reviews

taxation and democratic choice

PUBLIC FINANCE IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESS: Fiscal Institutions and Individual Choice. By James M. Buchanan. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press. 1967.

The nation's search for cogent solutions to such urban-related problems as race, poverty and crime has stimulated numerous reappraisals of the society's basic fiscal structure. Throughout the century, dramatic shifts have occurred in the scope of governmental activity in the nation's economic life, and in the distribution of public resources among the various levels of government. Attitudes toward the public sector of the economy have changed, yet it has not been clear how the individual communicates with the body politic or what impact governmental fiscal decisions have on his behavior. Buchanan attempts to clarify the relationship between government and the governed, but his contribution is most clearly seen if placed in historical perspective.

Public finance economists reached an impasse in the late nineteenth century in explaining the relationship between the individual and the public sector. Whereas the individual offered dollars for private goods in the market-place, he was voluntarily revealing his relative preferences for these various commodities. Tax payments, however, were compulsive payments for public sector goods and only indirectly related to expenditure decisions. Government officials decided upon expenditure programs and then attempted to divide the cost of these programs by assigning tax liabilities to particular individuals. Any given individual's tax payment might or might not reflect his personal evaluation of the governmental service received. In any event, there was little incentive for an individual to reveal his preferences for public goods since the quantity of these goods supplied was fixed through a collective choice process and his single vote could hardly alter the quantity set. Further, the quantity of public goods set was theoretically available to all on an equal basis. It behooved no one individual to express his true valuation of the good, especially if his evaluation was greater than his tax-price.

Consequently, as evident in public finance texts in the first half of the twentieth century, economists neglected public expenditure decisions and became preoccupied with the distribution of tax liabilities and the impact of taxation on private market behavior. Did alternative forms of taxation affect choices between work and leisure or consumption and savings? It was primarily after the impact of Keynes' *General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* (1936) that attention was shifted again from the supply of public funds (taxes) to the demand for public services. A more satisfactory answer to the question, "To what extent did governmental services reflect individual demand?" seemed imperative in an age in which public sector activity was expanding so rapidly. How does the individual communicate his desires to the public sector?

Howard R. Bowen's *Toward Social Economy* (1948) and Kenneth Arrow's *Social Choice and Individual Values* (1951) reflect this new concern and examine the voting models that best express individual preferences. David Truman's *The Governmental Process* (1951) and Floyd Hunter's *Community Power Structure* (1953) provide ample evidence that noneconomists were equally concerned about how public budgets were formulated. In neither of these latter works does there appear any direct link between governmental action and individual choice. Rather, for Truman individual choice gains expression through group alignment with numerous groups competing to influ-

ence a particular piece of legislation. For Hunter, individual preferences may have little relevance in public decision-making since elites often dominate community policy choices.

However, economists refused to retire the basic assumptions of private market behavior, and in 1957 Anthony Downs rationalized collective (governmental) decisions through an adaptation of the market model to approximate behavior in the public sector *(An Economic Theory of Democracy)*. Downs envisions the individual voter as expressing demand for public goods through the ballot box. The successful politician, like the successful businessman, attempts to maximize votes (profits) by accurately reflecting public wants (demand for various products) of his constituents (consumers). Other economists were content to indicate how allocative decisions regarding public v. private use of the economy's resources "ought" to be made in order to insure maximum conformity with individual desire (see Richard A. Musgrave's *The Theory of Public Finance,* 1959). To Buchanan and others, the trouble with these approaches is that they fail to provide predictive value in analyzing individual behavior in the real world.

Buchanan, in the work being reviewed, argues that individuals can and do make fiscal choices. Once more, Buchanan presents a decision-making model that is reflective of the real world and one which should provide greater insight into individual social choice mechanics. The late nineteenth century works of Swedish economist Knut Wicksell and Italian economist Amilcare Puviani provide the basis for much of Buchanan's reasoning.

Buchanan begins by noting that economists have paid far too little attention to the impact of tax institutions on fiscal choice. The decades of effort expended in analyzing the effect of alternative fiscal measures on individual private sector choices has never been carried to full fruition. If public revenue and expenditure policies have had such an impact on individual choice in the private sector of the economy, why shouldn't they affect public sector choices as well?

