

## REVIEWS

In the last year or so, scholarship in American Literature has been extended by the appearance of three exciting series which reassess, synthesize, and clarify the work and reputation of major American writers and literary groups. MASAJ begins with this issue reviews of representative titles in Twayne's United States Authors Series (Sylvia Bowman, Indiana University, General Editor); Barnes & Noble's American Authors and Critics Series (Foster Provost and John Mahoney, Duquesne University, General Editors); and The University of Minnesota Pamphlets on American Writers (William Van O'Connor, Allen Tate, Leonard Unger, and Robert Penn Warren, Editors), and will continue such reviews until the various series are completed.

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

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER. By Lewis Leary. New York: Twayne Publishers, Inc. 1961. \$3.50.

As a long overdue reappraisal, this book places Whittier squarely within the cultural context of his age and then sympathetically, but objectively, analyzes his poetic achievement. Leary's easy style and skillful use of quotations freshen the well-known facts of Whittier's life. Unlike previous biographers he never loses sight of the poet while considering Whittier's varied career as editor, politician and abolitionist. One whole chapter, "The Beauty of Holiness," presents Whittier's artistic beliefs and stands as one of the few extended treatments of his aesthetics in this century. Also Leary is not afraid to measure Whittier's limitations against major poets like Whitman and Emerson, and this approach does much to highlight Whittier's poetic successes. However, the book's real contribution is its illuminating examination of Whittier's artistry: the intricate expansion of theme by structure in "Snow-Bound," the tensions created by subtle Biblical references in "Ichabod," and the graphic blending of legend and New England background in "Skipper Ireson's Ride." Even long forgotten poems like "The Cypress-Tree of Ceylon" reveal surprising poetic qualities. Throughout Leary communicates his obvious fondness for

his subject and what is better fully allows the reader to share this pleasure. Finally, this book assesses Whittier's place in American literature and gives him just recognition as a gifted, though minor, poet.

Rice University

John B. Pickard

THE SHADOW OF A DREAM and AN IMPERATIVE DUTY. By William Dean Howells. Edited with notes and introduction by Edwin H. Cady. New York: Twayne Publishers, Inc. 1962. \$4.00.

Professor Cady is a major figure among those who, during the last decade and a half, have brought renewed life and interest to the works of the "Dean of American Letters, William Dean Howells. In this volume he adds to Howells' fiction now in print two novellas which should help the current reading public to defy H. L. Mencken's more witty than thoughtful "Smart Set" condemnation of forty-five years back. In The Shadow of a Dream, Howells concerns himself with the psychic, the supernatural, and the realities of life that are both conscious and subconscious. The Hawthornian dream of sinister proportions condemns each member of a strange triangle. "Poor mortality!" sighs Howells through his alter ego, Basil March. An Imperative Duty treats in an honest and worldly fashion the desperate horror of the person who discovers Negro blood in his veins and the subsequent happiness achieved through love, distance, and a mature personal reconciliation with reality.

University of Kansas

Walter J. Meserve

SARAH ORNE JEWETT. By Richard Cary. New York: Twayne Publishers, Inc. 1962. \$3.50.

Trying to avoid the extremes of limiting Miss Jewett as the author of one book, The Country of the Pointed Firs, or of praising her as a major literary figure, Professor Cary calls his book "an attempt to redress the balance and to bring back to light the buried excellences of Miss Jewett." Successful in his attempt, Cary gives us an adequate assessment of her background and analyzes her art rather than her quaintness. The result is to give Miss Jewett's position in American letters a much sounder and saner basis than she has enjoyed in the past.

JRW

HAROLD FREDERIC. By Thomas F. O'Donnell and Hoyt C. Franchere. New York: Twayne Publishers, Inc. 1961. \$3.50.

The first book-length published study of this minor but important American realist, Harold Frederic will be useful to the student and invaluable to the specialist. Its aims--"(1) to portray Harold Frederic, the man, as a three-dimensional figure, both in New York and in his London environments; (2) to revise some critical estimates and to render unhurried judgments of his best-known fictions; and (3) to give him his rightful place among American writers of the latter nineteenth century"--are competently realized. Frederic, the man, emerges as a straightforward, dynamic individualist, an enthusiastic idealist with contempt for any kind of sham. Frederic, the writer, is seen as a courageous journalist and social critic, a versatile fictionist who kept his artistic integrity even when desperately pressed for money. He had more substance than Howells and, if his life had not been cut short in mid-career, might have become a major figure.

