

reviews

region, colony, town

FROM MAIN STREET TO STATE STREET: Town, City and Community in America. By Park Dixon Goist. Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat Press Corp. 1977. \$12.50.

This is a brief exploration of different meanings attached to the idea of community by selected novelists, reformers, sociologists and urban planners, 1890-1940. Goist rejects the notion that there was a pervasive pastoral myth in those years, and reveals instead a range of attitudes running from Tarkington's village-worship to Charles Mulford Robinson's philo-urbanism. Topical rather than chronological organization prevents Goist from delivering on his promise (p. 3) to discuss changing meanings of community. But he does demonstrate that different meanings have coexisted since the turn of the century, which supports his conclusion that instead of an arcadian monologue there has been a cultural dialogue on this issue.

Simon Fraser University

Don S. Kirschner

NEW BURLINGTON: The Life and Death of an American Village. By John Baskin. New York: W. W. Norton and Co. 1976. \$9.95.

Though modern America is a heavily industrialized and urbanized society, a sizable element of today's population still lauds an earlier time when the nation was committed to the Calvinistic and Jeffersonian principles endemic to rural life. *New Burlington* captures this nostalgic spirit by recounting the fate of a small Ohio town inundated by the waters of a Corps of Engineers project during the early 1970s. Rather than adopting a traditional narrative style, the book focuses upon individuals and presents their personal stories as recorded through oral history techniques. Numerous photos of the storytellers in bygone days augment the vignettes, and the author successfully blends the highly personalized accounts into a credible treatment of both the accomplishments and disappointments of American rural life.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha

Michael L. Tate

RELIGION IN THE OLD SOUTH. By Donald G. Mathews. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1977. \$10.95.

This profound and eloquent essay treats the rise of Evangelical Protestantism in the Old South as a movement of the lower-middle class to achieve personal esteem and liberty, the compromise of southern Evangelical values and goals following its institutional success, and (most importantly), the interaction of white and black Evangelicals, with black Christianity in the author's view finally embodying the authentic Christian values and experience that white Evangelicalism sacrificed in its accommodation to the world. Within this context the author provides a new, persuasive interpretation of Nat Turner's revolt.

Ohio State University

Merton I. Dillon

CRIME AND LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE COLONY OF NEW YORK, 1691-1776. By Douglas Greenberg. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. 1976. \$15.00.

This brief study subjects the very incomplete surviving records of crime and

punishment in colonial New York to quantitative and qualitative analysis. Greenberg finds that white males of English descent exceeded their proportions of the general population among criminal defendants. Besides ethnicity, the geographic distribution of crime is carefully mapped. Crimes against persons and property increased in volume after 1750, apart from the complications of political factors in this pre-Revolutionary generation, and the criminal justice institutions lagged increasingly in their attempts to cope with the problem. The book has flaws but is nevertheless a useful contribution to this aspect of the social history of colonial America.

Loyola University of Chicago

Henry Cohen

THE FLEDGLING PROVINCE: Social and Cultural Life in Colonial Georgia, 1733-1776. By Harold E. Davis. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press. 1976. \$16.95.

Davis notes that his study does not use quantitative methods; rather it is an analysis of the source materials that exist. The result is a well-written, general survey of practically every facet of colonial life in Georgia. For the student who wants to learn "something about everything" in colonial Georgia (education, religion, occupations, amusements and so on), this study is a good place to begin. However, one hopes other studies of a greater depth will appear eventually.

University of Nebraska—Omaha

Tommy R. Thompson

PROLOGUE TO INDEPENDENCE: New Jersey in the Coming of the American Revolution. By Larry R. Gerlach, New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press. 1976. \$25.00.

Larry Gerlach sets his study of the coming of the American Revolution in New Jersey within a conventional explanatory framework. He has industriously integrated and evaluated the impact of local, provincial and imperial issues on the pre-revolutionary years. While Gerlach's connections are not always explicit, his analysis of the colony's internal political character is meticulous and solid. His ultimate interpretative conclusions are less satisfactory. Gerlach argues that New Jersey, led by moderate revolutionaries "tacitly" supported by a "majority" of the people, reluctantly acquiesced in independence largely in response to regional pressures. However, the author's brief description of subsequent developments—a state deeply rent by civil war and internal violence—is inconsistent with the unity which he ascribes to the colony on the eve of independence. Although some sources of potential disorder are presented in the study, they remain unfocused because of the author's preoccupation with reconstructing the pre-revolutionary period.