Tax institutions are generally set before expenditure decisions are made. Consequently, Buchanan states, if the individual can estimate his share of the cost of a proposed public program, why should he remain mute? If public expenditures are to be financed by a head tax, all one needs to know is the population of the community to compute his own tax liability. This is similar to knowing a market price and therefore the taxpayer-voter has no reason for hiding his preferences for public goods. If he values the proposed expenditure as much or more than his tax liability he will vote for the public good; otherwise he votes against it. So long as the individual can rationally calculate his share of the cost of any proposed public good, he will make his choices in the public sector much as he makes decisions in the private market.

The rationality of his choices clearly depends upon his ability to gauge the tax liability he invites by endorsing a given public program. The more indirect or complex the tax institutions that distribute tax liabilites, the greater the probability that individual taxpayers will conceptualize alternatives imperfectly. If a head tax is replaced by a progressive income tax, the sophistication required of an individual to correctly estimate his share of program costs is greatly increased. The cost, in time as well as money, of informing himself increases as well. When the tax institution leads to false information—if it appears one group in the community will bear the major burden of a particular form of taxation when it actually does not—then the individual conceptualizes falsely and his decisions regarding the public-private mix of resource use becomes more irrational. The rationality of an individual's public sector choices rests with his ability to determine the distribution of tax liabilities in the community under alternative tax schemes and the cost of securing the information necessary to calculate tax liabilities.

After appraising several forms of taxation and how they influence individual choice patterns, Buchanan turns to a chapter on empirical tests of his model. Many of his tenets appear empirically testable and the book should provide a wealth of hyotheses for thesis writers.

In the final section of the book, Buchanan examines the way in which fiscal institutions themselves are chosen. The process is one like setting house rules before a poker game according to Buchanan. As no player knows what cards he will receive during the game, all can agree on ground rules. Likewise, an agreement would probably never be reached if every public expenditure program was accompanied by specific tax proposals to finance it, individuals vote for fiscal institutions they feel will fairly distribute tax liabilities over some indeterminant period. That is, the individual does not know exactly what public programs will be suggested in the future, but he votes for a form of taxation that he expects will be the fairest to himself no matter what these expenditure decisions are.

The least creditable aspect of the model is the degree of sophistication required by individuals to weigh relatively the alternative merits of deficit financing as opposed to

excise or income taxation. Fiscal institutions designed to affect the over-all stability of the economy are difficult to evaluate from a personal point-of-view. They require a much broader viewpoint since they are designed for the benefit of the entire community and not a single individual.

Nevertheless, the Buchanan thesis clearly demands further attention. To what extent do current tax liabilities affect fiscal choices and become determinants of social policy? Or, are current tax loads merely overall constraints? Buchanan would probably not deny that some public expenditure decisions are made on the basis of altruism or through a spirit of community-mindedness, but which ones? Only those where information costs are excessive or tax consciousness too demanding? Given the complexity of major social problems, altruism would hardly appear to provide meaningful solutions. Debate over social policy continues to be divided and the legislative frame-of-reference shifts between community-oriented and individualistic social choice in an unending game of sizing up public demand. Where expenditure (and tax) policy choices seem the clearest, the lines appear most firmly drawn. How else can one explain the financial plight of the cities in the face of suburban indifference, the call for vast expenditure reductions at the federal level in the face of nationwide social unrest, or the relative largesse of capital expenditure at all levels of government when the problems appear human? Whether or not this was the author's intent, his thesis has widespread applicability.

Northern Illinois University — Robert P. Fairbanks

history and politics

JEFFERSON AND FRANCE: An Essay on Politics and Political Ideas. By Lawrence S. Kaplan. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1967. $5.75.

Although Jefferson's thought is now generally recognized to have its special origins, if any, in John Locke or Lord Kames, Jefferson's thought was closely related to that of the French *ideologues*. Kaplan, in this study of the changing relations between Jefferson and France, has for his underlying theme the question whether Jefferson was a dupe of France's thrust for power in the period of the French Revolution and Napoleon, or whether his affinities for France were limited by his view of America's national interests. Tracing the changing image of France in Jefferson's outlook, and the changing impact of French politics and culture on American-French relations through a chapter by chapter analysis of the development of Jefferson's career, Kaplan effectively documents his theses that (as Gilbert Chinard argued) the French philosophers and Jefferson drew from common sources; the French as such did not greatly determine the direction of Jefferson's thought; and that American national interests were dominant in Jefferson's policies, permitting him to treat Britain and France as instruments that could be induced to check each other and hinder the dominance of either over other nations, while keeping America, increasing in size and power, out of Europe's wars.

