

## reviews

**RELIGIOUS NEWSPAPERS IN THE OLD NORTHWEST TO 1861.** By Wesley Norton. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1877. \$12.50.

Religious newspapers have been a neglected source of information about American culture in general and American religious culture in particular. Wesley Norton's book is a valuable contribution to understanding of religious editors and to their attitude toward the "lively experiment" of religious freedom with its diversity of denominations. Norton is helpful also in his examination of the treatment of the morals and manners of the time in religious newspapers: dancing, the circus, drama, novels, observance of holy days, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, the discipline of children, women's fashions, prizefighting and, of course, sex. Norton describes the editors' views on more important problems: the political process, economic issues, public education, foreign policy, utopian communities, poverty, railroad management, peace movements and, most important, "The Politics of Slavery," to which he devotes his penultimate chapter. In addition to considerable information about the religious climate of the period, Norton has a valuable "Bibliograph of Religious Newspapers with Library Holdings."

Norton's book would have been improved had he placed the editorial opinions of the religious editors in the context of a larger cultural framework, but he does make a modest contribution to what we all know about American culture but often ignore: that religion in America had a pervasive influence on secular culture in the nineteenth century.

Gustavus Adolphus College

Elmer F. Suderman

**THE AMERICAN AS ANARCHIST: Reflections on Indigenous Radicalism.** By David DeLeon. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1978. \$14.00.

This book suggests that American exceptionalism accounts for the nature of American radicalism. DeLeon argues that the very institutions that make America a singular nation are also the source of meaningful opposition to capitalism, bureaucracy and the centralized state. This flies in the face of conventional wisdom about the nature of radicalism, and, as such, is a point worth considering. DeLeon finds indigenous radicalism equally divided between left and right wings with the generating power of this opposition coming from Protestantism, geographic expansion and the nature of American capitalism.

The result is an interesting but not always successful book. At once too comprehensive and too thinly argued, its examples on occasion do not seem to fit the categories applied to them. Perhaps the major difficulty, however, comes in trying to isolate what is native and what is not. This is a path strewn with obstacles that have blocked a great many other historians.

University of Maryland

James Gilbert

**EARLY DOWNHOME BLUES: A Musical and Cultural Analysis.** By Jeff Todd Titon. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1977. \$16.50.

This is the most ambitious study of the blues we have yet had. Titon treats almost every conceivable aspect of the blues: its cultural and historical context; its performers; its lyrics and music; its formulaic structure; the recording industry that spread it throughout the country in the 1920s and 30s; and, finally, a pioneering analysis of the way it was presented to customers through advertisements. Though each of these subjects could be treated in greater depth, and though Titon tends at

times to denigrate the significance of vaudeville blues, his wide-ranging scope, his impressive learning and his unflinching perception make this study an important addition to the growing scholarly analysis of this neglected subject.  
University of California, Berkeley

Lawrence W. Levine

**OLGLETHORPE IN AMERICA.** By Phinizy Spalding. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1977. \$12.50.

**TOWARD A PATRIARCHAL REPUBLIC: The Secession of Georgia.** By Michael P. Johnson. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press. 1977. \$15.00.

Georgia history—the leadership during the era of its founding and the secession crisis of the late 1850s—has been well-served by these two distinguished studies. Phinizy Spalding effectively reevaluates Oglethorpe's colonial administration (1733-43) utilizing a wealth of primary sources as well as recently published secondary works and in the process reveals the complex and multifaceted character of General Oglethorpe. Michael P. Johnson, incorporating in a masterly fashion both quantitative (election data) and qualitative (literary) sources, delineates the secession crisis in Georgia, focusing also on secession as a response to the crisis within the South. In addition, Johnson, as is revealed in his subtitle, pursues the actions and reactions of Georgians after secession. Johnson's thesis is that the crisis brought about a double revolution: the first eliminated the Unionist threat and the second, devised at the Constitutional Convention, resulted in the entrenchment in power of the slaveholding elite, the Patriarchy. Both studies have excellent bibliographical notes and indexes. In Johnson's monograph the quantitative data is explained and included in an appendix.

Iowa State University

Suzanne C. Lowitt

**THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY: Migration and Settlement on the Oregon Frontier.** By William A. Bowen. Seattle: University of Washington Press. 1979. \$17.50.

With a series of forty-five detailed maps made from the 1850 manuscript census, the author sketches the nature of Oregon pioneers and their economy. The book is a first-rate, highly original atlas, accompanied by cogent, succinct commentary that raises questions missed by traditional approaches. Especially noteworthy in this regard are maps and discussions of the complex migration histories of families ultimately moving to Oregon, of differences in the age and family status of migrants from different parts of the country, of kinship ties in Oregon, and of differences in the age and cultural heritage between people locating in rural and urban areas.

University of Kansas

James R. Shortridge

**THE NEW MADRID EARTHQUAKES OF 1811-1812.** By James Penick, Jr. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press. 1976. \$10.00.

Most geologists and historians are woefully nescient of the others' domain, a situation Penick attempts to rectify in this succinct non-technical account of the historical aspects of the New Madrid earthquakes. He organizes and integrates history and science into a coherent synthesis of time, place, natural history, and frontier America.

Woodward-Clyde Consultants

Michael M. Katzman

**THE IDEA OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH, 1920-1941.** By Michael O'Brien. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1979. \$16.00.

A perceptive and provocative discussion of the idea of the South as a conception binding together an otherwise fragmented and disparate social reality, as reflected in the work of various southern intellectuals, including Howard Odum, John Wade, John Ransom, Allen Tate, Frank Owsley and Donald Davidson. Social change and modernism ironically strengthened the idea of a discrete and definable South, according to O'Brien, since such a notion was needed to explain these changes and preserve regional identity. A "cultural" rather than a social or economic analysis, this study is a significant contribution to southern intellectual history.

University of Alabama in Birmingham

Blaine A. Brownell

**PLOW WOMEN RATHER THAN REAPERS: An Intellectual History of Feminism**

in the United States. By Sarah Slavin Schramm. Metuchen, New Jersey: Scarecrow Press. 1979. \$17.50.

