

REVIEWS

THE PRESENCE OF WALT WHITMAN.
Selected Papers from the English Institute. Edited by R. W. B. Lewis. New York: Columbia University Press. 1962. \$4.50.

THE EVOLUTION OF WALT WHITMAN:
THE CREATION OF A BOOK. By Roger Asselineau. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 1962. \$ 7.50.

The Presence of Walt Whitman is a series of essays, nearly all brilliant, concerned with the relation of the poet to his work and with his relation to modern poetry. The Evolution of Walt Whitman is Professor Asselineau's translation of the second part of his already classic study L'Evolution de Walt Whitman (Paris, 1954), the first part of which was published in English in 1961. The first part was biographical, the second is critical. Neither volume may seem immediately relevant to the broad cultural concerns of American studies. Yet the tendency among us is to grow a little stale, a little behind-hand in areas outside of our specialties. The Whitman who emerges from these two volumes is a very different one from that to be found in the socially-conscious books of not too long ago. His overt sloganeering for democracy now seems less central to his greatness than it did then. He is now less the prophet-journalist like Lowell or Whittier, more a true poet, the man "who suffered" and "was there" in all senses of that great line from "Song of Myself," not merely the political, or humanitarian senses. The political scientist and historian will probably find Mr. Asselineau's treatment of Whitman's relationship to his social milieu the weak part of his book. The literary critic finds James Wright's treatment of Whitman's relation to contemporary poetry weak because Mr. Wright declines to treat that branch of contemporary poetry most clearly related to Whitman, that is, the so-called "Beat" group. (I use the journalist's term only for brevity.) But both books add much to our understanding of our greatest poet.

EFG

THE FICTION AND CRITICISM OF
KATHERINE ANNE PORTER. By
Harry John Mooney, Jr. Pittsburgh:
University of Pittsburgh Press. 1962.
Revised Edition. \$1.85.

The earlier edition (1957) of this work has already helped to fill a pressing need. The excellence of Katherine Anne Porter deserves even more discussion and analysis--especially the analysis of her themes as related to cultural history. The revised edition of Mr. Mooney's criticism, however, includes a chapter on The Ship of Fools; and this chapter examines both the flaws in our culture satirized in the novel and the literary merit of the satire.

Mr. Mooney agrees with the principal points of critics like Howard Moss in The New Yorker and Stanley Kauffman in The New Republic concerning The Ship of Fools: the observations and style are brilliant, but the total effect lacks the integration of a sympathetic point of view. The novel never suggests the "possibility of human nobleness." One wonders, however, whether this view does not partly mistake the coolness of Porter's style and the deliberate detachment in the narrative point of view for a lack of sympathy. The control and discipline that for centuries have distinguished the concept of humanitas as opposed to the volcanic irrationality of the yahoos and Panglosses--these concern the very theme of the novel. The tragic implications lie in a bestial discipline or civilized irrationality. One remembers the ambivalence of Dr. Schumann and the Condesa, the sensitivity of the woodcarver of the lower decks, the terribly "innocent" depravity of the Spanish children.

There is space only for a few questions. Is the book a microcosm, a tragic "self" divided into the roles of society? How does all this relate to Sebastian Brandt's Das Narrenschiff? Why is criticism so cryptic here? It may be that the depths of Porter's novel have yet to be plumbed.

Oklahoma State University

Clinton Keeler

THE ART OF FAULKNER'S NOVELS.
By Peter Swiggart. Austin: University
of Texas Press. 1962. \$4.50.

In 1935 Maurice-Edgar Coindreau labeled Faulkner a puritan; in 1941 Oscar Cargill treated him as a primitivist. Now we have a book-length study which brings together these concepts and explores their significance. Though these are not the only themes discussed by Swiggart, the opposition he finds between puritanism and primitivism is the best part of the study; in fact, this reviewer wishes it were limited to this subject. The details

of this work suggest much and have a value for the student of Faulkner, yet the vagueness of defining terms is bothersome. For example, would not "dogmatic" better define the drives behind Quentin Compson than "rational"? Coindreau's original suggestion was in terms of the puritanism of the author; here it is the puritanism of the characters: both may be true. The much better coping with primitivism (as a result, the chapter on As I Lay Dying is excellent) reveals the value of the works of Boas and Lovejoy on this problem. We badly need a similar delving into the history of puritanism in America. May we hope that the problems of puritanism and primitivism in Faulkner's characters and in the novelist's attitude towards them will remain in the foreground of future Faulkner criticism.

Youngstown University

Ward L. Miner

EDITH WHARTON: A Collection of Critical Essays. Edited, with an introduction, by Irving Howe. Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc. 1962. Paper, \$1.95.

Essays by such critics as Henry James, Percy Lubbock, V. L. Parrington, Lionel Trilling and Edmund Wilson lend support to Professor Howe's assertion that much of the first-rate critical writing about Edith Wharton appears in this volume. They also remind us that no other American lady-novelist has received such distinguished attention. The rather sad thing is that, even surrounded by such gentlemen, Mrs. Wharton's work is no more than a significant minor achievement: a reminder itself that neither a society ("old New York") nor a literature based upon taste and form without vitality can endure, and that irony concerned only with waste--without a usable present--is sterile.

The selections themselves are nicely counterpointed, ranging from the genteel encomiums by Lubbock and E. K. Brown to the realistic appraisals by Howe and Blake Nevius. A critical highlight of the collection is Trilling's indictment of the factitious morality of any novel (e.g., Ethan Frome) which presents pain as an end in itself. This insight into Edith Wharton's tragic flaw is reinforced by the concluding remarks of Howe's fine introductory essay: "Where she failed was in giving imaginative embodiment to the human will seeking to resist defeat or move beyond it. She lacked James's ultimate serenity. . . . She lacked the vocabulary of happiness."