University of Minnesota — Arthur L. Kalleburg

MADISON'S "ADVICE TO MY COUNTRY." By Adrienne Koch. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1966. $4.50.

The three essays which make up this book, on "Liberty," "Justice" and the "Union," are based on the Bicentennial Lectures on James Madison given by Miss Koch before the Whig-Clio Society of Princeton. The three essays are grounded in Madison's brief "Advice." In interpreting Madison, Koch recognizes the falseness of treating Madison apart from Jefferson, and avoids treating him as nothing but "a construct from the text of his Tenth *Federalist* paper," or as simply the "father" of the Constitution. These approaches freeze him at one time of his development. Although a comprehensive intellectual biography would be necessary to encompass the complexities of his development, it can be seen in this analysis of the "Advice" that he reversed many of his earlier positions, while still exemplifying the influence of the Enlightenment on his thought. Writing in an informal, old-fashioned and measured essay style, Miss Koch has produced, not a polemic, but a defense of Madison. This is a defense that creates

an understanding of the changes in his thought wrought by time and experience and which receives its authority and grace from her lifelong commitment to the work of Jefferson and Madison. This defense, although perhaps minor in relation to the massive amount of work dealing with this period, will prove useful to anyone seeking a more rounded and sophisticated comprehension of the development of American culture.

University of Minnesota — Arthur L. Kalleburg

PILGRIM COLONY: A History of New Plymouth, 1620-1691. By George D. Langdon. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. 1966. $6.50.

Professor Langdon's study suggests that New Plymouth's history paralleled the development of seventeenth-century Massachusetts in one important respect but diverged in another. In both a decline in piety is a central theme of their history, but unlike the Bay Colony Puritans the Pilgrims lost the will to preserve the autonomy of their province. A third trend characterized the history of New Plymouth: a decline in economic and political opportunity after the first generation. *Pilgrim Colony* thus compliments studies, such as Charles Grant's analysis of Kent, Connecticut, and Bernard Bailyn's essay on the social structure of Virginia, which show that a decline in opportunity is characteristic of the evolution of initial settlements to mature societies.

University of Missouri — John C. Rainbolt

ORIGINS OF THE AMERICAN INDIANS: European Concepts, 1492-1729. By Lee Eldridge Huddleston. Austin: University of Texas Press. 1967. $5.00.

This often perceptive study deals with the debate in Europe, from 1492 to 1729, concerning the origins of the American Indians. Special emphasis is placed upon the significant contributions made by Joseph de Acosta and Gregorio García in this debate. Because of the limited conceptual framework in which both of these men and others were compelled to work, their theorizing, regarding how the Indians got to the New World and where they came from, was "sometimes ludicrous, but generally serious." Certainly Acosta was far shrewder and less credulous in his approach than was García. Nevertheless, García probably had a more profound impact upon European scholarship.

Michigan State University — G. A. Rawlyk

THE INDIAN BOUNDARY IN THE SOUTHERN COLONIES, 1763-1775. By Louis De Vorsey, Jr. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press. 1966. $7.50.

After a brief discussion of the origins of the idea of establishing a boundary line which would permit adequate expansion of the southern colonies, yet preserve peace with the Indians by protecting their land from white encroachment, Professor Vorsey offers a detailed account of the establishment of that line. A separate chapter is given over to the delineation and demarcation of the line in each of six southern colonies. Excluded from consideration by the author is an account of the efforts of the colonists to settle beyond the boundary. The concluding suggestion, therefore, that the line slowed western expansion in the decade before the American Revolution, is not substantiated by the text.

University of Missouri — John C. Rainbolt

MON CHER PAPA: Franklin and the Ladies of Paris. By Claude-Anne Lopez. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1966. $7.50.

