionary beginnings.
University of Kansas Robert N. Minor

popular culture

THE CELLULOID SOUTH: Hollywood and the Southern Myth. By Edward D. C. Campbell, Jr. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press. 1981. \$17.50.

While Campbell's title is too sweeping, his subtitle indicates the true subject of this invaluable account of the portrayal of the Old South in film (not only before the Civil War, but down to the end of the nineteenth century). He traces especially the continued oversimplification in the glorification of white masters in early films and their condemnation since World War II. Particularly useful are detailed reports about both reviewers' responses to films from *Birth of a Nation* to *Song of the South* and the public's response at the box office.

WF

FOLK ARCHITECTURE IN LITTLE DIXIE: A Regional Culture in Missouri. By Howard Wright Marshall. Columbia: University of Missouri Press. 1981. \$22.00.

This slim volume is devoted to an examination of the vernacular architecture of eight Missouri counties known as "Little Dixie." The author, a folklorist, has adopted Henry Glassie's methodology which is based on structural analysis, and in the process he not only provides us with a very clear exposition of that method and how to apply it, he also makes very clear the differences between that way of dealing with architecture and the approaches used by the architectural historian. The book then is useful both as a study of method and as a case study, where its application provides us with an introduction to a special region in Missouri which had and retains strong southern character. Little Dixie reaches from central Missouri above the river northeast to the Mississippi. Geographically and topically it complements Charles van Ravenswaay's *The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri* which was produced by the same publisher and reviewed earlier in *AS* (XX, 1).

GE

MAKING SENSE OF SELF: Medical Advice Literature in Late Nineteenth-Century America. By Anita Clair Fellman and Michael Fellman. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 1981. \$16.50.

A study in popular ideology. Focusing on the period 1870-1890, the authors have combed through a mass of instructional literature concerning the body and the mind which, they convincingly argue, reflects a widespread middle-class desire to achieve a sense of individual control at a time when American society was going through threatening social and economic changes. Contains a bibliography of writings by the medical advisors and their contemporaries as well as of books and articles by twentieth-century analysts.

Ohio University

Peter Heidtmann

COMMON CULTURE AND THE GREAT TRADITION: The Case for Renewal. By Marshall W. Fishwick. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1982. \$25.00.

Marshall Fishwick has been one of the most intransigent promoters of popular culture studies, and the present volume is the culmination of a lifetime's pioneering. For newcomers to the field, the book is a treasure of facts and references; old-timers, however, may regret the lack of any synthesis. After questioning whether "the real meaning of culture" may not lie "outside any precise method," Fishwick rigorously pursues the old

historical method, so that the book reads like a set of masterful term papers. In the last and best of these on the rise of Ronald McDonald of hamburger fame, Fishwick misses an opportunity to speculate on the creation of traditional icons of "folk culture" on the basis of an example of contemporary myth-making. Like recent popular culture conferences, the book covers too much ground, too fast and too superficially, in a too naive "gee whizz" style, exemplified by such a statement as: "When a hundred million people watch the Super Bowl on television, you *know* people need something to identify with."

WF

READ THIS ONLY TO YOURSELF: The Private Writings of Midwestern Women, 1880-1890. By Elizabeth Hampsten. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. 1982. \$22.50.

There is a growing field of research that draws upon epistolary and diary writings of nineteenth-century women in order to present them not as exotics but in the dimensions of their everyday lives and expectations. Elizabeth Hampsten has collected the writings of women in North Dakota, and many of her readings are new and provocative. She finds women less responsive to physical place and regional distinctions than men, living more of their lives in an internalized geography. Working-class women tend to use the occasion of writing letters as a means of reaffirming the order they have succeeded in imposing upon the general disorder around them: "Keeping the pattern intact day after day is the mark of a well-regulated and successful life." These women write with self-assurance, and see life as a continuum of health and illness, sex and death. Hampsten's discovery that sexuality is plainly evident in these writings confounds earlier assumptions about Victorian restraints. In fact, many of the observations in this book will become touchstones for scholars working in the nineteenth-century social history.

LS

BOOM TOWN NEWSPAPERS: Journalism on the Rocky Mountain Mining Frontier, 1859-1881. By David Fridtjof Halaas. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. 1981. \$14.95.

The author's thesis that these early journalists struggled to overcome incredible obstacles and persevere as boosters of their camps' uncertain futures should come as no surprise. Though documentation is thorough, primarily from Colorado and Montana newspapers, it is unclear how effective these crusaders were. Are the quaint quoted snippets a hit-and-miss review by the author or did the ink-stained lot never pat themselves on the back for accomplishing reform? Beyond this reservation, however, I feel that the book accomplishes its limited mission—often in sprightly prose.