Despite an occasional excess of critical enthusiasm and a Victorian heaviness of style, Professors O'Donnell and Franchere make a substantial contribution to a neglected and carelessly studied area of American literature. Especially worthwhile are their corrections of such errors as the reading of Seth's Brother's Wife as a condemnation of rural life and the thesis that Frederic moved steadily toward a naturalistic concept of life. Though the book suffers from a thinness of critical analysis, particularly in the chapter on Frederic's masterpiece, The Damnation of Theron Ware, the authors have provided brief accurate summaries and estimates of virtually all Frederic's fiction. Finally, their observation that no "school" of fiction prevailed during the late nineteenth century, unless it was romance, is a helpful reminder to those of us who are prone to stress too conveniently the "Rise of Realism" and the "Growth of American Literary Naturalism."

Adrian College

Earle Labor

JOHN DOS PASSOS. By John H. Wrenn. New York: Twayne Publishers, Inc. 1961. \$3.50.

This is the first book on Dos Passos published in English. Mr. Wrenn links Dos Passos' artistic career through the middle 1930's to a personal quest for family and homeland. Since the writing of U.S.A., he says, Dos Passos has been less a novelist than a historian. Despite its thesis, Mr. Wrenn's book is a series of critical essays, not a biography. Its organization is basically thematic, not chronological. The book is based almost entirely on printed

sources; it does not contain the research one expects of a biography. Although his text and arguments are overly compressed, Mr. Wrenn's critical comments are frequently provocative.

University of Kansas

Melvin D. Landsberg

WILLIAM FAULKNER. By Frederick J. Hoffman. New York: Twayne Publishers, Inc. 1961. \$3.50.

This book is an excellent introduction to the works of Faulkner, providing a judicious reading of the major novels and helpful suggestions as to the place of the lesser ones. Professor Hoffman is most effective in his elucidation of what he calls "the thematic and symbolic values" in Faulkner's stories and "their effect upon the style and pace and quality of writing." For example, by demonstrating through analysis that the faith indicated (and perhaps by implication advocated?) in Faulkner's works is a secular one, he has corrected the critics who have made excessive claims about Faulkner's religion. When we consider even Faulkner's most religious work, *A Fable*, says Professor Hoffman, we can see that the parallels to the Christ story are designed to bring its "full force to bear upon Faulkner's text; but it is a secular text, just as the corporal is a secular Christ. . . . the Christ story provides a frame in which the strength of man may be dramatized. Man is 'as if' he were a Christ; he does not depend upon a god-given power to act or to suffer: he does both on his own initiative." In other words, Faulkner is a humanist, emphasizing "the hope in man's will to endure and prevail."

On only a few points do I feel compelled to disagree with Professor Hoffman's conclusions: (1) He denies that Faulkner's humanism is, to any appreciable extent, primitivistic, but certainly Faulkner's philosophy of life was much like that of the Stoics (classified as primitivists by Lovejoy and Boas) who both admired the simple virtues, especially the endurance, of primitive peoples (cf. Faulkner's Negroes and Indians) and themselves practiced those virtues. (2) Professor Hoffman believes that the "counterpoint" in *The Wild Palms* is successful, but since three of the same ideas--like freedom, excess, and order (noted in both *The Wild Palms* and *Old Man*)--might be abstracted from each of many different novels with at least as many comparable illustrations as are found in these two, the "counterpoint" (even with the physical aid of the alternating chapters) seems hardly worth noting. It may be added that the two novels were soon, and have continued to be (with no loss), published separately. (3) Professor Hoffman seems to contradict his own conclusion about Lena. "The principal function of the space devoted to Lena Grove," he says, "is not to show an 'alternate way,' but to demonstrate the indifference of nature to the colossal errors of men. . . . Lena proves, if anything, that these social pretensions are not necessary, or at least that it is

possible to exist without them." Lena's existence without these social pretensions seems, to say the least, remarkably like an "alternate way."

In conclusion, I must note one important omission in Professor Hoffman's bibliography of Faulkner's works: the dramatically forceful novelette entitled Miss Zilphia Gant, published by the Texas Book Club Press in 1932.

H. M. C.

Barnes & Noble's American Authors and Critics Series,  
(Paper and Hardback Editions)

JAMES FENIMORE COOPER: An Introduction and Interpretation. By Warren S. Walker. New York: Barnes & Noble, Inc. 1962. \$2.95; Paper, \$1.25.

Critics have repeatedly noted that Cooper's fiction both employed and created American folklore; but Mr. Walker is the first qualified folklorist to attempt to deal with this difficult, complicated subject. Chapters 3, 4, and 6, the heart of Mr. Walker's book, examine the development of folklore elements in terms of the three types of materials in which Cooper may be said to have made distinctive contributions: materials of the frontier and the Indian, materials of the sea, and materials deriving from the hostility between Yankees and Yorkers. The other five chapters, some of them quite brief, are skillfully employed to provide biographical and critical setting and serve the intention of the Series by introducing Cooper in a graceful, informed manner to the widest possible audience. Within the limitations of space and purpose governing the entire Series, the book is extremely successful.