The new Benjamin Franklin biography by Claude-Anne Lopez, assistant editor in charge of French materials for The Papers of Benjamin Franklin at Yale University, is an exhaustive study of Franklin's social life while ambassador to France during the American Revolution. Mrs. Lopez concludes that Franklin, while pursuing the "lady" of the family, considered the "family" more captivating and thrived on the friendship of the husband and the adoration of the children. This valuable new historical contribution will surprise and delight the reader and will bring to light an interesting facet in the life of a fascinating historical figure.

University of Missouri at St. Louis — Blanche M. Touhill

ORIGINS OF THE WAR WITH MEXICO: The Polk-Stockton Intrigue. By Glenn W. Price. Austin: University of Texas Press. 1967. $5.00.

The principal objective of Professor Price in this work is to prove beyond any doubt that President Polk and various of his subordinates strove mightily, and with clear malice aforethought, to bring about a war with Mexico for the purpose of acquiring considerable portions of Mexico's national domain. The entire process was covered over with a flood of patriotic rhetoric which made United States actions appear completely moral. Most American historians, subconsciously willing, have been taken in by this propaganda. Not so Professor Price. He has seen the truth and, somewhat astonishingly, has been able to trace and reveal the origins of the war between the United States and Mexico without, apparently, having looked at a single Mexican document. It is conceivable that a thorough investigation of Mexican sources would not change Price's conclusions one whit. Until he has made such an investigation, however, his findings cannot be accepted as definitive, nor even particularly impressive.

Washington State University — Bernard E. Boob

SOCIAL SCIENTISTS AND FARM POLITICS IN THE AGE OF ROOSEVELT. By Richard S. Kirkendall. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press. 1966. $7.00.

Serious students of American politics in the 1930's and 1940's will find Professor Kirkendall a richly useful guide to the intricacies of planning and agricultural policy in the New Deal. Balancing judiciously the complex relationships between programs and personalities, the author recounts the conflicts between the various positions adopted within the farming community and those put forth by "intellectuals" and "social scientists" who sought to use their academic specializations as a base for reform. While some readers may find the author's use of "social scientist" terrifyingly broad, and "service intellectual" rather questionably related to the main body of his text, his careful attention to sources, the detailed annotation and bibliography and the eloquent conclusion all add to the debt owed him by his fellow historians.

Washington University — Barry D. Karl

VITO MARCANTONIO, Radical in Congress. By Alan Echaffer. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press. 1966. $6.50.

NORMAN THOMAS: Respectable Rebel. By Murray B. Seidler. 2nd ed. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press. 1967. $7.00.

Both of these books are competent, adequately-written chronicles of the lives of two twentieth-century American radicals. Both suffer from a failure to approach their subjects with a critical and analytical attitude.

Alan Schaffer depicts the controversial East Harlem Congressman, Vito Marcantonio, as one of the last representatives of an American radical tradition, but he makes little effort to explain just what this tradition is or was. On domestic questions, Marcantonio seems to have been little more than a left-wing New Dealer-Fair Dealer. Perhaps his radicalism lay in his foreign-policy views and his willingness to work with the Communist party; if so, there is no adequate discussion of these aspects of his career. There is, for example, no analysis or explanation of his opposition to the Marshall plan.

Murray Seidler's adulatory study of Norman Thomas has been reissued with a new chapter on Thomas's activities in the 1960's. The book pays well-deserved tribute to Thomas's character and his many individual efforts in behalf of human decency. It is less convincing in rejecting criticisms of his Socialist party leadership. There are also surprising omissions—no mention of the attempt in which Thomas participated to establish a non-Communist liberal party after World War II, nothing about his attitude toward the Korean War.

It is unfortunate that more thought and imagination did not go into these routine biographies.

Ohio University — Alonzo L. Hamby

SOCIALISM AND THE WORKERS IN MASSACHUSETTS, 1886-1912. By Henry F. Bedford. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. 1966. $6.50.

Rooted in Populism and Bellamy's Nationalism, Massachusetts Socialists won early political victories (1897-1903) in such mill cities as Haverhill and Brockton by shunning ideology and by capitalizing on the stagnation of the older parties, the intransigence of employers and the appeal of such issues as municipal ownership and unprotected railway crossings. A Catholic-led "counterattack" beginning in 1903 and increasing factionalism sped the party's decline ahead of the national pace.