Adrian College

Earle Labor

MARK TWAIN: Social Philosopher.

By Louis J. Budd. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press. 1962. \$6.50.

Professor Budd's volume is a welcome addition to the ever expanding investigation into the life and writings of Mark Twain. Making use of unpublished material from the Mark Twain Estate as well as the numerous publications concerning Mark Twain's social and political observations, Professor Budd provides a scholarly view of Mark Twain's career as a social philosopher. Politics seemed to fascinate Mark Twain, and he could scarcely refrain from becoming involved in the social and political scene if an opportunity arose. Certainly he started out early to reform humanity. From Hannibal to Europe, from the Snodgrass letters to The Mysterious Stranger, Mark Twain is carefully and authoritatively presented under his various guises as Whig, Republican, moralist, reformer and general crusading critic of man and his institutions. Few events and situations seem to have escaped Mark Twain's critical eye, and Professor Budd has impressive support for his thesis.

University of Kansas

Walter J. Meserve

THEODORE DREISER: Our Bitter Patriot. By Charles Shapiro. Carbondale, Illinois: Southern Illinois University Press. 1962. \$4.50.

This book is slight in length and profundity and adds little to the reputation of either Dreiser or Professor Shapiro. The first sentence indicates the hurried quality of the writing: "There is a careless generalization, perpetuated and intensified by scholarly magazines as well as critical journals, that makes Theodore Dreiser simply a great shaggy monkey pounding the keys of a typewriter who would stumble upon his words. . . ." Many of the observations in this book are elementary, although the basic theme of individual failure--family, business, religion--is meaningful. The best chapter discusses An American Tragedy; in the other chapters Professor Shapiro places too much emphasis on the observations of other critics and even quotes the dust jacket of The Bulwark. An avoidance of Dreiser's faults suggests a definite bias, and one is left at the end of the book to ponder the relevance of the book's subtitle.

University of Kansas

Walter J. Meserve

POE'S LITERARY BATTLES: The Critic in the Context of his Literary Milieu. By Sidney P. Moss. Durham: Duke University Press. 1963. \$6.00.

By organizing a great deal of material in a new way, Moss is able to shed some light on the petty world of the magazines; this is a good companion to Perry Miller's The Raven and the Whale (New York, 1956). I liked especially Moss' lucid explanation of the connection between the notorious copyright situation, literary magazines and "puffing." Given the fact that "puffing" was practically an economic necessity, one can understand the bitterness of the response to Poe's lifelong attack on it. The peculiarly personal and nasty quality of Poe's battles Moss accounts for as follows: Poe was so much better a critical infighter than his powerful opponents that he forced them to resort to name-calling.

Moss praises Poe for single-handedly fighting off two literary cliques, one in New York and one in Boston, but, oddly enough, fails to satisfy the reader's curiosity about the motives behind the Boston battle. Perhaps he feels that Poe is really less praiseworthy in that encounter, and fears that saying so would hurt his thesis. Well, I heartily approve of any attempt to explain Poe's behavior in terms of the problems faced by a professional in a tough racket, but there's no point trying to deny that whatever else Poe was or was not, he was often an ass. In his dips in the frogpond the brays are clearly audible above the croaking.

Incidentally (and this is not a criticism of Moss' volume), I do wish someone would write a good critical description of the flavor of the magazines themselves--they're such nervous and insecure little sheets!

SGL

SINCLAIR LEWIS. By Mark Schorer. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. 1963. \$.65.

This forty-seven page pamphlet shows a familiarity with subject matter and a quiet competence attributable to the years Mark Schorer spent on his biography of Lewis. Some scholars in Schorer's situation would have attempted to include, through compression and allusion, as many significant facts as possible. Instead, Schorer appears to have made a careful selection. The result is an uncrowded and engaging piece, chronologically organized, that merely indicates that Lewis had a complex biography, briefly describes and criticizes every novel, and finds room for literary history. Schorer holds that, although Lewis was not a great writer, he was a histor-

ically important one. Lewis had a "stridently comic gift of mimicry that many a more polished American writer does not have at all. And a vision of a hot and dusty hell: the American hinterland He could document for an enormous audience the character of a people and a class, and, without repudiating either, criticize and laugh uproariously at both."

University of Kansas

Melvin Landsberg

THE PAPERS OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN V: July 1, 1753, through March 31, 1755. Leonard W. Labaree, Whitfield J. Bell, Jr., eds. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1962. \$10.

The Papers of Benjamin Franklin deserves to stand beside Boyd's Papers of Thomas Jefferson as a definitive tribute to America's other great 18th-century virtuoso. When completed, forty volumes hence, this edition will contain over 6000 pieces written by Franklin, trebling the number printed by Smyth half a century ago, and more than 20,000 others, consisting of letters to Franklin and third-party letters. In the period covered by the present volume Franklin received the first public honors at home and abroad for his work in electricity, was appointed joint deputy postmaster general of North America, and--in view of French advances on the frontier--advocated vigorous defensive action at the Albany Congress of 1754. Letters like the gracious and witty one he addressed to the Royal Society acknowledging receipt of the Copley Medal mark the emergence of an epistolary style for which he would gain renown in later life.

The University of Oklahoma

Bruce Ingham Granger

A VIEW OF MY OWN: Essays in Literature and Society. By Elizabeth Hardwick. New York: The Noonday Press (Farrar, Strauss and Company). 1963. \$1.65.