The pretentious title promises much more than the volume itself delivers. It is a rather stuffy, dissertation quality summary of the ideas of selected feminists which offers minimal attempts at analysis. For no clearly explained reason the narration terminates with the early 1950's, then rather awkwardly concludes with a tacked-on, previously published essay by the author on the focus, idea power, and promise of contemporary women's studies programs.

University of Northern Iowa

Glenda Riley

AMERICAN LAWYERS IN A CHANGING SOCIETY, 1776-1876. By Maxwell Bloomfield. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. 1976. \$15.00.

This book does much to dispell the conventional wisdom that the first half of the nineteenth century was a period of decline for the American legal profession. In a series of biographical essays and through an examination of antebellum literature Bloomfield advances the thesis that open access into the profession enhanced its standing in the eyes of the public and, by bringing into the profession persons from a broad range of social backgrounds, enabled it to cope more effectively with the increasingly more complex needs of the growing nation and its economy.

FHH

ANOTHER PART OF THE WAR: The Camp Simon Story. By Gordon C. Zahn. Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press. 1979. \$14.00.

During World War II, the American government placed some 12,000 conscientious objectors in 151 Civilian Public Service camps. Drawing upon documentary records, written communications from the assignees, and his personal experience, the author deftly conveys the frustrating experience of the one Catholic camp, located in rural New Hampshire. The work was trivial, the administration resented and the underlying basis of conscription demoralizing. And yet, Camp Simon also provided "the first corporate witness against war and military service in the history of American Catholicism," thus anticipating the changes of the future. Although narrowly focused, this is an important, moving work.

State University of New York, Albany

Lawrence S. Wittner

SIX WHO PROTESTED: Radical Opposition to the First World War. By Frederick C. Giffin. Port Washington, New York: Kennikat Press. 1977. \$9.95.

Giffin has made a routine survey of the anti-war activities of six famous and frequently studied American radicals: Eugene V. Debs, Morris Hillquit, Max Eastman, John Reed, Emma Goldman and William D. Haywood. Treated separately and as though they were totally unrelated, the sketches do give evidence of conscientious research in unpublished papers and some unfamiliar material is presented. However, the stories are well known and little in the way of new information or interpretation is offered. There are occasional banalities prompted by the author's penchant for eulogization rather than critical analysis. The volume will stimulate little interest among specialists but as a brief treatment of radical, as distinguished from liberal or pacifist anti-war opinion, it may find a place on undergraduate reading lists.

Queens College

Michael Wreszin

## literature

THE AMERICAN RENAISSANCE IN NEW ENGLAND. Edited by Joel Myerson. (Volume One of THE DICTIONARY OF LITERARY BIOGRAPHY) Detroit: Gale Research Company. 1978. \$35.00.

It is not entirely beyond the range of possibility that, if subsequent volumes of this ambitious series are as useful as this one, literary history might come to seem a more or less rationally-organized discipline, one in which it is possible to brief oneself quickly and in one place on the best current understanding of a movement, issue or problem. The idea of a book of literary biographies—some substantial in length—focused upon a movement (an "area of North American literature," the editors

call it) is excellent, and the first volume is very well done. The editors' hope that this would be "more than a reference volume" seems fulfilled: because many of the biographees knew one another, interacted with one another and responded to common events, one finds oneself using the whole book to brief oneself on aspects of the New England florescence which no conventional literary history could afford space to cover. It treats issues related to Transcendentalism especially well. The volume leaves one impressed with the density of the web of interrelations among our writers. One can't follow all of them out in other entries, of course: Hawthorne-Emerson appears in this volume; Hawthorne-Poe, Hawthorne-Whipple and Hawthorne-Melville, while discussed briefly in Arlin Turner's sturdy entry on Hawthorne, will require (I suppose) Volume Three, "The American Renaissance in New York and the South." But one has to draw boundaries somewhere, and "New England" really makes pretty good sense. The scope of *DLB* and the need to make editorial decisions leave the project vulnerable to criticism; I found a few things one might grumble at, but very few, in truth. I would urge the editors to convince their publishers to issue a cheap edition. The book is too useful for Americanists and too readable to sit only in library reference alcoves.

SGL

**THE INTERPRETATION OF OTHERNESS: Literature, Religion, and the American Imagination.** By Giles Gunn. New York: Oxford University Press. 1979. \$14.95.

The last of these five essays is a stimulating examination of the "essential paradigm of the American experience, i.e., the "solitary self" forced into a recreation of itself by an encounter with the "ideal other."

University of Northern Iowa

Theodore R. Hovet

**A WORLD BY ITSELF: The Pastoral Moment in Cooper's Fiction.** By H. Daniel Peck. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. 1977. \$12.50.

What draws us to Cooper is not his novels' historical, symbolic, or even mythic interest, but, Peck argues (taking his cues from D. H. Lawrence and Gaston Bachelard), a childlike quality that addresses our primal "need for a world contained," for a psychological-aesthetic enclosure of the wilderness. Although Peck does not succeed in persuading us that a poetics of space is the principal source of Cooper's appeal, he does blend biography with close reading and lucid theory to produce a partial but useful survey of the intellectual and emotional boundaries within which this novelist established his art.

Lake Forest College

Alan Axelrod

**REPRESENTATIVE MAN: Ralph Waldo Emerson.** By Joel Porte. New York: Oxford University Press. 1979. \$15.95.

An unusual and useful book, learned, rich in textual detail, and woven out of a web of associations analogous to Emerson's own, *Representative Man* locates Emerson in "his time" in intellectual and personal—not social—terms. Its thesis is that "Emerson's reputation is . . . a measure of our own [national] stature," that he is and intended to be an emblem.

SGL

**VOICE OF DEMOCRACY: A Critical Biography of David Graham Phillips: Journalist, Novelist, Progressive.** By Louis Filler. University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press. 1978. \$12.95.