Bedford's effort to explain the decline of Socialism collapses into unconvincing and unfocused masses of details. He never really explains the attitudes of workers or of

middle-class Socialist voters. He confuses the critical relationships between immigrants and natives. Focusing instead on tedious schisms, he fails to place the Socialists in the broader context of Bay State politics.

University of Missouri — David P. Thelen

technology

WORKSHOPS IN THE WILDERNESS: The European Response to American Industrialization, 1830-1860. By Marvin Fisher. New York: Oxford University Press. 1967. $6.00.

From nearly two hundred books describing the travels of as many European visitors to the United States, the author has fashioned a picture of the industrial status, promise and threat of the New World. Most Europeans, he points out, were surprised and generally impressed by the advanced state of industrial enterprise and accomplishment. American industrial outlook and methods, in important ways different from those of Great Britain, are shown to have surprising continuity from about 1830 to the present. Twentieth century cornerstones such as planned obsolescence and mass production of second-rate goods were clearly laid before 1850. Many of the assertions of the visitors are subject to question, and the author has not adduced as much evidence in their support as he might from other sources. Nevertheless, this book helps to demolish the stereotype of American industry arising from the Civil War. Not the least of the book's virtues is a checklist of travel accounts published between 1830 and 1860.

Iowa State University — Eugene S. Ferguson

mass media

CRISIS IN PRINT: DESEGREGATION AND THE PRESS IN TENNESSEE. By Hugh Davis Graham. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press. 1967. $7.50.

A major theme in the history of American journalism has been community leadership, and Hugh Davis Graham, a historian at Johns Hopkins and associate of David Donald, tells us in this scholarly volume that the press of Tennessee comes off fairly well in any consideration of how it responded to the great story of America in the fifties and sixties—what we keep calling the "civil rights crisis." The book has much to say, as well, about what American society was like in the same time.

Graham selected Tennessee because it is clearly southern, but not border state in the sense of Kentucky or Maryland or deep South in the sense of Alabama or Mississippi. There has been a fairly vital Republican party in that state since the Civil War, and few states have had better senators than Estes Kefauver and Albert Gore. Graham, as a Tennesseean himself, is quite qualified to assess attitudes in his state, and he finds that there was moderate liberalism, as represented in the views of people who liked the *Nashville Tennesseean,* and reaction, too, like that provided in editorials in the *Nashville Banner.* He considers, as well, the major press of Memphis, Chattanooga and Knoxville.

Perhaps the fact that Tennessee was able to avoid really destructive upheavals like those in Alabama and Mississippi may be credited to a cautious press. Many readers will remember that one of the first southern communities torn by racial turmoil after the 1954 Supreme Court decision, Brown *v.* Board of Education of Topeka, was Clinton, Tennessee, when the traveling rabble-rouser John Kasper came to town to stir up the folks. There was trouble elsewhere, but not like the troubles of Selma or Birmingham. And the newspapers of Tennessee mainly kept the state cool as conflict exploded in so many communities in the deep South tier of states.

University of Kansas — Calder M. Pickett

A TOWER IN BABEL: A History of Broadcasting in the United States. By Erik Barnouw. New York: Oxford University Press. 1966. $8.50.

This first volume (to 1933) of Professor Erik Barnouw's projected three volume history goes a long way in pulling together the source materials which relate to the early development of broadcasting in the United States. The author has carefully sifted through the morass of litigation, economic exploitation, monopolization, bureaucratic bumbling and huckstering that characterized this turbulent era.

It could be argued that at times the author depends rather heavily upon secondary resources. However it should be remembered that many of the broadcasters of this period were quite successful in covering their tracks—either by accident or design. Where available, the writer has made good use of primary sources. For example, the book is laced with the personal reminiscences of many of the prime movers of broadcasting.

Over-all, the book is a thorough, readable history of broadcasting, approached only by Gleason L. Archer's *A History of Radio to 1926.*

University of Missouri — G. Joseph Wolfe

religion

RELIGION AND THE AMERICAN MIND: From the Great Awakening to the Revolution. By Alan Heimert. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 1966. $12.50.