Cooper scholars will naturally be most interested in those portions of the book dealing with the folklore element in Cooper's fiction. This neglected subject deserves more detailed treatment, and one hopes that Mr. Walker and other scholars following his lead will continue their explorations. The study of biographical documents will not prove particularly helpful here, for they do not ordinarily preserve the oral traditions on which Cooper drew. Only a broad, thorough knowledge of popular culture, including language, can show how Cooper used and created the popular and literary attitudes we call folklore. Such study is significant not simply for what it tells about Cooper, but for what it tells about the American mind and character.

Clark University

James Franklin Beard

HENRY ADAMS: An Introduction and Interpretation. By George Hochfield. New York: Barnes & Noble, Inc. 1962. \$2.95; Paper, \$1.25.

In this small 150-page book with selected bibliography and chronology, Professor Hochfield attempts to present one of the more complicated and profound figures in the history of American literature. The necessarily condensed approach permeates the style and brings some disappointments. Beginning with the "Washington Experience," however, and continuing through a discussion of Adams' novels, biographies, and history, Professor Hochfield interprets Adams in a very orderly manner. Although almost a third of the book deals with Mont-Saint-Michel and Chartres and the Education, Hochfield presents Adams mainly as an historian. One misses Adams' childhood in New England, his political education in London during the Civil War, his revealing travels, and his major philosophic search, as well as significant criticism of Adams as a literary artist.

University of Kansas

Walter J. Meserve

THOMAS WOLFE: An Introduction and Interpretation. By Richard Walser. New York: Barnes & Noble, Inc. 1961. Paper, \$1.00.

Richard Walser, editor of The Enigma of Thomas Wolfe and former Professor of English at North Carolina State College, has prepared a useful volume, midway between academic and popular in its approach, on Thomas Wolfe for the "American Authors and Critics Series." Following a two-page chronology, he used a third of his space in his biographical sketch; then devoted rather more than that to explication of the four major novels; and finished with a short discussion of "Other Writings" and a comprehensive conclusion.

The biographical sketch is a good one, though veering a bit toward rhapsodic style in places (perhaps Wolfe infected Walser). Wolfe emerges from his unusual family background and his varied formal and informal education as a rounded character, obsessed with authorship. The best discussion of the novels is on the first, Look Homeward Angel; the most disappointing the last, on You Can't Go Home Again; but all are illuminating. Treatment of the plays, Welcome to Our City and Mannerhouse, is adequate; but that of the shorter and miscellaneous works seems sketchy; one short story is unfortunately misnamed "Death of the Proud Brother." (p. 124) The "In Conclusion" section makes a fairly successful attempt to relate Wolfe and his works to the canon of American literature. Walser concludes that in the final analysis, "Wolfe's success or failure rests on his adventure with the American Dream,

as this Dream was developed from the time of Jefferson on through Emerson and Whitman up to the first quarter of the twentieth century. . . . In this Dream, it was Whitman who was his nearest spirit." (p. 143)

The volume includes an extensive "Selected Bibliography," a brief index, and eight full-page illustrations.

Texas Christian University

Cecil B. Williams

The University of Minnesota Pamphlets on American Writers (Paper only)

JOHN DOS PASSOS. By Robert Gorham Davis. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. 1962. \$.65.

Mr. Davis' pamphlet is a biographical and critical survey of Dos Passos' career. The work is informative and sometimes perceptive, but it is also uneven and disturbing. There is no documentation, even where it would seem to be obligatory. Why does Mr. Davis make so little of Dos Passos' idealism and humanity? He says: "Dos Passos has always had curiously little to say about naziism, perhaps because he feared communism so much more." But Dos Passos has said much about Naziism, as well as Italian and Spanish fascism; if he wrote more about Communism during the late thirties, one reason might have been that his audiences in the liberal and radical periodicals were quite cognizant of Naziism.

University of Kansas

Melvin Landsberg

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TWAIN AND THE IMAGE OF HISTORY. Yale Studies in English, Vol. 150. By Roger B. Salomon. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1961. \$5.00.

THE INNOCENT EYE. Childhood in Mark Twain's Imagination. Yale Publications in American Studies, 6. By Albert E. Stone, Jr. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1961. \$5.00.

These two books are valuable because they extend our knowledge of both the nineteenth century and the mind and artistry of Mark Twain. They are also fine examples of the studies in the history of ideas being written today by those who have been trained in but not overwhelmed by the methods of formalist criticism.