Louis Filler, the prime historian of Progressive Era liberalism, offers hot protest against what "half a century of derogation and pseudo-criticism" (p. 124) has done to Phillips' literary reputation. A thoughtful feminist, Phillips possessed greater skills and deeper understanding than Theodore Dreiser or Sinclair Lewis. A novelist of marriages that fail, Phillips wrote of dependence and independence, and of liberated, egalitarian, meaningful male-female relationships. Along with "The Treason of the Senate" and *The Plum Tree*, Filler particularly values *Light Fingered Gentry*, *Old Wives for New*, *The Hungry Heart* and Phillips' epic *Susan Lenox: Her Fall and Rise*.

University of Florida

David Chalmers

**HAWTHORNE'S MAD SCIENTISTS: Pseudoscience and Social Science in Nineteenth-Century Life and Letters.** By Taylor Stoehr. Hamden, Connecticut: Archon Books. 1978. \$19.50.

Stoehr offers a richly detailed account of the major pseudosciences and philanthropical theories in nineteenth-century America. He then convincingly shows how Hawthorne's immersion in these movements shaped his fiction, particularly *The Blithedale Romance*. Although most of us have been at least vaguely aware of these cultish enthusiasms and of Hawthorne's ambivalent attitude toward them, this book is by far the most comprehensive and intelligent treatment of the subject.

University of Oklahoma

Roy R. Male

**THE WARY FUGITIVES: Four Poets and the South.** By Louis D. Rubin, Jr. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press. 1978. Paper: \$7.95.

A study of the relationship between modern Southern literature and Southern life that concentrates on the poetry of John Crowe Ransom, Allen Tate, Donald Davidson, and Robert Penn Warren, this book also offers penetrating analyses of individual works (Tate's "Ode to the Confederate Dead," for example) and thoughtful considerations of the Fugitive and Agrarian movements. Though the author has dealt with some of these topics before, the scope of the present volume allows him to elaborate earlier views, to establish new context, and to add new insights.

University of Georgia

Rayburn S. Moore

**LANGSTON HUGHES: An Introduction to the Poetry.** By Onwuchekwa Jemie. New York: Columbia University Press. 1976. \$10.95.

Though the author's preferences for politically *engagé*, readily accessible poetry are obtrusive, his thesis is cogent: Hughes's importance stems from a fusion of vital folk traditions and themes of social struggle. This volume, in the series of Columbia Introductions to Twentieth-Century American Poetry, pays far less attention to poetics than to polemics.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Kent P. Ljungquist

**ZORA NEALE HURSTON: A Literary Biography.** By Robert E. Hemenway. Forward by Alice Walker. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1977. \$15.00.

This study of black woman author Zora Neal Hurston (c. 1901-1960) is a fascinating and comprehensive literary biography. Hurston is not an easy subject, but Hemenway succeeds in his difficult task to justly consider her varied genres (e.g., the novel, folklore, social criticism), and the salient facts of her unconventional life. His thesis or rather "intention" to demonstrate that Hurston "deserves an important place in American literary history" is too weak to give the book a cohesive unity. But many individual chapters are brilliant.

The work is indispensable for Hurston scholars, but for a wider audience Hemenway sheds much collateral light upon the challenges and opportunities facing black authors of the twenties and thirties. Hurston was a hustler; she tried to tap every source of aid available to further her career: Hemenway chronicles her efforts to locate patronage, secure grants from academe and private foundations, and survive battles between intellectuals over the appropriateness of using black folk materials in black fiction.

In sum, Hemenway is long on detail and short on synthesis, but overall this is a very useful book.

Tuskegee Institute

Bruce Adams

**ROBERT LOWELL: Life and Art.** By Steven Gould Axelrod. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1978. \$14.50.

Steven Axelrod has not produced a biography of Lowell, but he has surveyed the poetry, using the life as significant background. Readers can accordingly learn more about such matters as the poet's friendship: with Allen Tate, who helped the poet forge his early style; with Randall Jarrell, who was responsible for improvements in the poems of *Lord Weary's Castle*; and with William Carlos Williams, who encouraged the stylistic change that led to *Life Studies*. This connecting of biography and literary texts clarifies numerous aspects of Lowell's career, and one can get a sense of that career by judicious browsing in this book. Closer attention is apt to be less rewarding. Axelrod is not an impressive reader of poetry. He belabors the obvious at many points, and overlooks matters of genuine interest at others. While he seems to be aware that portions of Lowell's canon are quite embarrassingly bad, and occasionally says so, to good effect, more often he writes from the unexamined assumption that keeps the Lowell industry rolling along: that Lowell is a major figure, the great writer of his

generation. The error of this view has surely begun to be obvious. Lowell consistently overwrote, in a hopped-up, *Time*-magazine style that falsified even the most genuine elements in his work. He did so from first to last, and got worse as he went along. At best, he is our Swinburne, and reverential treatments of his life and work, while they may have intermittent interest, serve to perpetuate a badly inflated reputation.

Oberlin College

David Young

## visual arts

PHOTOGRAPHY IN NEW MEXICO: From the Daguerreotype to the Present. By Van Deren Coke. Forward by Beaumont Newhall. New Mexico: The University of New Mexico Press. 1979. \$24.95.

An excellent regional history which surveys the social, topographical, and aesthetic applications of photography in New Mexico from the mid-nineteenth century to the 1970s. The author has attempted to provide a mixed anthology of historically significant and artistically unique photographs as inspired by or relevant to a specific geography. Although the majority of the text is objective and successfully satisfies this hypothesis, the last chapter, which is predominantly concerned with the professors and students of the photography program of the Department of Art of the University of New Mexico, may appear rhetorical to the reader not familiar with the impact on the field of this institution and its progenitors. Contains a useful chronology of photographers' visits and residency in New Mexico.

University of Arizona

James L. Enyeart

FACING THE LIGHT: Historic American Portrait Daguerreotypes. By Harold Francis Pfister. Foreword by Marvin Sadik. Curatorial preface by William F. Stapp. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press. 1978. \$10.25.