This is an important book which attempts to do nothing less than to reinterpret the intellectual history of the eighteenth century. Not only does Heimert find the intellectual origins of the Revolution in the Great Awakening, he also credits the evangelical Calvinists rather than the religious liberals with providing the rationale and stimulus for the struggle for independence. What is more he sees the Revolution as an incidental footnote to the more important religious movement. But no brief survey can do justice to this big book. It is often pretentious, its generalizations are sometimes overstated and based on geographically limited sources, but it challenges much of the historical writing of the last half century. It will be a controversial book, but it will provide stimulus, if not direction, for a new generation of scholars.

University of Missouri — Allen F. Davis

geography

GEOGRAPHY OF NEW YORK STATE. John H. Thompson, Editor. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press. 1966. $11.95.

This impressive volume, spacious in format, authoritative in content, and lavishly illustrated with maps, photographs and tables, is a major addition to the slender literature on the geography of individual American states. Primary credit for the book goes to the staff of the Department of Geography at Syracuse University, though several other geographers, as well as scholars in related fields, contributed to it. The book approaches its subject from the standpoint of an explicit methodology. The reader is introduced to geography as a research field, and the current methodology of the field is then exemplified in a detailed examination of New York State. Part One, "The Resource Base," surveys the physical setting. Part Two, of particular interest to historians who may wish to see how geographers approach the matter of geographical change, is entitled "Three and a Half Centuries of Change." Numerous maps in this section show the spread of settlement and the evolution of the transportation net. Parts Three and Four deal with "Economic Activities Today" and "Landscapes and Regions." Part Five, "The Great Urban Systems," examines the seven largest cities. The book concludes with a forecast of geographical change to the year 2000. This volume seems likely to be the standard reference on the geography of New York State for many years. It is written in professional language, but terminology is explained in the text. There are chapter bibliographies. The maps and photographs are bold and clear. Several maps in color are included in a pocket.

University of Missouri — Jesse H. Wheeler, Jr.

education

A HISTORY OF NEGRO EDUCATION IN THE SOUTH FROM 1619 TO THE PRESENT. By Henry Allen Bullock. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 1967.

This book is more than a history of education for Negroes in the South. It is also a commentary upon the society in which the process and the institution took form.

The author consistently utilizes a dialectical frame of reference showing that every period of development, beginning with the condition of slavery, carried the seeds of unintended results. Public concern supported by private philanthropy, conceived, established and supported a segregated Negro educational system. These schools and colleges which became the "captives of the South's program to educate Negroes for their caste assignments" produced the leadership and the minimal awareness necessary to launch the movement for desegregated schools, civil rights and equal opportunity.

The book is a scholarly narrative. It presents the historic facts and a consistent interpretation of the facts in a very readable fashion. Interesting biographical material is included without being anecdotal. It provides background and insights which are most pertinent to our times.

Washington State University — Joel B. Montague

literature

THE COLLOQUIAL STYLE IN AMERICA. By Richard Bridgman. New York: Oxford University Press. 1966. $6.50.

From Franklin to Hemingway, contends Bridgman, American prose style has changed significantly. In the main, the change has been toward "greater concreteness of diction and simplicity in syntax." It occurred at first mostly in "dialect pieces and in fictional dialogue." By the end of the nineteenth century and thanks largely to Twain and James, writers had become "increasingly conscious of the techniques of colloquial writing." The result (excluding Southern oratorical writing such as Faulkner's) has been a stress on the individual unit, a "fragmentation of syntax," and the use of repetition "to bind and unify." Possibly the main fault of Bridgman's study is the disparity between the scope and objectivity implicit in the title and the narrowness (only novels, short stories, and sketches—and highly selective ones at that—are treated) and subjectivity of the contents. The major contribution is that it represents a good start toward the investigation of a neglected aspect of American writing and prepares the way for similar studies of other genres—notably poetry.

Stephen F. Austin State College Edwin W. Gaston, Jr.

THE ETERNAL ADAM AND THE NEW WORLD GARDEN: The Central Myth in the American Novel since 1830. By David W. Noble. New York: George Braziller, Inc. 1968. $5.95.