This collection of essays and reviews has lively and just things to say about William James, George Eliot, Boston, Americans in Italy, David Riesman, Edna Millay, Mary McCarthy (perhaps a descendant of Margaret Fuller?) and other matters and people, mainly American. The author looks at her subjects--including women in the twentieth century, about whom she has some unexpected remarks--directly and without deference to received opinion, and with discriminating sympathy. A novelist herself, Miss Hardwick has the power, too unusual among critics today, to understand that books are written by human beings responding to the demands of an art and the

circumstances of life. Consequently, when she generalizes about literature and our society, it is without setting up schematic abstractions.

Vassar College

Caroline G. Mercer

LOGIC AND CRITICISM. By William
Righter. London: Routledge and Kegan
Paul. 1963. 21s.

It is Mr. Righter's contention that the multiplicity of meanings in a literary work of art can not closely enough be explicated by a single complex of exact logical terminology, either to do justice to the work under scrutiny, or to merit the designation of system rather than insight for the critical tool. He engages in some of the same language ambiguity as the critics whom he considers (Blackmur, Empson, Ransom, Eliot). Yet he ably demonstrates that literary critics often lack a close training in logic. To cap his argument he cites Wittgenstein's comment about "exactness" as the basis of his own claim that, "It is the nature of 'the goal' in criticism that must shape the reasons critics give, and this goal is usually of such a nature that it would be difficult to prescribe the kind of exactness that would be welcome." Perhaps more important than any new insights into the relationship between logic and criticism is his survey of some modern critical positions.

University of Kansas

Floyd R. Horowitz

Twayne's United States Authors Series (TUSAS), Hardback Editions)

HERMAN MELVILLE. By Tyrus Hillway. New York: Twayne Publishers. 1963. \$3.50.

Like so many of the volumes in this series this one bears evidence of careful and conscientious preparation, but leaves one wondering just what it is for. Too little emphasis is placed upon the great issues for it to serve as a satisfactory introduction to Melville for students, who would be too easily sidetracked into other things. Certainly it is not intended for scholars, for while it does contain a generally satisfactory review of the state of Melville scholarship, its approach is generally very elementary--it includes, for example, a lengthy summary of Moby-Dick.

Although Mr. Hillway properly warns against reading Melville into his characters, he does so himself in his first account of Typee and again in his discussion of Moby-Dick. The problem of point-of-view in Moby-Dick is well known; the book contains chapters which could not have been told by

Ishmael because Ishmael could not have seen what happened or known the thoughts of characters. Mr. Hillway fails to mention this; instead he claims that Melville often speaks in his own voice because Ishmael is not bright enough to say what needs saying. I think we should be impatient with authors who speak of "Ishmael-Melville" (101ff.). Moreover, for an expert on Melville's use of cetology, the author is surprisingly apologetic for the wonderful whale-lore chapters. Careful reading nearly always makes their purpose perfectly clear; Melville tells us what he is about. Moreover, while the author is doubtless correct in playing down the enthusiasm of amateur Freudians, he himself makes some silly statements--what, for instance, are "social urges that form an element in every man's racial inheritance" (93)?

Interestingly, Mr. Hillway reads Clarel as affirmative; most readers, I believe, have been unconvinced by the pious noises at the close of the poem and have taken them as the equivalent of similar statements in Moby-Dick, which are usually juxtaposed with passages of deepest rebellion and doubt.

The general saneness of this volume is reflected in a statement such as this: "Had . . . [Melville] been such a totally defiant individualist as he is frequently painted, he would no doubt have sacrificed home, income, family pride, and reputation in the wild struggle for truth. But this he never did--unless unwittingly. In his books he deliberately compromised with public taste, made strenuous efforts to control and conceal his deeper concerns and openly imitated the methods of more popularly successful authors--all to no avail for his purpose" (137). But such careful tempering of older views is often contradicted a few pages later. Of Billy Budd, Mr. Hillway first says that it is "a parable of human sacrifice gentle in its tone and yet savage in its depiction of spiritual and social wickedness" (139), and then immediately reverts to the "testament of acceptance" theory: "Billy Budd offers only acquiescent submission to necessity. Billy's death is, like that of Jesus, a willing sacrifice to social necessity" (139, 140). I am not a Christian, but I am surprised to find that that is all Jesus' death is supposed to represent. Vere, says the author, is like Pilate: "He is forced by necessity into a choice he abhors" (140). I fail to see how this means that we should accept the choice. Is Pilate the hero and Jesus a damn fool idealist? ✓

SGL

FRANK NORRIS. By Warren French.
New York: Twayne Publishers, Inc.
1962. \$3.50.

With his presentation of Frank Norris as a romantic moralist, closer to transcendental sentimentality than to scientific determinism, Professor

French has added another paradox to the cluster of contradictions termed, for want of a handier label, "American literary naturalism." "Far from being an objective naturalist," writes French, "Norris was an extremely unrealistic idealist who could not stomach the constant compromise of ideals demanded by life in an urban society." He was an "escapist fascinated by the techniques of scientific naturalism" a fraternity snob assured of the natural goodness of man, confirmed in his preference for doing and feeling over thinking, and afraid of conspicuous individualism. Only in The Pit--a much better novel than The Octopus--did Norris show signs of achieving philosophic maturity.

This study has all the marks of critical virtuosity: closely documented, well organized, skillfully written, perceptive, witty. Professor French's strengths relate instructively to the book's shortcomings: wit occasionally degenerates into mere cleverness ("An appropriate funeral oration was delivered by scholarship's Norman Vincent Peale, Van Wyck Brooks . . . "); sensitivity as an educator betrays him into gratuitous generalities ("Our schools [are full of] perpetual undergraduates . . . "); and his critical self-confidence leads him into condescension ("[C. C.] Walcutt's essay reads like a post mortem . . ."--the essay, in fact, contains the germ of French's own study). Too, the cryptic ingenuity of chapter headings reminds us that something may be said in favor of the plodding explicitness of the graduate thesis. But these are petty annoyances; Professor French's book will serve as an excellent introduction for students and a useful reference for specialists.