This marvelous collection of daguerreotype portraits of famous Americans readily supports the author's assertion that each plate reveals "a miniature universe of precise information." A brief biographical sketch accompanies each portrait and there is a first-rate catalogue listing all known daguerreotypes of the one hundred and ten individuals included in the volume. This book, beautiful as well as engaging, will become an indispensable reference work, not only for the specialist in early photography, but also for anyone interested in American culture of the period 1840-1860.

Iowa State University

Charles Silet

HYDE PARK HOUSES: An Informal History, 1856-1910. By Jean F. Block. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1978. \$12.95.

Hyde Park, a suburb first and then part of Chicago, was the setting for the 1893 World's Fair, and it is home to the University of Chicago. These two facts alone, and they are not alone, make Hyde Park noteworthy. Jean F. Block has provided us with a thoughtful and affectionate biography, to 1910, of what is now an Illinois historic district. She shows the way in which this suburb came into being as a speculative development, how it grew into a vigorous suburb, and then became a part of the urban core. In process, the concept of *neighborhood* is examined along with the factors that influence its definition. This is done not only through a look at the economic and cultural life of Hyde Park and its component neighborhoods, but by a very effective use of the buildings and their attendant records (e.g. building permits and plat maps). The result is a study in urban history that demonstrates the importance of architecture as historic document. Its meticulous methodology is coupled with a readable style, and the book should be of interest not only to the architectural historian but to any student of city life and development. It is profusely illustrated and thoroughly documented.

GE

RICHARD ESTES: The Urban Landscape. By John Arthur and John Canaday. Boston: Boston Museum of Fine Arts and New York Graphic Society. 1978-79. \$12.95.

Mr. Canaday in his preface manages to restrain himself from saying "I told you so." Mr. Arthur's interview with the artist confirms that Estes loves the smack of good paint on canvas. He feels a strong affinity for Thomas Eakins just because

Eakins is so beautiful a painter. I imagine that he would like the best of colonial Copley for the same reason—the resonance of lovingly applied pigments from a palette as lively as his own on subjects and objects treated with the respect one sees in a good old Dutch still-life or interior.

None of this, however, fully explains the enormous contemporary appeal of Estes' paintings, and I would suggest that it probably lies in our appetite for certain city moods, sights, senses. I mean "appetite" in the sense in which a six-month-old baby has an appetite for lights: it can live happily without them, but once wheeled, say, under the flashing lights of theater marquee, will know a kind of delight it wants repeated. There is a strong national appetite for buses, glass doors, change, reflections, the steely exciting feeling of city morning air. It's what we respond to, I think, in recent writing about the rediscovery of cities, a reason that, to go back a little further in time, scholars nurtured in the tradition of anti-urbanism welcomed the work of urban historians.

Else how explain why the millions of New Yorkers who don't really use the resources of their city feel it's worth living there despite cost, commuting and cancer? Even those Estes paintings which give us not a single figure—some seem to represent early Sunday morning—communicate city electricity. Stand in front of a wonderful Estes like "Central Savings" and ghostly reflections skitter across glass and chrome and one tastes the special city taste. In my observations, museum-goers spend longer with Estes' paintings than most others, I think because his craft causes this mood, feel and taste of clear-light urban moments to come on them. The experience is strong and pleasurable. Being who we are, we know how to respond to it.

SGL

**WINTERTHUR PORTFOLIO 13.** Ed. Ian M. G. Quimby. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1979. \$20.00.

*Winterthur Portfolio 13* is a collection of articles dedicated to Charles F. Montgomery and written by his former students and colleagues. A significant contribution to the literature of material culture, this publication celebrates the enthusiasm, imagination, rigor and scholarship of Montgomery and those whom he influenced. The introduction of new techniques and methodologies to furniture study has brought new and increasing interest and importance to the field. Much can be learned from this volume and transferred to the endeavors of those in the pursuit of understanding in material culture.

Colorado Historical Society

Arthur Townsend

## philosophy

**CHAOS AND CONTEXT: A Study in William James.** By Charlene Haddock Seigfried. Athens: Ohio University Press. 1978. \$10.00.

A rigorous, intricate examination of both implications and interconnections of several key doctrines within James's later thought, this study is not for beginners or for those interested primarily in intellectual history. It is from beginning to end a demanding, yet exquisite, conceptual argument. The focus throughout is on James's theory of relations, especially its implication for his last doctrines of radical empiricism and "pure experience." Seigfried's subtle exposition ultimately resolves a philosophical dilemma posed by James's insistence on two contradictory primordial realities: chaotic sensations and a given space-time order. Pure experience, she shows, is a fruitful notion because of its explanatory, not its descriptive, power. The study likewise includes elegant chapters on James' parallels and differences with key doctrines in Hume and Bradley, who represent two alternate positions bearing on the question of relations. Seigfried's own extension of late-James's theory gives us a more rigorously conceptual William James than usual. Her coverage of scholarship is adequate, her use of such scholarship always precise and deft.

University of Missouri-Columbia

Richard A. Hocks

**TROUBLED PHILOSOPHER: John Dewey and the Struggle for World Peace.** By Charles F. Howlett. Port Washington, New York: Kennikat Press. 1977. \$12.50.

The well documented story of how a paradoxical naïveté exhibited by the American philosopher's enthusiastic support of U.S. participation in World War I was changed

into an adamant pacifism during the years that preceded and followed World War II. Although the baffling disparity between Dewey's sophistication as a theoretical pragmatist and his innocent behavior in the world of "real" politics is treated more contextually than textually, this detailed book should be of great interest to American Studies scholars.

University of Kansas

Ivan Barrientos

## science and medicine

**AMERICAN MEDICAL EDUCATION: The Formative Years, 1765-1910.** By Martin Kaufman. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1976. \$12.95.

Despite its title, this book is primarily concerned with "the major trends and developments that affected the [medical] colleges." He demonstrates the weaknesses of American medical education before the Flexner Report and illustrates the various attempts to solve these problems. His treatment of broader issues in American history, e.g., foreign influences on national developments, the role of the professional, conflicts between educated elites and "the people" seems superficial, however.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Michael M. Sokal

**BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN SCIENCE: The Seventeenth Through the Nineteenth Centuries.** By Clark A. Elliott. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1979. \$45.00.