Professor Noble's book is aimed at tracing a major theme in the American novel from James Fenimore Cooper to Saul Bellow. His thesis is that every major American novelist has been concerned with the "central myth" of our culture, that of the American as Adam in the New World Garden. The main problem of the book is that which arises in any synthesis of this kind: some of the novelists fit in quite well, others have to be forced in with an adroitly wielded academic shoehorn.

The Eternal Adam in the New World Garden follows in the scholarly tradition of Henry Nash Smith, R. W. B. Lewis, and Leo Marx. The Adamic myth has been of particular concern to historians and critics of American literature since the publication of *Virgin Land*. While this most recent book on the subject is not likely to achieve the stature of its illustrious predecessors, it is an interesting and quite readable account of an important aspect of our literature. As "a book about the American novel written by an historian" it is of particular interest to proponents of an interdisciplinary approach to the study of our literature.

University of Utah Fred Moramarco

MARK TWAIN AS CRITIC. By Sydney J. Krause. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1967. $7.50.

Readers of this volume must conquer two stock responses. First, one rebels against being asked to evaluate critical acumen largely on the basis of letters, marginalia and scraps of unpublished opinions. Wishing to construct Twain's aesthetic theories, one laments the absence of a published canon of criticism, especially when the output must be measured against that of his notable contemporaries, James and Howells. Second, one is disturbed to note that a respectable undergraduate library could be assembled from authors Twain either ignored (e.g., Melville, Crane and Conrad) or despised (e.g., Austen, Poe, James, Eliot, Goldsmith, Cooper, Meredith and Harte). Mr. Krause attempts to set the record straight, first, by citing the criticism Twain wrote and, second, by presenting a coherent method and direction in his criticism. Though the latter seems at times a bed of Procrustes, it does lead one to observe that Krause—like his subject—uses overstatement effectively.

Mr. Krause argues that Twain's criticism characteristically is obscured either by a mask of innocence or a mask of guilt. The early criticism (concerning popular poetry, journalism, theater and oratory) is written with the mask of an innocent fool (or Muggins), while the later criticism (concerning Goldsmith, Cooper, Scott and Harte) wears the guise of a cynical malcontent (or Gumbler). These two positions serve as envelopes into which all Twain's criticism is placed.

Eastern Kentucky University Bert C. Bach

WORLD WAR I AND THE AMERICAN NOVEL. By Stanley Cooperman. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1967. $6.50.

This mosaic of cultural artifacts and brief literary commentaries is highlighted by a comprehensive index and a fine selected bibliography which make the study readily usable as a reference text. Beginning with a summarization of the Crusade's idealistic propaganda, Cooperman stresses the uniqueness of trench warfare and the varieties of

protagonists produced in the post-war novels. The work concludes with a lengthy discussion of the critical history of war literature. While no complete and unifying thesis placing the novels in full historical context is provided, the immediate impact of the war is clearly, if sketchily, defined.

University of Iowa F. Dennis Williams

books received

(The Journal does not, as a general rule, review paperback reprints, anthologies or collections of scholarly essays.)

AMERICA AT WAR: The Home Front, 1941-1945. By Richard Polenberg. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall Press. 1967. $4.95.

AMERICAN REFORM: The Ambiguous Legacy. Edited by Daniel Walden. Ohio: The Ampersand Press. 1967. $1.45.

CHALLENGE AND DECISION: Political Issues of Our Time. By Reo M. Christenson. New York: Harper & Row. 1967. $2.45.

THE CURIOUS DEATH OF THE NOVEL. By Louis D. Rublin, Jr. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press. 1967. $6.95.

EDMUND WILSON: A Study of Literary Vocation In Our Time. By Sherman Paul. Chicago: University of Illinois Press. 1967. $2.45.

FRONTIERS OF AMERICAN CULTURE. Edited by Ray B. Browne, Richard H. Crowder, Virgil L. Lokke, William T. Stafford. Lafayette, Indiana: Purdue University Press, 1968.

THE FUGITIVE GROUP: A Literary History. By Louise Cowan. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968.

IOWA AUTHORS: A Bio-Bibliography of Sixty Native Writers. Iowa City: Friends of the University of Iowa Libraries. 1967. $3.00.

REGIONALISM AND BEYOND: Essays of Randall Stewart. Edited by George Core. Vanderbilt University Press. 1968. $6.95.