Adrian College

Earle Labor

ELLEN GLASGOW. By Blair Rouse.
New York: Twayne Publishers, Inc.
1962. \$3.50.

Mr. Rouse has assembled so many details and compressed so much information that at times this book reads more like an outline than a finished study, but this is scant criticism, for what Mr. Rouse has achieved more than makes up for occasional lapses in style. The chapter of biography is concise, and rightly so, for the focus of the book is on Ellen Glasgow as a novelist and as a knowledgeable and conscientious craftsman. To this end the chapter on the novelist and her art is particularly appropriate. In it, Mr. Rouse makes use not only of Glasgow's pertinent comments in The Woman Within and A Certain Measure, but also of his own volume of her collected letters and, most interestingly, of the conversation he had with the author in a personal interview. In his discussion of the novels Mr. Rouse set himself the task not only of summarizing plots and presenting critical interpretations, but also of showing Glasgow's development as a novelist

and of revealing significant relationships between the novels. The amazing thing is not that he set himself this task, but that he accomplishes it, and in a slim volume. This book should command the admiration of the Glasgow scholar and the appreciation of the student.

Oklahoma State University

Mary Rohrberger

GEORGE W. CABLE. By Philip Butcher. New York: Twayne Publishers, Inc. 1962. \$3.50.

Students of American literary history should be pleased with Mr. Butcher's carefully documented study. The results of his research are set forth both succinctly and gracefully.

I have but one criticism. In his preface Mr. Butcher says that his volume "is designed as a critical study of Cable's works set against the background of his life and times." But, it seems to me, that there is too much background and not enough critical study. Mr. Butcher successfully accomplishes his task of drawing what he considers to be a fair portrait of a controversial figure, but his examination of Cable's contribution to literature does not give reason why Cable should be accorded any more than a minor position in American literary history. The literary reputation of Cable might have been better served had Mr. Butcher spent more time in developing more fully his obvious insight into the talent and technique displayed by Cable in such works as Old Creole Days and The Grandissimes. Although it is true, as Mr. Butcher states, that the decline of a man's literary status "might be traced in part to non-literary considerations," it does seem to me that the best way to restore status is to consider literary achievements in such detail as to compel attention.

Oklahoma State University

Mary Rohrberger

SEEDS OF SOUTHERN CHANGE: The Life of Will Alexander. By Wilma Dykeman and James Stokely. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1962. \$5.95.

Frequently the attention of the public in racial problems is focused more on the crises that occur than on those individuals who have the courage and conviction to persevere in their efforts for improvement. The subject of this study, Will Winton Alexander (1884-1956), was a Southern liberal, "indefatigable" and "pragmatic," who consistently labored for two goals: to improve the status of the Negro and to aid the underprivileged whites, particularly the tenant farmers during the Great Depression of the 1930's.

Serving first as a Methodist preacher in Tennessee, Alexander then left the formal church ministry to pursue his goals through other agencies. During World War I, he worked in Army camps with the YMCA as a part of the National War Work Council; after the war he devoted his major efforts to the Commission on Interracial Co-operation established in 1919. The Commission fought to eliminate lynching and the miscarriage of justice in the courts for Negroes, and it worked to provide better Negro education. Alexander stimulated the founding of Dillard University in New Orleans, where he served as Acting President until a permanent appointment could be made.

Alexander's interest in the underprivileged led to his appointment first as assistant administrator of the Resettlement Administration under Rexford G. Tugwell and then until 1940 as head of this agency, which was renamed the Farm Security Administration. During World War II, he served in an advisory role to the War Manpower Commission and the Office of War Information.

This is not a definitive biography, but is in part an autobiographical memoir and in part the story as told by contemporaries and by the authors who fill in the historical background. It is not a detailed analysis of the social and economic factors that underlie the major issues of the time. It is primarily an inspiring story that gives credit to a courageous man who helped stimulate the "Southern Change" that now continues.

The University of Kansas

W. Stitt Robinson

BUSINESSMAN IN THE STATEHOUSE:

Six Years as Governor of North Carolina.

By Luther H. Hodges. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press. 1962.

\$4.75.

This book reveals as much about North Carolina politics as it does about Luther H. Hodges. One quickly surmises that North Carolina more closely approximates national expectation of public services for its people than any other southern state. The mood there is energetic and ambitious. But for its racial problem, North Carolina's history during the Hodges years could have been that of numerous other states, and even this problem has not hamstrung its governing officials as it has in states farther to the south.

In many respects, Hodges was made to order for North Carolina. For over a half century, a financial and business elite have held sway over the state's political and economic life. Very much in this tradition, Hodges was forward looking, but always concerned with providing the kind of gov-

ernment acceptable to the big investor, the big employer. Although he was an excellent governor, for southern standards, he lacked the necessary imagination to understand, much less meet, the problems of all of North Carolina's citizens. But as a sincere, honest, hardworking governor, he should long be remembered for not succumbing to the kind of showmanship which the racial problem has provided other southern governors.

University of Illinois

J. Rogers Hollingsworth

MISSOURI: A History of the Crossroads State. By Edwin C. McReynolds. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 1962. \$5.95.