This useful reference volume is designed to complement the famous *American Men of Science* (1906 and later editions; edited by J. McKeen Cattell) retrospectively, and thus includes "major entries" for about 600 scientists *not* included in *AMS* who were born between 1606 and 1867, and "minor entries" for about 300 others who were in the *AMS*. The major entries contain full biographical, familial, professional and other information (including location of manuscripts, works by, and works about); the minor entries are cross-referenced to *AMS*. The volume also contains appendices for birth dates and places, education, occupation, and field(s) of specialization. One might quibble about the lack of a residential appendix, or about the principles of selection (which are not clearly stated); but these are very minor points, and one can easily recognize the extraordinary difficulties involved. Elliott has produced a lasting contribution of real merit to American cultural history generally, and to the history of science in American culture more specifically, literally a labor of love, and both he and the Greenwood Press are to be congratulated for this useful volume, for it should make the history of science more accessible and comprehensible to Americanists in all fields.

HC

**WOMEN AND MEN MIDWIVES: Medicine, Morality and Misogyny in Early America.** By Jane B. Donegan. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1979. \$17.95.

This book is a thoroughly researched study of the transition in childbirth management away from the midwife and toward the allegedly better trained male accoucheur in the colonial and early national periods. Both the development of forceps and the extensive research into the physiological aspects of the birthing process gave doctors a distinct technical advantage over midwives, especially in difficult and abnormal deliveries. But when the middle and upper classes sought the aid of physicians, they created a cultural dilemma, as traditional modesty clashed with science. Midwives and other social critics denounced the presence of men in the lying-in chamber. Donegan does an excellent job of developing these nuances as part of her story and the result is a well written and insightful monograph.

University of Kansas

Regina A. Morantz

**THE COLLAPSE OF LIBERAL EMPIRE: Science and Revolution in the Twentieth Century.** By Paul N. Goldstone. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. 1977. \$10.00.

A principal thesis of this extended essay is that multiple crises now challenge the bedrock assumptions of so-called "consensus" United States liberalism and threaten its operational hegemony in American life. Of the work's three major sections, the



first is most cogent, as "Tradition" exposes those fundamental assumptions concerning power, contract, the separability of politics and economics, and the notion of community in "liberal America." The second and third parts are not as powerful, since one encounters too many imprecise definitions and incomplete thoughts, particularly in the field(s) of political economy. Indeed, the key notion of "balance," purportedly so crucial to the power prescriptions of a liberalism itself too often treated homogeneously by the author, everywhere requires an even more probing analysis. Nonetheless, this book deserves the widest possible audience, for it might become a minor classic on some dimensions of the American condition.

Iowa State University

D. M. P. McCarthy

**EPIDEMIC AND PEACE**, 1918. By Alfred W. Crosby, Jr. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1976. \$17.50.

Though it killed more people than did the contending armies during the first World War, though it disrupted civilian life throughout the planet and affected military activities as well as the Versailles Peace Conference, Spanish Influenza has had a minimum impact on both the historical and creative imagination. Alfred Crosby in this speculative and fascinating volume surveys its impact, indicates how authorities tried to cope with the outbreak and examines the efforts of scientists, none of them conclusive, to identify exactly what caused it.

Iowa State University

Richard Lowitt

## black history

**IN SEARCH OF CANAAN: Black Migration to Kansas, 1879-80.** By Robert G. Athearn. Lawrence: Regents Press of Kansas. 1978. \$14.00.

This is the second book in two years written on the first mass migration of Afro-Americans out of the South. Athearn approaches the topic as a historian of the West, placing the Exodusters within the context of western settlement. The author emphasizes the harshness of the journey westward, the mixed reception which Kansans gave them and the "general failure" of the hejira. While Athearn's book covers the migration experience in much greater detail than does Nell Painter's *Exodusters: Black Migration to Kansas after Reconstruction*, it is weak in comparison to her fine study. The two historians write within different traditions; Athearn's specialty is descriptive and narrative, Painter's analytical. Athearn's failure to deal with Painter's analysis of the southern background, the idea of Kansas Fever and the messianic aura of the movement marks his work as seriously flawed. The story is a good one, and Athearn relates the tale well; but to understand fully the Exoduster movement, we must turn to Painter.

DMK

**THE BLACK TOWNS.** By Norman L. Crockett. Lawrence: The Regents Press of Kansas. 1979. \$14.00.

*The Black Towns* is a curious book, possessing both marked limitations and strengths. Norman L. Crockett has focused on five of the more than sixty all-black towns that were established between 1865 and 1915. In examining Nicodemus, Kansas, Mound Bayou, Mississippi, and three towns in Oklahoma, Langston, Boley and Clearview, Crockett has revealed his inadequacies as a social historian. There is no indication, for example, of his awareness of the historical literature on communities. Nor did he make use of the abundant data available to historians in state and federal censuses. At the same time, he has asked intelligent questions of the manuscript, newspaper and other primary sources that he did consult. And in doing so, he has provided insights into such topics as racial ideologies; black boosterism and its twin components, black nationalism and capitalism; Jim Crow; violence; family and child-rearing; education; the work ethic; and the black socio-economic class structure.

University of Kansas

William M. Tuttle, Jr.

**THE GOLDEN AGE OF BLACK NATIONALISM, 1850-1925.** By Wilson Jeremiah Moses. Hamden, Connecticut: Archon Books. 1978. \$17.50.

The author admits that this study is intended to provoke controversy and to set

a point of departure for further study. He contends that black nationalists from Alexander Crummell to Marcus Garvey were essentially conservatives who perceived the destiny of black people through the filter of their European cultural heritage. The author's analysis of the literary and other writings of leading black nationalist thinkers in support of his thesis should make thought-provoking reading for students of the black experience in all disciplines.

AES

## the civil war era

**OUR FIERY TRIAL: Abraham Lincoln, John Brown, and the Civil War Era.** By Stephen B. Oates. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. 1979. \$11.50.