Mr. Salomon's book examines the meaning and place of the concept of history in Twain's writing. Following a discussion of "the Whig interpretation of history"--that progress resulted from man's increasing knowledge of laws of nature and the concomitant growth of political liberty--and the place of this interpretation in American thought and the mind of Twain, the author traces the increasing conflict in Twain's work between his belief in progress and the possibility of improving human nature and his view that civilizations merely rise and fall and that man's nature is "radically defective." By the 1890's, Mr. Salomon argues, Twain had come to see history as "empty of any redemptive value." In order to escape from "the terrors of time and history," Twain created images of escape centering about youth, innocence, freedom, and sleep; the most satisfying of them was, of course, that of a boy on a raft on the Mississippi and the most complete was that in The Mysterious Stranger.

Mr. Stone places Twain's writing within the larger genre of the literature of childhood in nineteenth-century America. He describes how Twain used the child as a "moral commentator on adult society"; and shows how, while following the paths of less talented writers, he put his children to his private purposes: "to recreate in loving and honest detail the lost world of Hannibal before the War; to report and comment upon the money-crazed world of his own day; and . . . to reduce to simple terms the Darwinian intellectual revolution which had made a shambles of his unsophisticated post-Calvinist cosmology." While Mr. Stone deals at greatest length with Tom Sawyer, Huck Finn, and Joan of Arc, he discusses all of Twain's children, from those in early newspaper pieces to the girls of the late stories and sketches. In the course of his examination, he provides the fullest information thus far available on such unpublished fragments as "Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer among the Indians" and "Tom Sawyer's Conspiracy."

Southern Illinois University

Howard Webb

THOMAS BANGS THORPE: *Humorist of the Old Southwest*. By Milton Rickels. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press. 1962. \$5.00.

Thomas Bangs Thorpe was born in Massachusetts and studied painting in New York City under John Quidor, a pupil of John Wesley Jarvis. He migrated to the lower Mississippi valley, where he wrote "The Big Bear of Arkansas" (1841) and the other sketches of backwoods life which gave him a place among the figures who provided the symbols and patterns of a national character, the western frontiersman. In both his visual and verbal renderings of character and landscape, "Thorpe was pulled two ways"--toward the romanticism of Durand, Cole, and Irving, and toward the exuberant realism of the illiterate yarn-spinners on whom he drew for material.



Along with Wade's Augustus Baldwin Longstreet and John Q. Anderson's The Louisiana Swamp Doctor, Rickels' book will be useful to students of Southern humor and folklore. Historians of Reconstruction will find additional interest in Thorpe's participation in the pro-Union regime for occupied Louisiana.

Iowa State University

Norris W. Yates

THE IMAGINATION OF DISASTER: Evil in the Fiction of Henry James. By J. A. Ward. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 1961. \$5.00.

This monograph is a useful, though at times pedestrian, study of James' writings approached via the role of evil in both the novels and short stories. The usefulness stems from the genuine importance of the problem and the careful, frequently illuminating, analyses of individual works by the author. Where evil is most intrinsic to a story, as in "The Turn of the Screw" or the novels of James' "major phase," the analyses are rewarding. The weakness of the monograph results from a fault common to so much of contemporary literary scholarship--the details are better than the whole. Also, should not the definition of "evil" be derived from the fiction itself and the moral and intellectual milieu of which James was a part rather than one imposed from elsewhere?

Youngstown University

Ward L. Miner

CORA CRANE: A Biography of Mrs. Stephen Crane. By Lillian Gilkes. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. 1960. \$6.75.

This volume, together with the edition of the Crane letters (edited by Miss Gilkes and Robert W. Stallman), is the first important break-through in Crane biography since the publication of Thomas Beer's impressionistic study in 1923. It was made possible by the wealth of Crane materials (letters, diaries, notebooks, manuscripts, etc.) recently acquired by the Columbia University Libraries. Miss Gilkes unobtrusively assimilates these materials in an absorbing study which could have been laborious but is not; and she treats her subject with the kind of sympathetic understanding, tempered with critical intelligence, that we look for but too often do not find in biographies. As a result, Cora emerges from the faintly bizarre shadowland of Beer's delicate omissions and James Branch Cabell's malicious half-truths and stands revealed for what she was: not a saint, certainly, but an admirable and courageous sinner, and one of the truly remarkable and vital women of her time. And even more important, Crane himself assumes a reality and a credibility he has not had in

the garrulous reminiscences of his friends and enemies, the tantalizing allusions of Beer, and the Freudian surmises of John Berryman.