Missouri has long needed a thoroughly up-to-date one-volume history. Seeing the state's story as "significant chiefly in its relation to the main current of American development," Professor McReynolds unfortunately allows that story to flounder frequently in the "main current" as national history crowds state events to the sidelines. Even in treating the latter, his narrative lacks balance. The nine pages devoted to Charles D. Drake's early life in Chapter 12 could have been better used to give a clearer picture of the Missouri origins of the Liberal Republican movement and its overthrow of Radical rule in the state. The heavy emphasis on the Truman presidency is not necessary, and the last three sections of the book seem tacked on as mere afterthoughts.

Westminster College

Wm. E. Parrish

THE NORTH CAROLINA MISCELLANY. Edited by Richard Walser. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press. 1962. \$4.75.

The selections in this book are grouped under the headings "Places," "People," "Incidents," "Oddments and Observations" and "Folklore," and are derived from sources varying from Hakluyt's Voyages to the Ford Times. The collection is of no value for students of American humor; Mr. Walser's comment that "For all I know, every page in the book may be compacted of Folklore" should serve as adequate warning to the folklorists; and I suspect that not even the wide range of Tar Heels caught by the blurb-- "This is obviously a book for all North Carolinians--by birth, by adoption, or by wishful thinking"--will be entirely satisfied with this miscellany.

Southern Illinois University

Howard Webb

GENERAL LEONIDAS POLK, C. S. A. :
 The Fighting Bishop. By Joseph H.
 Parks. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State
 University. 1962. \$7.50.

This volume marks the fourth contribution of Joseph H. Parks to the Southern Biography Series. Like Parks' earlier studies of Felix Grundy, John Bell and General E. Kirby Smith, the story of Leonidas Polk, the Bishop-General, is exhaustive in its treatment and lucid in its presentation. Polk's life was abruptly terminated by a Northern shell in 1864 atop Pine Mountain in Georgia. His career, however, had been a varied one. A graduate of West Point, Polk soon found the ministry more congenial to his interests. A planter and slaveowner, he became the first Episcopal Bishop of Louisiana. Perhaps his greatest achievement was the founding of the University of the South at Suwanee, Tennessee--an institution that could meet the lure of Northern colleges and keep Southern boys in the South. With the secession of the South and the outbreak of the Civil War, Polk recognized but one duty. The emphasis of Parks' study is on Polk's military career and over half the book is a careful account of the campaigns in which Polk was involved. It may seem ironic that a man who forsook the martial life in favor of the quieter, more rewarding pursuits of the ministry should have achieved his greatest recognition as a successful military commander in the Confederate Army. But Polk was a true son of the South and the cause for Confederate independence was close to his heart. No sacrifice seemed too great for its fulfillment. Parks' study is a welcome and effective replacement for the unreliable two-volume work by Polk's son, published in 1893, and restores the "fighting Bishop" to a position of significance in mid-nineteenth century Southern history.

University of Illinois

Robert W. Johannsen

TAMING THE NUECES STRIP: The
 Story of McNelly's Rangers. By George
 Durham as told to Clyde Wantland.
 Austin: University of Texas Press.
 1962. \$4.50.

This is the story of George Durham's two years with the Texas Rangers under Captain Leander H. McNelly, who was charged with wiping up assorted thieves and desperados in the region between the Nueces and Rio Grande rivers in the mid-1870's. It is a simple narrative, alternatively exciting and dull--as was life with the Rangers--related over fifty years later. Throughout it conveys, but never explains, the remarkable esprit de corps and the blind, almost fanatical idealization of McNelly by his men.

At the same time, it shows clearly the Rangers' frustration within the limits placed upon them by the law, while giving ample evidence of their willingness to go outside the law if necessary. Essentially, this is a volume for Texans and Western buffs, not for scholars.

University of Illinois

Clark C. Spence

PERSPECTIVES AND PATTERNS:

Discourses on History. By Warren B. Walsh. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press. 1962. \$4.50.

This slim, thoughtful volume is modest in purpose and manner and should prove useful. It consists of four essays: "Every Historian His Own Historicist," "Cheney's 'Laws' Reconsidered," "Is History a Science?" and "Recurrent Patterns in History." Professor Walsh emphasizes American historiography and the relationships of history to physical and social science and social psychology. This essentially empirical approach produces sensible and generally acceptable conclusions. The major weakness of the discussion is also "American": a certain bland detachment that overlooks the possibility of process or necessary development in history, and seems to suggest a greater control by human society over its destiny than is now apparent.

University of Illinois

J. Alden Nichols

THE AMATEUR DEMOCRAT: Club Politics in Three Cities. By James Q. Wilson. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1962. \$6.95.

A post-war political phenomenon has been the development of amateur reform groups within the Democratic Party circles of some of the larger cities of the nation. Professor James Wilson of the Department of Government at Harvard University has done first-hand research into the activities of four of these amateur organizations--the New York Committee for Democratic Voters in New York City, the Independent Voters of Illinois and the Democratic Federation of Illinois in Chicago and the California Democratic Council in Los Angeles. His book includes the findings and parallel conclusions of this research.

After a careful analysis of the personnel, the principles, and the procedures of each group, the author examines the practical political results and the future possibilities of the organizations. He concludes that the amateurs, though scoring minor local successes, cannot hope to achieve their desired goals by opposing the conventional politicians. Indeed, in the long

run the professionals can usually achieve the reformers' aims more effectively than can the amateur clubs themselves. Fully documented and with imposing statistical data, the book argues this conclusion so eloquently that all "amateur" political workers--those who, to use the author's definition, "find politics intrinsically interesting because it expresses a conception of the public interest"--would do well to read it. Others also will find it stimulating and useful.

George Peabody College

Warren I. Titus

PURITAN PROTAGONIST: President Thomas Clap of Yale College. By Louis Leonard Tucker. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1962. \$6.00.