In these concise and often elegant essays, Oates tells us much about the process of writing biography. He says even more about the historiographic battles and misinformation that surrounds our knowledge and understanding of Nat Turner, John Brown and Lincoln. Oates is combative and partisan, but also persuasive, logical and knowledgeable. Skillfully he points out the errors, inaccuracies and inconsistencies of William Styron, Eugene Genovese, Allan Nevins, Truman Nelson, Carl Sandburg, David Donald, as well as virtually all previous biographers of John Brown. As he did in his full length biographies, Oates has again increased our understanding of the men, events, and dynamics which shaped the Civil War era and our as yet incomplete adjustment to racial justice.

University of Texas at Austin  
Library of Congress

Paul Finkelman  
J. Franklin Jameson

**EMANCIPATION AND EQUAL RIGHTS: Politics and Constitutionalism in the Civil War Era.** By Herman Belz. New York: W. W. Norton & Co. 1978. \$10.95. Paper: \$3.95.

In a luminous short book the author has skillfully interwoven the political theme of civil equality with the constitutional themes of federalism and republicanism in the years 1861 to 1883. Through analysis of congressional laws and constitutional amendments, quotation of framers of these measures, and citation of court opinions, he demonstrates that the nationalizing of civil rights rested on federal principles which respected state rights and local self-government. His arguments carries plausibility and goes far to counter the notion that the Civil War and Reconstruction meant the triumph of unbridled nationalism. The book is carefully footnoted and accompanied by a helpful bibliographical essay.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

James A. Rawley

**THE POLITICAL CRISIS OF THE 1850's.** By Michael Holt. New York: John Wiley & Sons. 1978. \$10.95.

The politics of the coming of the Civil War has been extensively studied, yet Michael Holt's new book not merely sheds fresh light on the subject but challenges most of its orthodoxies and long-held assumptions. He argues that the sectional and slavery issues did not destroy the party-system and thus precipitate disunion, since the Second Party System had already collapsed even before Kansas-Nebraska. His other major interpretation is that the slavery and sectional question which the politicians then seized upon to reactivate their dying party organizations was not presented in the familiar terms of supporting or opposing black slavery and its extension. Instead the issue was politicized around the threat posed by the Slave Power and the anti-slavery Republicans to the freedom and rights of white men in both sections. White slavery, not black, was the real danger.

This is an important and most exciting book, but one wonders if the author has not pushed his fine insights a little too far, for the world of the politicians seems to have become insulated and detached from the larger social and political context in which it usually operates.

Harvard University

Michael Perman

## progressive biographies

GEORGE W. NORRIS: *The Triumph of a Progressive, 1933-1944*. By Richard Lowitt. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1978. \$20.00.

This book, the last of a three volume political biography of Nebraska Senator George W. Norris, traces the triumph of a man and his ideology during the turbulent years of the New Deal and World War II. This thoroughly researched work, based largely upon the Norris Papers and other pertinent material in the Library of Congress, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and the Nebraska Historical Society, reveals that for Norris the New Deal was a "rendezvous with destiny"—that is, this early twentieth-century brand of progressivism was largely compatible with the 1930's version of reform. To be sure, the Nebraskan disliked certain aspects of the New Deal: an enlarged bureaucracy, a powerful presidency, huge deficits, agricultural scarcity and internationalism. However, the consummation of TVA, the institution of federal relief programs, the attacks on bloated wealth and irresponsible corporate power, and the enactment of significant labor legislation more than compensated for Norris' misgivings about specific administration measures. In this impeccably written book, Norris, originally a Republican who supported qualified candidates regardless of their political affiliation and who eventually became politically independent in 1936, is portrayed as a septuagenarian who was an accommodating statesman with personal integrity. Indeed, a senatorial colleague accurately characterized George W. Norris as a "perambulatory declaration of independence."

Muskingum College

Ronald A. Mulder

BIOGRAPHY OF A PROGRESSIVE: *Franklin K. Lane, 1864-1921*. By Keith W. Olson. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1979. \$17.95.

Olson has successfully chronicled the career of a man who held responsible positions under three administrations. As a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission under Theodore Roosevelt and Taft and as Secretary of the Interior under Woodrow Wilson, Lane was a consistent Progressive. As Olson states, if there was really a Progressive Era, it is legitimate to label Lane a Progressive.

The introduction to the book gives an up-to-date and perceptive analysis of what it meant to be Progressive, and points out that Lane's career provides evidence that the Era was based on confidence rather than fear.

Olson identifies his study with the established work of David P. Thelan and Sheldon Hackney.

Northern Illinois University

Robert W. Schneider

## education

FROM KING'S COLLEGE TO COLUMBIA, 1746-1800. By David C. Humphrey. New York: Columbia University Press. 1976. \$17.50.

William Livingston wanted a rational and secular University in New York; Samuel Johnson desired a traditional, Anglican, and royalist institution. To succeed at all, Johnson had to bring in the Dutch Reformed and placate Presbyterians. His college came to serve the city upper classes more than God and King, and the American Revolution smashed its Anglican and Royalist pretensions. After boldly conceived and feebly executed reforms in the eighties, the college resumed its earlier social function, though in a more streamlined fashion—e.g., students no longer lived in the college, nor submitted to round-the-clock faculty surveillance and discipline. Humphrey tells this story with a keen eye for meaningful anecdote, and an imaginative awareness of the relations between a struggling young institution and a swiftly changing world.

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Robert McColey

SCHOOLING FOR THE NEW SLAVERY: *Black Industrial Education, 1868-1915*. By Donald Spivey. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1978. \$14.95.

This study is a re-examination of the purposes of industrial education for blacks in the south from the point of view of its white adherents. The author holds that Samuel Chapman Armstrong in founding Hampton consciously devised a system of

education to prepare blacks for an inferior place in society and, thereby, to provide employers of southern black workers a safe, docile labor supply. Industrial education as formulated by Armstrong, according to the author, served this purpose well. Booker T. Washington made Armstrong's system the basis of his work at Tuskegee, northern industrialists promoted it through their philanthropic agencies and European powers accepted it as appropriate for their colonies. This slim volume contributes a slightly different emphasis to this subject and not something that is new. Still, it is worth reading if the reader remembers that it tells only part of the story. What the white designers intended and what the black consumers did were often quite different. This study is not concerned with the latter.