University of Oklahoma

Victor A. Elconin

HART CRANE'S SANSKRIT CHARGE:

A Study of The Bridge. By L. S. Dembo.

Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

1960. \$2.85.

Joining a growing band of what Brom Weber has called "revisionist critics" of The Bridge, Dembo argues that the poem is not the failure it has been judged conventionally. He pinpoints the premises on which the charge of failure has been made: the critics have simply tried to see the poem as something Crane never intended and, worse, something the poem is not if it is read as closely as its highly organic structure requires. However, Dembo's study, perceptive as it is, too often hints at insights which he does not really extend convincingly; and he does not seem to be aware of other important "revisionist" criticism such as that of Sister Bernetta Quinn or of Stanley K. Coffman. Although Dembo is certainly on the right track in frankly relating the poem to the romantic tradition, his explication of "The Dance" becomes side excursions into "Passage" and "Lachrymae Christi" without real illumination of this crucial, really central portion of The Bridge. The Bridge, which seems to loom more certainly as one of the two or three major American long poems of the twentieth century, still awaits definitive treatment.

University of Kansas

John R. Willingham

LOW BRIDGE! FOLKLORE AND THE

ERIE CANAL. By Lionel D. Wyld.

Syracuse: Syracuse University Press.

1962. \$5.50.

The unity of Wyld's Low Bridge! Folklore and the Erie Canal derives from his subject rather than from any specific method or theory of folklore. Drawing together widely diverse materials, he serves as an historian, a folklorist, and a literary historian as the emphasis of his discussion changes. In the early chapters, he explores the history of the canal; contemporary comment; "canalese," occupational vocabulary; and the lives of the "canalers." After Chapter Five, he surveys folklore traditions in ballads, songs, and tall tales, and the literary uses of the canal in adult and juvenile books. Mr. Wyld's thesis is that the Erie Canal, in design, building, and use, created much of the "cultural mosaic" of New York State life during the nineteenth century, and that folk memory of this impact has given rise to a literature that is both "regional realism" and "historical romance," two genres that do not seem to be mutually exclusive.

University of Kansas

Myra Olstead

NEBRASKA PLACE-NAMES. By Lilian L. Fitzpatrick. New edition, including selections from The Origin of the Place-Names of Nebraska, by J. T. Link. Edited, with an introduction, by G. Thomas Fairclough. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 1960. Paper, \$1.50.

This edition consists of two monographs which until now have not been widely available. The Fitzpatrick monograph was published by the University of Nebraska in 1925, and Link's work was published as a Bulletin of the Nebraska Geological Survey. Although the onomastic methodology used by the authors is somewhat dated now, this book still contains much material which will interest the student of place-names. The University of Nebraska Press is to be congratulated for making these works available in its well-designed and inexpensive Bison series.

University of South Florida

A. Hood Roberts

DIARY OF A SIT IN. By Merril Proudfoot. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1962. \$5.00.

NEGRO LEADERSHIP IN A SOUTHERN CITY. By M. Elaine Burgess. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1962. \$6.00.

The first volume is an account of the day-to-day happenings of a lunch counter "sit in" in Knoxville, Tennessee, as recounted in the diary of one of its white leaders, a local Presbyterian clergyman. Marked by a deep religious tone and moral indignation, at the same time, the book shows a scholarly insight into the sources of race conflict as well as a deep sympathy for both white and black in the struggle.

The implications of the book go beyond the lunch counter "sit in" demonstration, which was only a small part of the program of non-violence being directed against discrimination and segregation. The author emphasizes that the battle is not won when freedom to eat at the lunch counter has been attained. He also points out, although the conclusion to him is disappointing, that non-violence in itself, or the willingness to endure insult and even physical aggression without retaliation, did not really win this skirmish. The victory came when economic pressures through the withholding of patronage convinced the merchants that the game was not worth the candle.

The second volume is a careful sociological analysis of the power structure, leadership and decision-making process in the Negro sub-community of a sizeable urban center in the Middle South. Its primary objective is the identification and description of the nature, function and effectiveness of Negro leadership and its relation to the leadership of the white community. While more technical than the first volume, its dramatic description of the defining of objectives, the process of decision-making and implementing decisions, will have appeal to the lay reader as well as to the sociologist.

After a theoretical discussion and description of the social structure of the Negro community, the author proceeds to identify leadership. A sociometric technic using nominations from three groups of informants--a group of Negro leaders, a group of white leaders and a random sample drawn from the sub-community--is the method used for identifying power figures. A relatively high degree of uniformity, especially from the two groups of Negro nominators, was found with respect to the identification of important decision-makers.