If ever an institution were "the lengthened shadow of a man," Yale was Thomas Clap from 1740 to 1766. Finding the college without clear controls, Clap seized the reins of power, wrote the rules of the college, "rode herd" on students and tutors, fought off successive waves of political and theological attack, all while teaching classes, making pioneer astronomical observations and speculations and serving as the bulwark of Puritan orthodoxy in Connecticut. Truly, he was a giant on the colonial landscape.

Using widely scattered materials, Mr. Tucker has done an extraordinarily able job of mustering data dramatically on the controversial divine. While he has employed a considerable number of "probables" to cover gaps left by destruction of some of Clap's scientific and personal papers during the Revolution, his book may well serve as definitive--unless unexpected sources turn up. The book was published for The Institute of Early American History and Culture at Williamsburg.

Ohio University

Roy P. Fairfield

"I AM A DEMOCRAT": The Political Career of David Bennett Hill. By Herbert J. Bass. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press. 1961. \$5.50.

David B. Hill served as governor of New York from 1885 to 1892, from which position he was able to elevate himself to the United States Senate. Hill was really aiming for the Presidency. An adroit politician, he rivalled Grover Cleveland for control of delegates and party machinery and in 1892 it appeared for a time that Hill might win the Presidential nomination--which went instead to Cleveland. This is an excellent, readable biography. Hill

is portrayed convincingly as a shrewd and ingenious manipulator, personally honest, intensely loyal (with few exceptions) to the Democratic party.
University of Illinois J. Leonard Bates

THE WORLD OF LINCOLN STEFFENS.

Edited by Ella Winter and Herbert Shapiro. New York: Hill and Wang, American Century Series. 1962. \$2.45.

Essentially an attempt to rescue from obscurity various out-of-print or unpublished essays, articles, reviews and sketches, this collection also endeavors to present the essence of Steffens' social, political, economic and personal philosophies. Thus, those already interested in his career or in social reform will welcome the book as a valuable supplement to the Autobiography and The Shame of the Cities, while neophytes will find in the selections and their extensive prefaces a fairly complete representation of Steffens' thought. His idealization of the Bolshevik revolution will seem naive and outdated to contemporary readers, but his sketches of Robinson Jeffers, Clarence Darrow, John Reed and his own son reveal his true grasp of human character and have the timeless quality of superior writing.

University of Cincinnati

T. F. Keefer

McALMON AND THE LOST GENERATION: A Self-Portrait. Edited with a commentary by Robert E. Knoll. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 1962. \$7.50.

One of the more useful compilations to do with The Movement of the 1920's, Mr. Knoll's "reconstruction" of Robert Menzies McAlmon's life and times moves, mostly in the reprinted words of McAlmon and his contemporaries, through an "All-American Boyhood: 1896-1919" to "Post-Adolescence: 1920-21," "Being Geniuses Together: 1921-27," "Migrations: 1924-34," and the concluding "Full Circle: 1934-56." Just about everybody and everything worth gossiping about gets in somehow--though one does miss the editorial "Comment" of The Dial on McAlmon's famous marriage to Bryher. In May 1921 Marianne Moore admiringly reviewed Winifred Bryher's autobiographical Development ("This book is a flower cluster mounted on a tall spike--a raceme of lilies"), but Scofield Thayer acidulously noted "that Dr Williams and Mr McAlmon together publish a local magazine [Contact], that Mr McAlmon recently took to wife a young British woman, that he recently conceived--it is not yet established, I am in honour bound to state, whether or no this conception actually did . . . antedate matrimony

--the notion of buying print-paper in her country cheap" And in July 1921 a lengthy "Comment" satirically described the marriage and its implications of fortune hunting, ending: "Reviewing, with a sympathetic young poetess, the whole rending affair, Dr Williams is reported quite suddenly to have broken off (and to have plunged into the night) with words which seem to indicate better than any I could use what a cut-up man the Editor of Contact now is: 'There doesn't seem to be much honey left in life, that's a fact.'"

The Dial, jealous of its status, was unkind to the new rival, but Scofield Thayer need not have troubled himself. Contact made no lasting contact and remains symptomatic of McAlmon's other efforts, interesting mostly because of his relationships with more distinguished writers and artists and entrepreneurs of The Movement. In that respect, one recalls the memoirs of other times as unbuttoned as the 1920's: those of Lord Hervey and Samuel Pepys, for example. The principal difference would seem to be that the Restoration and the Whig Supremacy lacked the questionable advantage of photographic records. One's visions are rather dashed when one looks at Mr. Knoll's superb gathering of snapshots of McAlmon and his acquaintances; like professors, writers and artists are, by and large, an uncomely lot.

This volume should be on all literary reference shelves of the 1920's for the usefulness of one feature, a "Biographical Repertory" of briefly noted data about everyone from "Aldington, Richard" to "Zukovsky, Louis."

Southern Illinois University

Nicholas Joost

TRAVELERS AND TRAVEL LIARS 1660-1800. By Percy G. Adams. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press. 1962. \$5.95.

He will be an unusual reader indeed who fails to learn a great many new things from Professor Adams's admirable study of bogus travel literature of the period 1660-1800, for it abounds in impeccably documented examples of exploded myths, clay-footed idols, bald-faced liars, and illustrious dupes. The preface to this study defines the subject matter--not imaginary or fabulous voyages which everyone knows are pure make-believe, but rather travels purportedly authentic and so offered to the public.

The audacity--indeed the sanctity, since "the greatest of geographical liars" was a priest--of these pseudo-authentic accounts is remarkable. Their authors claim to have beaten La Salle to the mouth of the Mississippi by two years, to have discovered a Northwest Passage between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and to have visited a race of "Patagonian giants in southern Argentina." There are eyewitness recitals in plenty of American mosquitoes that could bite through the thickest book, of 800-foot Niagara Falls, and of beverages made of goshawk's dung which caused conception.