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Ray DeLong

CHARLES McCARTHY: Librarianship and Reform. By Marion Casey. Chicago: American Library Association. 1981. \$16.00.

This biography of Charles McCarthy sheds light upon a neglected aspect of progressive era reform. The moving spirit behind the establishment of Wisconsin's pioneering Legislative Reference Library and its long-time head, McCarthy has been overshadowed even in accounts of that state's experience by the towering figure of Robert M. LaFollette, Sr. Drawing upon research in an imposing list of manuscript collections, Casey succeeds in documenting the pivotal role of McCarthy and his Library in the reform achievements in Wisconsin. The work's major flaw is its rather narrow focus upon developments within Wisconsin. More attention should have been paid to how McCarthy influenced the establishment of similar research organizations throughout the country and, more broadly, contributed to propagating the faith, so central to progressive ideology, that social and economic problems could be solved through the application of what was termed nonpartisan scientific expertise.

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FOUNDING THEORY OF AMERICAN SOCIOLOGY 1881-1915. By Roscoe C. Hinkle. Boston, London and Hensley: Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1980. \$35.00.

This study has three major purposes: the development of an analytical framework for defining the general outlook—or what Hinkle calls “the (comprehensive or macro-) theories”—of individual sociologists; the application of this theoretical framework to the work of the pioneer generation of professional sociologists in the United States; and the formulation of “a sociology of the history of sociological theory” by examining the socio-intellectual context in which their ideas developed. Hinkle finds that the dominant assumptions of the founding fathers—assumptions that have continued to shape American sociological thought since 1915—were “that social reality is prevailingly idealist, nominalist, and voluntaristic in nature.” If translated into more readily understandable English, this conclusion is hardly new. And the heavy overlay of jargon makes this work of limited value to the uninitiated.

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GOODMEN: The Character of Civil War Soldiers. By Michael Barton. University Park and London: Pennsylvania State University Press. 1981. \$12.95.

One of the most debated issues in American history is how different the Old South was from the North. Barton has sought to shed light upon this problem through a content analysis of diaries and collections of letters written by officers and enlisted men on the two sides during the Civil War. His overall conclusion is that Northerners and Southerners shared the same core value system consisting of “Moralism, Progress, Religion, Achievement, and Patriotism,” but had different emotional styles, with Southerners more and Northerners less “expressive.” That conclusion is hardly new, as Barton himself acknowledges. And his attempt to explain the difference by drawing upon modern anthropological and psychoanalytical theories is too abstract to be convincing.

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THE END OF NEUTRALITY: The United States, Britain, and Maritime Rights, 1899-1915. By John W. Coogan. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press. 1981. \$19.50.

This study makes two major contributions. In the first place, Coogan places the issue of neutral rights that came to the fore after the outbreak of the First World War in the context of the long struggle to define those rights. As a result, he is able to expose the misunderstandings and errors in the existing accounts of United States-British wartime relations regarding the status of the international law of maritime rights. His conclusion is that there was in 1914 a viable system of international law that “offered the United States a realistic opportunity to maintain effective neutrality.” His second, and even more important, contribution is to demonstrate how Wilson’s favorable treatment of British actions during the first eight months of the conflict sacrificed this country’s legal status as a neutral and thus laid the ground for United States involvement. Coogan’s finding that Wilson “placed preservation of Anglo-American friendship above preservation of American neutrality” is a welcome rebuttal to the pro-Wilson apologetics of Arthur S. Link and Ernest R. May.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

THE IMAGE OF THE AMERICAN CITY IN POPULAR LITERATURE, 1820-1870. By Adrienne Siegel. Port Washington, New York: Kennikat. 1981. \$15.00.

Adrienne Siegel lays claim to quite modest aims in conducting what she calls a “topographical survey of popular urban literature” from 1820 to 1870. She has read and reports on some 336 popular and pulpish novels (and a few “confidentials”) from the period. Her interpretations of them rest upon a careful if generally cautious weave of urban history and plot summaries: she notes the points where such fictions departed from grim urban reality; occasionally compares the writings of hacks like John Holt Ingraham and

Charles Burdett with tales by Melville and Hawthorne; catalogs the new urban folkheroes and city types and stresses the city novel's somewhat paradoxical commingling of prurience, sensationalism and middle-class notions of reform. For the most part, then, she risks no claims to a sweeping new synthesis of urban and literary history. Yet her various analyses of the popular fascination with the city take on force and novelty through the simple bulk of her evidence. To show, as she has, how massive and widespread the production, publication and consumption of formula urban novels was in this period is once more to suggest reasons for revising old assumptions about the anti-urban tradition in American thought and letters.