The next step in the study was to observe the power nominees in action with respect to specific issues salient to both white and Negro communities, to see whether or not those to whom power was attributed were the actual wielders of power. Unlike the findings of some other studies the investigator found a high degree of correspondence between those to whom power was attributed and those who played vital roles in the making and implementation of decisions. The persons who actually wielded power were not "behind the scenes string pullers" but those who were clearly recognized as power figures in the community.

The study points to a number of interesting conclusions, sometimes at variance with hypotheses advanced by other writers. The picture of withdrawal, futility and frustration of the Negro upper or middle class in Frazier's The Black Bourgeoisie is not borne out in this study. A vital role is played by upper and middle class Negro leaders. Frazier's proposition that the "race" leader is being replaced by the "functional leader" also has to be qualified by the observation that the functional leader cannot play a decisive role apart from the whole issue of race relations, especially the question of integration. Rather the Myrdal thesis that Negro leadership has always been related to the pattern of race relations receives support. Finally, the author makes the most significant point, also made in the first volume under review, that successful achievement of its goals by the Negro community comes more often as a result of a bargaining process at the polls and in the market place than it does as a result of appeal to moral values or to the "conscience" of the white community.

University of Missouri

C. T. Pihlblad

POPULATION PERSPECTIVES. By Philip M. Hauser. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. 1960. \$3.50.

This book is ideally suited to readers of this journal. Its chief virtue lies in covering a variety of aspects of population which are essential to students of American society, but it avoids highly technical detail. After a short chapter on the world population explosion, the rest of the book deals with two major aspects of United States demography. Long-run economic, political, educational and social disadvantages of the high United States birth rate since 1945 are discussed. The concentration of the majority of United States population in metropolitan areas is analyzed in its effect on ways of life, governmental structure, physical space, and race relations.

Brooklyn College

Sylvia F. Fava

PLAINVILLE FIFTEEN YEARS LATER. By Art Gallaher, Jr. New York: Columbia University Press. 1961. \$5.00.

This is a restudy by a social anthropologist of a rural village in Missouri. There is a brief foreword by Carl Withers, who studied the community in 1939-40. Students of American studies will find the book useful on two counts. First, there are few anthropological studies of American communities, i. e., studies of the total culture of the community, and fewer still of these communities have been restudied by anthropologists or any other social scientists. Second, the changes in Plainville between 1939-40 and 1954-55 mirror the trend in most rural American communities to be drawn from relative self-sufficiency and geographical and cultural isolation into "ever-widening circles of awareness of, participation in, and dependency upon the surrounding urban world.

Brooklyn College

Sylvia F. Fava

MEDIA FOR THE MILLIONS: The Process of Mass Communication. By Robert C. O'Hara. New York: Random House. 1961. Trade, \$5.00; Text Edition, \$4.25.

If one recognizes immediately the limitations of this volume, a book which probably could be used most advantageously in survey courses in mass communications, the book should serve a useful purpose. Robert O'Hara, who directed mass communications studies at the University of Minnesota, attempts, in the present mood of educational synthesis, to sum up the mass media. He fails chiefly in trying to compare unlike things--the movies and news stories, for example.

His thesis is that there are certain formulae and stereotypes in the mass media. Granted, especially if one considers the movies, television and popular magazines. But it is difficult to accept O'Hara's assumptions that newspapers, radio and television--in their news programming--help to perpetuate the stereotypes. Newsmen report what they find, and if they find shopgirls trying to behave like Elizabeth Taylor, boys emulating Elvis Presley, and many of us over-obsessed with crime and sex, then they report it, they don't create it.

Ignore this ridiculous assumption, and recognize that there is considerable over-generalizing in this book (as perhaps there has to be in a work of such scope), and the book has value. O'Hara includes, by the way, a good bibliography and such appendix matter as the Hollywood Production Code, the television code, and the famous though oft-ignored Canons of Journalism of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

University of Kansas

Calder M. Pickett

#### WOODROW WILSON AT PRINCETON.

By Hardin Craig. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 1960. \$3.75.

The author, an original preceptor at Princeton under Wilson, is a distinguished literary scholar with experience in several universities. His primary purpose is to explain Wilson's opinions and principles in university education, and then to describe their application at Princeton and assess their current validity for higher education. Beyond his helpful evaluation of Princeton on the eve of Wilson's reforms, the author contributes most by showing that Wilson's educational principles unconsciously paralleled the Scottish philosophy which President McCosh had explicitly defended and identified with Princeton. Its logic and epistemology succumbed to the "scientific" outlook then being imported from Germany, but Wilson's ideas are still alive and applicable to American higher education, it is convincingly argued, because their foundation is now validated by modern science and philosophy. Thus Professor Craig, a "Wilsonian" who treats events at Princeton fairly, pungently pleads for continuing the reform of our universities so long interrupted.