Professor Adams does not content himself with merely cataloguing these wonders. Instead, he analyzes fraudulent methods, points out nice distinctions in plagiarism and legitimate borrowing, and comments on the influence which various falsehoods have had on subsequent history.

Among those taken in by one or another of these many lies, one discovers such celebrated men as Richard Hakluyt, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, Sir Francis Walsingham, Sainte-Beuve, Taine, and Moses Coit Tyler. And what is perhaps more surprising, personages of no less reputation than Chateaubriand, Smollett and Crèvecoeur were not above tampering with the historical record or compiling pseudo-authentic travel books. But one of the most successful hoaxers of all was George Psalmanazar, a brilliant 18th-Century adventurer whose pose as an authority on Formosa was so convincing that Bishop Compton sent him to Oxford to teach Formosan to future missionaries!

Professor Adams's erudition is impressive. Himself an accomplished literary scholar and obviously a keen student of cartography, he shows how the perpetrators of these travel lies were influenced by the motifs, themes and trends in the contemporary literature. He furnishes a brief but informative sketch of the contemporary magazine reaction to travel literature; of travel charlatans who were made the subjects of novels, dramas and operas; and of the history of trading. As delightful as it is erudite, this book is certain to establish itself as an indispensable part of the scholarship on this general subject.

Centenary College of Louisiana

Lee Morgan

RECENT HISTORY PAPERBACKS

Three new paperbacks have been issued by Van Nostrand in its Anvil Series. In his Basic History of the Confederacy (No. 57, New York, 1962), Frank Vandiver maintains that Confederates "set their faces against the tide of history and strove mightily to achieve a nationalism different from the rest of the Western World." Their defeat, the totality of which the author declares was indication itself of the maximum effort expended, came only after the exhaustion of the nation's limited resources. William B. Hesseltine in Third-Party Movements in the United States (No. 65, New York, 1962) has drawn upon his earlier work on the subject to relate the contribution of third party movements to the development of America's political parties. "In a curiously anomalous manner," he concludes, "third parties have bolstered the traditional American two-party system." The Idea of Racialism (No. 66, New York, 1962) by Louis L. Snyder, who is also the general editor of the Anvil Series, discusses "race" as both a creed and an emotional attitude and attempts to deal with racial facts as well as with racial fallacies. The reader is left with the thought that "the great conflict of

the twentieth century" may well be a racial conflict, that "racialism could well replace nationalism as the most powerful force in the world."

Continuing a new series of "American Problem Studies," published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, is James L. Bugg's Jacksonian Democracy: Myth or Reality? Selections representing seven different approaches to the question have been included. In his introduction, the editor points out that the student of Jacksonian democracy, in seeking to evaluate these varying interpretations, "will discover the real complexities historians face." Conflicts of interpretation may stimulate the exploration of the past but, he adds in a note of warning, they might also distort the past.

RWJ

STREETCAR SUBURBS: The Process of Growth in Boston 1870-1900. By Sam B. Warner, Jr. Cambridge: Harvard University Press and M.I.T. Press (Publication of the Joint Center for Urban Studies). 1962. \$6.50.

In 1850 Boston was a pedestrian city encompassed within a 2-1/2 mile radius of the State Capitol; by 1900 the trolley and municipally supported utilities had transformed the compact city into a metropolis spreading six miles from Bulfinch's gilt dome. In an outstanding study, Sam B. Warner, Jr. examines those economic and cultural premises with respect to capitalism, nationalism and rurality which accounted for nineteenth-century suburban development. He examines the role of the suburb as an ethnic "melting pot." Specific case studies from three suburban communities settled after 1850 (Roxbury, West Roxbury and Dorchester) examine types of sub-communities which developed within the area. Especially interesting is Warner's discussion of nineteenth-century financing of home purchase and small-scale investment, and how these economics worked together with transit and public works to determine the nature of the nineteenth-century suburb--its population, its land planning, its architecture, its strengths and preponderant deficiencies. Methodologically valuable, Warner's book contains as an appendix "A Local Historian's Guide to Social Statistics" which is well worth the attention of any historian (local or other) who uses census materials.

Brown University

William H. Jordy

THE NORRISTOWN STUDY: An Experiment in Interdisciplinary Research Training. By Sidney Goldstein. Philadelphia: The University of Pennsylvania Press. 1961. \$7.50.

American Studies specialists will find this an important book. It reports an interdisciplinary study of technological change and social adjustment since 1900 in a small (38,000) city, Norristown, Pennsylvania. Many of the chapters are based on theses by graduate students in sociology and history. Four major topics are covered: (1) demographic aspects of change, (2) the impact of material change on the economic structure, (3) its impact on the individual worker and (4) acculturation and communication. A major finding is that upward occupational mobility and increased distance travelled to work "have partially replaced migration as the means by which the local labor force supply adjusts to the changing demands and needs of the local economic areas." Much work still remains but The Norristown Study suggests that technological change is not inherently disorganizing.

Brooklyn College

Sylvia F. Fava

AMERICAN WOMEN: The Changing Image. Edited by Beverly Benner Cassara. Boston: Beacon Press. 1962. \$3.95.

The tone of this book is set in Margaret Mead's Introduction, a hard-hitting critique of the "retreat into fecundity." Succeeding articles elaborate the thesis that the ideal image held before American women has shifted from independence, careers and fulfillment of special capacities to an emphasis on marriage and domesticity. The main point of the ten articles is to urge women to take a more serious, active part in outside activities. Specialists in American Studies will find this volume of interest mainly because it is one in a lengthening list of similar books in recent years. It is neither the best-written nor most provocative book on the topic. It is less satisfying than Betty Friedan's The Feminine Mystique.