Siegel defines the nature of this fascination by arguing that a principal function of this literature was to "demystify" the city. *Secrets of the Twin Cities, The Mysteries of Philadelphia, Mysteries and Miseries of New York*, despite their moralistic complaints, were in essence guidebooks that made the strange and remote city familiar, attractive and finally accessible. However corrupt its ways, to the middle-class reader the city seemed habitable and amenable to reform. In a surprising number of novels, the city stands as an emblem of material progress, the hope of democracy, an ideal home for the middle-class family, the setting for a happy ending in the hero's quest for the American Dream.

Siegel's passing comparisons between popular and classic American writers are tantalizingly elliptical. Her asides on Melville, Hawthorne and Poe suggest that additional or more sustained analyses might have pointed the way to an understanding of these and other major writers' visions of the city. Henry Nash Smith's *Democracy and the American Novel* has shown the value of linking studies of popular and classic American writers. Had Siegel joined her rich *catalogue raisonné* of popular plots, urban heroes, villains and character types to commentary on serious fiction, we might have begun to see the American city and urban experience steadily and whole. But, no matter. Others will find her work an invaluable guide in recovering the traces of memory and desire leading back to our buried cities.
University of Toledo Guy Szuberla

FROM STREETCAR TO SUPERHIGHWAY: American City Planners and Urban Transportation, 1900-1940. By Mark S. Foster. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1981. \$19.95.

In contrast with the popular view among contemporary urbanologists of the destructive impact of the automobile upon America's cities through its promotion of urban sprawl, this stimulating work shows how city planners and allied urban reformers of earlier in the century welcomed the automobile as a solution to the problems of high population density and street congestion. Not merely did urban decentralization via the motor vehicle appear a less expensive solution than building new mass-transit facilities, but the automobile was regarded as a democratizing force. And the depression-era public-works projects of the thirties provided the opportunity for implementing their plans for a network of roads linking the central cities with the suburbs. In this thoroughly researched, balanced and lucidly written account, Foster has provided another case study of how the reform of one generation becomes the problem of another.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

CUSTOM COMBINING ON THE GREAT PLAINS. By Thomas Isern. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 1981. \$14.95.

Custom combining, the practice by Great Plains farmers of contracting for itinerant combine owners to harvest their wheat, is one of the signal adaptations that characterize life in this vast semi-arid region. Thomas Isern based this history in part on solid historical research and in part on personal observation and informal conversations with custom cutters. His focus is on the southern plains because of his location in Emporia, Kansas, and because custom cutting is more prevalent there than on the northern plains. Isern's history is a pioneering study of an aspect of Great Plains life, the importance of which grew with the increased role of the combine after the First World War. Custom combining, however, did not become prevalent until World War II, when custom cutters responded to the scarcity of labor and farm equipment by following the harvest from Texas to Saskatchewan. The widespread success of the practice is predicated on the mobility of the itinerants and their

ability to transport heavy equipment. Also, the practice permits farmers greater flexibility by releasing them from expensive investments in their own harvesting equipment. Isern relates his provocative findings to those presented in the leading studies of Great Plains agricultural history.

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GENOCIDE AND VENDETTA: The Round Valley Wars of Northern California. By Lynwood Carranco and Estle Beard. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. \$19.95.

This is a fascinating account of a neglected and sordid but important aspect of California's past. Round Valley in northeastern Mendocino County between the snowy peaks called the Yolla Bollies and the coastal redwood forests was the locale of some of the bloodiest incidents in the commonwealth's history. The first six chapters examine the Indian culture of the tribes inhabiting the area and the depredations of the white settlers assisted by the California Indian Superintendent and his agents. By 1865, after twenty-five years, the native population was virtually eliminated and the valley open for white settlers. The last three chapters covering the years to 1905 examine the lives and fortunes of the white settlers who in seeking to establish cattle empires engaged in "the only deadly feud in California." The tensions and conflicts between the Asbill brothers, George White and others called "the bitterest quarrel of all the West," are examined in carefully documented detail. The volume, in examining genocide and vendetta, transcends local history and adds to our understanding of the American frontier in the nineteenth century.

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