University of Illinois

Winton U. Solberg

EUGENE V. DEBS, SOCIALIST FOR PRESIDENT. By H. Wayne Morgan. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press. 1962. \$5.50.

NORMAN THOMAS, RESPECTABLE REBEL. By Murray B. Seidler. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press. 1961. \$5.50.

When one thinks of the American Socialist party, one is likely to think of it in terms of the activities of Eugene V. Debs, its leader until his death in 1926, and of his successor, Norman Thomas. That it is correct to do so and that more because of these men than any others the Socialist party significantly influenced the acceptance of social welfare concepts in the United States, are the main themes in these two books.

In applying these already widely held conclusions to Debs, Morgan presents the reader with a tightly organized, well researched, rather objective account of Debs' life. Morgan has set his subject squarely in the main currents of American Socialism, though he has not added much to knowledge because of previous work by historians on Debs and on the early years of the party.

Seidler faced no such problem as there has been little detailed study of Thomas and the recent Socialist party. He had a great opportunity to contribute to our knowledge by treating Thomas as Morgan treated Debs. Instead, he chose to produce a rambling, chattily written volume, which offers almost as many testimonials to Thomas' stature as facts about his career. A good study of Thomas and the Socialist party is still needed.

University of Kansas

Donald R. McCoy

THE AMERICAN TORY. By William H. Nelson. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1961. 30 s.

The Loyalists in the American Revolution suffered a most abject kind of failure. They lost their argument, their war, their place in American society, and even their proper place in history as America's first political conservatives. This book is a fresh and penetrating study of the Tories--of who they were, where they were, what they stood for, and why they failed. The author finds no organized Tory party, no truly national Tory leaders, no common standard, and no really constructive Tory policies. The wide social and geographical distribution of the Tories--about both of which the author makes some useful observations--completed their ineffectiveness as an opposition group. Even so, many individual Tories held well-developed theories of

conservatism. By their dismal defeat, their view of organic conservatism was lost to the American scene: "A substantial part of the whole spectrum of European social and political philosophy seemed to slip outside the American perspective." (p. 190)

University of Illinois

Raymond P. Stearns

RECENT AMERICA: Conflicting Interpretations of the Great Issues. Ed. by Sidney Fine. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1962. Paper, \$3.25.

This is an improvement upon Volume II of Fine and Brown's The American Past (New York, 1961), to which have been added selections on Hoover and the Depression, the Doctrine of Unconditional Surrender, and the Korean War. More substantial paper covers and editing would improve the text still further. One-page introductions which tend merely to summarize the arguments of the selected essays, without bibliographies, give an impression of editorial flimsiness. Though most of the selected issues are significant, some are hardly great ("Theodore Roosevelt as Legislative Leader"); and at least one is no issue at all ("The Literature of the 1920's: A Trivial Literature or a Literature of 'Useful Innocence'?"). Recent America, despite such shortcomings, contains stimulating materials and should provide a useful introduction to American historical scholarship. The essays, many of which are taken from respectable journals, are generally well-documented and professional in style.

Adrian College

Earle Labor

THE LAYMAN'S PROGRESS: Religious and Political Experience in Colonial Pennsylvania, 1740-1770. By Dietmar Rothermund. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 1961. \$5.00.

In adapting the title of Bunyan's classic to his study, Mr. Rothermund indicates one of his main themes--the gradual ascendancy of secular concerns and leadership over religious in pre-Revolutionary Pennsylvania. Other related areas of investigation are the growth of denominationalism in the wake of the Great Awakening and the creation of a more encompassing, politically minded public out of Pennsylvania's heterogeneous religious and ethnic interest groups. Least satisfying is the final chapter in which the author discusses the complex question of the Revolution. Ever since the work of Beard, Becker, and Jameson, a central controversy in American historiography has been the proper emphasis to be placed upon the issue of who should rule at home in relation to the struggle for home-rule. Mr. Rothermund, appropriately for his analysis, emphasizes



the internal aspect of the Pennsylvania situation. Nevertheless, it is surprising to find an insistence upon the assertion that "there were in fact two American Revolutions" (p. 136) as if this view were being proposed for the first time.

Johns Hopkins University

Raymond J. Cunningham

THE GREAT EPIDEMIC. BY A. A. Hoehling. Boston: Little, Brown and Company. 1961. \$3.95.