AES

GROWING UP SUBURBAN. By Edward A. Wynne. Austin: University of Texas Press. 1977. \$10.95.

John Dewey believed that the teacher who sought to bridge the gap between school and society was "the prophet of the true God." According to Professor Wynne, this dream faded with the development of age and income segregated "post industrial" suburbs and because Dewey relied too heavily upon the individual teacher to effect the liaison. Wynne's new prophet is the school administrator who supposedly can better coordinate the growth of "intergenerational learning communities." Educators beset with alienated youths will appreciate the author's practical suggestions. Other scholars may remain skeptical as there is no reference to historical work, such as Peter Schmitt's *Back to Nature*, which stresses suburbia's traditional and tenacious rejection of economic, racial and social variety.

University of New Hampshire

Robert Mennel

THE KINDERGARTEN CRUSADE: The Establishment of Preschool Education in the United States. By Elizabeth Dale Ross. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press. 1976. \$8.50. Paper: \$4.25.

Although the author has given more facts than seem to be needed to establish the patterns of development and the results of the kindergarten movement, this important and useful book is a valuable addition to the study of early childhood education. It is a carefully researched and well documented account of the history of kindergarten education in the United States. Those portions dealing with the effects of kindergarten education on the rest of the elementary school are particularly well done. For example, the role kindergarten has played in extending education downward to include five-year-olds is a result of the kindergarten movement.

University of Kansas

M. Evelyn Swartz

## colonial life

LANDLORD AND TENANT IN COLONIAL NEW YORK: Manorial Society, 1664-1775. By Sung Bok Kim. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1978. \$19.00.

Drawing his conclusions from a thorough investigation of the records of New York's four largest manors, Kim has written a sophisticated and persuasive interpretation of New York's manorial society. Kim usually takes the landlord's point of view, but he convincingly demonstrates that the manorial system was neither feudal nor economically oppressive. He also shows that the "tenant riots" of the mid-eighteenth century were more the product of Massachusetts' expansionism than of class antagonism.

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POVERTY IN A LAND OF PLENTY: Tenancy in Eighteenth-Century Maryland. By Gregory A. Stiverson. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1977. \$12.00.

The author has efficiently condensed a large and surprisingly varied amount of information concerning tenants who lived on eight "sample" proprietary manors. The data Stiverson presents in his fifty-one tables supports the conclusion that the people who farmed the manors led hard, meager lives. Less convincing is his claim that tenants had little chance for advancement. The author never describes the "land of plenty" that, presumably, provides a contrast to manorial existence, nor does he

show how his undefined notion of poverty related to the context of eighteenth-century society.

University of South Dakota

Gregory Schmidt

## politics

**INTERSTATE: Express Highway Politics, 1941-1956.** By Mark H. Rose. Lawrence: The Regents Press of Kansas. 1979. \$14.00.

President Calvin Coolidge, proclaiming the obvious, once remarked "Everyone is anxious for good highways," but he offered no prescription as to how they could be developed. Mark Rose delineates how in the quarter century prior to the enactment of the Interstate Highway Act of 1956 the trucking industry allied with road engineers, auto club executives and politicians was able to prevail over presidents, planners and farmers. They continuously secured federal support for highway construction with minimum concern for overall economic management of the economy, the desire of Presidents Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower; urban development and renewal, the goal of planners; and better access roads to urban markets, the hope of farmers. Their triumph, registered in the 1956 legislation, insured federal funding with state engineers and local contractors making basic decisions with minimum taxation of gasoline and new automobiles, plus assurance that monies in the highway trust fund could not be diverted for purposes other than road-building. Social and economic remodeling were not considered. Unlike previous measures, in this plan, government was to foot 90% of the cost and, in effect, would aid in opposing and blocking endeavors to using highways as instruments for something more than arteries for huge trailer trucks. The tale that Mark Rose relates in great detail is an illuminating one of pressure politics, revealing aspects of the fragmentation of social and political life rarely examined by scholars.

Iowa State University

Richard Lowitt

**FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT AND THE CITY BOSSES.** By Lyle W. Dorsett. Port Washington, New York.: Kennikat Press. 1977. \$8.95.

Dorsett examines relations between FDR and seven big-city political bosses, and convincingly demolishes the so-called *Last Hurrah* thesis that New Deal welfare programs eroded the bosses' power. Roosevelt destroyed some bosses and reinforced others according to a strictly political set of criteria. Nothing essentially new is contained in this book, but it is well researched and written and is easily the best book on the subject.

Carleton University

Edward R. Kantowicz

**BETTER CITY GOVERNMENT: Innovation in American Urban Politics, 1850-1937.** By Kenneth Fox. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1977. \$15.00.

The author focuses upon the successful efforts of urban statisticians in the Bureau of Census and of practical-minded political scientists to create a functionally-organized city government in the early years of this century. Especially noteworthy is the author's analysis of the influence of census accounting methods, his effective refutation of the contention that the corporate model inspired changes in municipal government, and his demonstration that the functionalists-reformers basically retained a confidence in democratic government. The reaction to change of city officials and citizens is not a concern of the writer, who relies upon statistical evidence from the census, intended to initiate functional organization, to demonstrate urban acceptance of new arrangements. It is an imaginative argument, though needlessly weakened by the choice of four "sample" years rather than an entire time series, the reporting of unweighted means on expenditures for all cities over 30,000 with no mention of variation around them, and the superfluous notation of statistical "significance" in a rudimentary correlation analysis. Nevertheless, this book remains a valuable addition to urban historiography.

The Ohio State University

Eugene J. Watts

**THE BULL MOOSE YEARS: Theodore Roosevelt and the Progressive Party.** By John Allen Gable. Port Washington: Kennikat Press. 1978. \$15.00.