Brooklyn College

Sylvia F. Fava

FOREIGN-LANGUAGE UNITS OF KANSAS: Historical Atlas and Statistics. By J. Neale Carman. Lawrence: The University of Kansas Press. 1962. \$10.00.

This is a reference work which presents facts concerning some five hundred settlements of foreign language speakers in Kansas. These facts, covering a period of a hundred years, show at work a common linguistic evolution--from monolingualism (foreign language) to bilingualism to monolingualism (English). Part I of the book presents general population statistics pertaining to Kansas. Part II contains maps of areas greater than Kansas counties, including areas in the United States outside of Kansas and areas of Europe. Part III is the county series. Since this part comprises the major portion of the book, a look at this section in a little more detail would be in order.

Typical data for a county would consist of the following entries: First, (1) a landholding map showing the areas occupied by persons of immigrant language stocks around the year 1940, (2) a map showing the percentage of the foreign white stock in the total population of the county for 1930, (3) a map showing the location of foreign language stocks in 1895, (4) a map showing the townships in 1887; and then (1) commentaries on the maps, (2) quotations concerning the county from articles by William Herbert Carruth, an early investigator of the foreign settlements in Kansas, (3) statistics on the foreign-born taken from published censuses, (4) a table presenting data concerning settlement population, (5) bar graphs representing the concentration in 1895 of foreign-language population by settlements or linguistic areas in the county. Maps of a city or cities in the county are included for about twenty of the county entries.

Additional material is included, the most interesting and significant being the summary of the data presented. Professor Carman's thorough and comprehensive study is an outstanding contribution to a field which has been sadly neglected, and his work provides the basis for other linguistic studies of interest. The appearance of Volume II, which is to contain analytical studies of the linguistic evolutionary processes and the history of certain communities, is eagerly awaited.

Western Reserve University

A. Hood Roberts

• For a brief survey of foreign-language settlements in Kansas, see Professor Carman's "The Foreign Mark on Kansas" in II, 2 of this magazine. Like other back numbers, II,2 is available for \$1.00 from the Treasurer, Professor Jerzy Hauptmann, Park College, Parkville, Missouri.

THE DECLINE OF AMERICAN PLURALISM. By Henry S. Kariel. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press. 1961. \$6.75.

This book analyzes the way in which this nation's political structure has worked toward a fragmentation of power while the technological system has permitted the consolidation of power by such giants as General Motors, the Teamster's Union, the Farm Bureau and the American Medical Association. With governmental power fragmented, the author describes the process whereby these organizations inhibit freedom, stifle initiative and encourage social apathy. To rectify the problem, the machinery of the federal government must be overhauled, expanded and centralized in order to control all the power blocs which threaten to stratify and congeal society, to freeze markets and to manipulate individuals. In essence, Mr. Kariel advocates centralized governmental regulation sufficient to guarantee that "all members of society can enter the political arena on equal terms."

Though this is a thought provoking book, there are many aspects of the author's reforms which he ignores. He seems somewhat oblivious to the fact that the changes we intend when making a reform are always accompanied by others that we do not anticipate. These may occur at points far removed from the one where the change was initiated and apparently unrelated to it. In fact, the most disturbing aspect of this book is that the author advocates reforms which would have undesirable consequences for values which he shares.

University of Illinois

J. Rogers Hollingsworth

RECONSTRUCTION BONDS & TWENTIETH CENTURY POLITICS: South Dakota v. North Carolina. By Robert F. Duaden. Durham: Duke University Press. 1962. \$6.00.

This competent study, based largely upon a recently discovered trunkful of the personal papers of Daniel L. Russell, North Carolina's only Republican Governor since the Reconstruction (he was elected in 1896), unfolds a fascinating tale that centers around litigation over North Carolina state bonds of the Reconstruction era which were subsequently repudiated.

The Eleventh Amendment of the Federal Constitution was by-passed by arranging the donation of ten of the bonds to the state of South Dakota, thus placing the case squarely within the federal courts' jurisdiction.

The book is a model of thorough research and combines an illuminating sidelight on the constitutional history of interstate relations with an in-

credible tale in which Governor Russell stands revealed as "a unique Tarheel blend of Machiavelli and Falstaff."

The University of North Carolina Richard Bardolph
at Greensboro

THE SUPREME COURT: Palladium
of Freedom. By Alpheus Thomas
Mason. Ann Arbor: The University
of Michigan Press. 1962. \$4.95.

American government is for Mason a political system without a model, resting upon three buttresses of freedom: right of revolution, Bill of Rights, judicial review. Among them judicial review performs a balancing role. Mason uses the Marshall and Hughes courts as examples of changes in the exercise of judicial review. Marshall's approach is reflected by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, while Hughes' embraces the thought of Thomas Jefferson. The question for our days, as for the past, remains to what extent the Supreme Court should interfere in the political process. Mason argues that such an interference (as in the recent Tennessee reapportionment case) is essential to protect the process of majority formation and that it is the only substitute for revolution. Still the question remains how the Supreme Court can perceive the will of the majority and whether this majority will not block channels of change.

Park College

Jerzy Hauptmann



A note for reviewers: For obvious reasons, the Journal cannot supply reviewers with offprints of their reviews. We can provide extra copies of the number in which the review appears, at a reduced rate, or we can have reprints of the review made up at our usual rate of \$10 per 100 copies. In either case, write the Treasurer at Park College, Parkville, Missouri.