According to the blurb on its dust-jacket this book "is a dramatic documentary about the worst plague in history, the flu epidemic of 1918. Between March and December five hundred thousand Americans perished, and nearly twenty million sickened. Millions today remember the scourge which brought shock and sorrow to the homes of rich and poor, paralyzed military camps and slowed war production." All this is true enough (although the Black Death might also lay claim to being "the worst plague in history"), and Mr. Hoehling does a reasonably good job of giving us the facts of the matter. One wishes, however, that he had been content to let his material speak for itself, and had resisted the temptation to overwrite. For example, in two short paragraphs on p. 47, the causative organism of the disease is variously dubbed "this will-o'-the-wisp that killed so wantonly"; "an enemy . . . as unknown as life itself"; "a destructive blob of protein"; "this maniac of the microbe world"; and "the elusive mass-murderer." Mr. Hoehling simply cannot leave well enough alone--instead of "midnight," for example, he prefers "the deep dark of midnight," and his book is shot through with such unnecessary journalistic embellishments.

Historiographically, he seems to have tapped the obvious primary sources for his story, and three pages of assorted acknowledgements and three pages of specific books consulted indicate the material used. Unfortunately for the serious scholar, Mr. Hoehling seldom indicates in his text precisely where the material cited originated. In other words, he eschews--presumably to maintain narrative flow and not to annoy the general reader--such scholarly apparatus as the humble footnote.

In sum, then, this is an interesting (and well produced and illustrated) book but one calculated to titillate the curious general reader rather than the historian; although the latter may well be interested in many of Mr. Hoehling's facts about "the great epidemic," he cannot but lament the slick presentation and, above all, the absence of adequate citation of source material.

University of Kansas

L. R. C. Agnew

NAVIES IN THE MOUNTAINS: The Battles on the Waters of Lake Champlain and Lake George, 1609-1814. By Harrison Bird. New York: Oxford University Press. 1962. \$6.50.

Bird describes naval operations on the lakes mentioned in his title from Champlain's battle with the Mohawks to Thomas Macdonough's victory over the British in 1814. This necessitates a review of land tactics as well, for the freshwater battles were usually part of more general invasion plans. The author provides an interesting description of Benedict Arnold as a naval commander during the Valcour Island operations of 1776. His most colorful account, however, is that of Macdonough's almost forgotten battle against George Downie.

Bird, whose own military experience is considerable, uses all the important printed sources and his story moves interestingly along.  
University of Illinois Charles E. Nowell

TOWARDS AN AMERICAN ARMY: Military Thought from Washington to Marshall. By Russell F. Weigley. New York: Columbia University Press. 1962. \$7.50.

The author has done a first rate job of summarizing the development of American theorizing about the kind of army the United States should have. He writes well and manages to explain complexities of military activity in a way that the layman should appreciate. By concentrating on theories, however, the author includes relatively little about what the actual policies were and why they were that way. Also, except in the final chapters, it is not made clear why a particular policy would be more desirable in terms of the national interest. A military force does not exist in a vacuum, and too seldom are these theories placed in the setting of the nation's commitments, responsibilities and aspirations. But this book is a valuable addition to the sparse literature on the growth of American military policy.

University of Kansas

Raymond G. O'Connor

**PROLOGUE TO WAR:** England and the United States, 1805-1812. By Bradford Perkins. Berkeley: University of California Press. 1961. \$7.95.

In this volume Professor Perkins continues the work begun in his The First Rapprochement: England and the United States, 1795-1805. The current study has as its theme "the American search for national respectability and true independence from Europe, independence far transcending the recognition of an American state in 1783." Guiding the reader through the tortuous complexities of domestic and foreign affairs in both nations, the author presents his explanation of the events which led two reluctant nations into war.

In brief, Perkins concludes that the Republicans "took the nation into the War of 1812 as a consequence of specific British actions, policies that threatened American interests and above all challenged the self-respect of the young nation." The British government underestimated the pride and determination of the Americans, and failed to understand the role of the irrational in human affairs. It also believed that Madison would behave as Jefferson had, and erred in allowing the past to determine its action.

England, engaged in a struggle for survival against the ruthless domination of Napoleon, was determined to take whatever steps were necessary to prevail. Her statesmen could not understand why the United States failed to accept the situation and accede to the British demands. Concessions on both sides were usually inadequate or ill-timed, either in light of partisan politics, public opinion, or military necessity. Leadership was inadequate when it might have proved decisive, and the nation drifted into war with a sigh of relief rather than a shout of exaltation.

The Orders in Council and impressment were the issues, both as they affected economic interests and national honor. Land hunger, Indian warfare, and other motives were, in Perkins' opinion, only peripheral. Impressively researched and carefully documented, this study provides stimulating insights into the diplomacy of the period.

University of Kansas

Raymond G. O'Connor