This basically narrative account adds little beside details to older interpretations

of the Progressive Party. Deprived by G.O.P. fraud of his deserved nomination, Theodore Roosevelt rallied white, well-educated, Anglo-Saxon moralists behind an advanced program of industrial justice that failed to strike roots with poor, immigrant, conservative, and partisan voters. The best parts deal with campaign tactics and with the efforts of the Progressive Service after 1912 to create a new departure for political parties, but the absence of precinct voter analyses or comparisons with the People's Party of the 1890s or the 1924 Progressive Party leave even these parts in an interpretive vacuum.

University of Missouri-Columbia

David P. Thelen

**THE SOCIAL BASES OF CITY POLITICS:** Atlanta, 1865-1903. By Eugene J. Watts. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1978. \$17.95.

Believing that "Political history should also be social history," the author has produced a narrowly focused but useful quantitative study of eight hundred candidates for mayor, alderman and councilman in an important southern city. Unlike most other observers of "who governs," Watts looked at all major elective offices and examined both winners and losers in the struggle for nomination and election. He found that in general his eight social and three political variables had greatest influence in the battle for nomination, and that property-holding was the most important factor in deciding mayoral and aldermanic campaigns. More noteworthy is the finding that no special political or social qualities seem to have determined winners in council races. We learn a great deal about candidates, but Watts is on shaky ground when he tries to use their characteristics to draw conclusions about the electorate.

University of New Mexico

Howard N. Rabinowitz

**THE URBAN THRESHOLD:** Growth and Change in a Nineteenth-Century American Community. By Stuart M. Blumin. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1976. \$16.50.

*The Urban Threshold* is a description of the change in Kingston, New York, from a rural, inwardly oriented community to an urban community in the nineteenth century. The author has addressed the social and economic organization of the pre-urban society; the effect of transportation improvement on the level of activity in Kingston; the arrival of newcomers to the community; the spatial growth of the community; and the emergence of a new society complete with new institutions. All of this occurs in a relatively small place. The last point is critical: Many places with rural beginnings became cities in the nineteenth century. Unfortunately, Blumin has implicitly suggested that small places somehow spawn their own activities, that they grow as if by immaculate conception. Too little attention is given the external relations of Kingston, the economic and social ties that bound Kingston to the larger society undergoing urbanization. *The Urban Threshold* has successfully addressed how change was made manifest in a small nineteenth-century place, but gives short shrift to why small places were brought into the metropolitan system, why they crossed the urban threshold at all.

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Joseph S. Wood

**THE INDIANA VOTER:** The Historical Dynamics of Party Allegiance During the 1870s. By Melvyn Hammarberg. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1977. \$17.50.

Hammarberg mishandles a rich source of data (interviews of thousands of men who revealed their religious and partisan affiliations), misunderstands some of the concepts he uses (especially the pietistic-liturgical classification of religious denominations) and fails to take nonvoting into sufficient account. While he finds some evidence that Indiana farmers were less well integrated than townsmen into the political system, his limited electorate is too homogeneous to support his conclusion that economic divisions were more important than cultural rivalries as determinants of voting behavior. Other historians should reanalyze his numerous tables, his valuable data on individuals (available from the ICPSR), and his primary sources. His normal-vote analysis of Indiana is better, but is neither as complicated nor as innovative as he implies; again, he downgrades nonvoting. Recommended only for specialists in nineteenth-century voting behavior; overpriced.

Alexandria, Virginia

Albert C. E. Parker

**THE ESTABLISHMENT IN TEXAS POLITICS:** The Primitive Years, 1938-1957. By George Norris Green. Westport, Connecticut: The Greenwood Press. 1979. \$22.50.

Green gives us an historical, chronologically organized book on the Texas governors of the period. His enthusiasm for the subject enlivens episodes; "primitive" seems an appropriate term to describe the era. The "establishment" is an inclusive term used for those who were successful at the polls. Green, linking success at the polls to oil interests and wealthy individuals, questions the ethical standards of Texas politicians, especially the one who became the thirty-sixth president. He concludes with some implications of change in Texas politics as it moved from ultra-conservatism and became more of a two party state.

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**GOODBYE TO GOOD-TIME CHARLIE:** The American Governor Transformed, 1950-1975. By Larry Sabato. Lexington, Massachusetts: Lexington Books. 1978. \$20.00.

This book provides a broad but clearly focused view of the office of governor. The subtitle is a more informative description of what the book actually does; an expanded doctoral thesis, it is a careful analysis of the transformations which have occurred in the office of governor during the twenty-five years covered. Sabato concludes that governors are no longer merely "good-time Charlies." Written during the Carter presidency, it not surprisingly contains a brief section on how governors are especially qualified for the presidency.

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**ROCKEFELLER OF NEW YORK:** Executive Power in the Statehouse. By Robert H. Connery and Gerald Benjamin. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press. 1979. \$15.00.

The focus of this book, as the subtitle emphasizes, is on "executive power in the statehouse"; it is not a biography although the character, ideas, philosophy and influence of Rockefeller come through clearly. The authors have constructed a broad study of a strong, aggressive state government in the American scene with chapters on the legislature and the governor, the governor as party leader, and the executive staff. Additionally, there are significant chapters on the governor and urban problems, expanding higher education, the quality of life and the governor's role on the national scene with respect to revenue sharing. Connery and Benjamin's extraordinary account of this remarkable man and his influence on state and nation could be a pattern for studies of other states, thus providing us with a better understanding of comparative state governments and politics.

University of Kansas

James W. Drury

**TRUMAN AND THE STEEL SEIZURE CASE:** The Limits of Presidential Power. By Maeva Marcus. New York: Columbia University Press. 1977. \$14.95.

This lucid and balanced account of the complexities of the steel seizure case draws heavily upon relevant manuscript sources as well as mountains of public documents, though the author has not inflicted massive amounts of minutiae upon her readers. Ms. Marcus weaves a complex theme that incorporates such variables as the acrimonious political atmosphere of the McCarthy era, the unprecedented implications of an undeclared limited war and growing public concern over the growth of presidential power. Specifically, she argues that the constitutional crisis grew out of the economic and political environment created by the Korean War.

Northern Arizona University

Richard O. Davies