University of Maryland, College Park

Ronald Hoffman

cash nexus

THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM: A Radical Analysis of American Society. Edited by Richard C. Edwards, Michael Reich and Thomas Weisskopf (2nd Edition). Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Hall, Inc. 1978. (1972). \$9.95.

Although this is a second edition, an edited book and a textbook (we normally don't review anthologies, revisions or textbooks), it is worth mentioning. The authors argue for a revolutionary transition to a genuine socialism. They do not particularly admire the alleged socialism of existent nations, which they find repressive, centralized and stiflingly bureaucratic; neither are they doctrinaire marxists, although they say that most of their inspiration is from marxist analysis. They would like a decentralized and highly participatory welfare state. The heart of their approach is confidence in the intelligence of educated American working people.

These are, in short, meliorists in the most traditional American sense, even to being strong believers in human perfectibility. This is not to accuse them of being simply conservative, for I believe that the normal American political and economic consciousness harbors social ideals far to the left of the theory or practice in many of those regimes which are labeled "revolutionary." I am not sure that the authors fully recognize the extent to which their "radicalism" is based on the sacred values of our culture, "givens," values which, when conflicts have arisen, have historically proven themselves to be stronger even than capitalist values themselves.

If the tone of *The Capitalist System* is far less abrasive than were similar "revolutionary" documents of a few years back, then, it is still probably more edgy than it need be, for the authors' analyses and proposals come far closer than they seem to

think to widely-shared national attitudes. I do not believe, for example, that Americans hold "profit" sacred; I do believe that they hold "fair play" sacred. The first may be criticized or tied to corruption or injustice; the latter is never attacked. This is a book about how to make fair play operate in economic and political spheres. And I wonder whether the resultant point of view, with its stress on diversity, regionalism, individual autonomy and public participation in all decisions, might not better be labeled "anarchism" (in the special, home-grown, favorable sense of that word, as it is used by David DeLeon) than socialism. SGL

THE ROLE OF ECONOMISTS IN POLICY-MAKING. By Roderic AiCamp. Tucson: University of Arizona Press. 1977. \$1.95.

This book provides an interesting comparison of economists in policy making in both Mexico and the United States. However, there are a number of gaps in the development of their role in key economic decisions. Although this book emphasizes Mexico, the comparison with the United States provides an interesting case for the role of the specialist in government decision-making: it is apparent that specialists have a more significant role in more developed countries like the U.S. than in less developed countries such as Mexico. The author also emphasizes the role of bargaining in policy formulation and strategic planning.
The University of Kansas

Morris Kleiner

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF URBAN TRANSPORTATION. By Delbert A. Taebel and James V. Cornehl. Port Washington, New York: Kennikat Press. 1977. \$13.95 cloth; \$8.95 paper.

This is a disappointing performance. It starts off with a reasonably valuable analysis of the major issues in urban transportation, but then becomes a conventional attack on the automobile. The authors correctly argue that public transportation is in poor shape and that we depend excessively on the private automobile, but there is more to the problem than is suggested by this dreary rehash of alleged conspiracy by the "high-way lobby" and the automobile industry. The plight of central cities and the problems of urban transportation will not be resolved simply by breaking up General Motors.
Harvey Mudd College

John B. Rae

institutions

PEOPLE & EVENTS: A HISTORY OF THE UNITED WAY. By United Way of America. Alexandria, Virginia. 1977.

An examination of the history of the United Way—or as it is more popularly known, the Community Chest—movement could be a major contribution to our understanding of the development of twentieth-century American civilization. The movement began as the offspring of the union of the Victorian distinction between the worthy and unworthy poor with the late nineteenth century—progressive era cult of efficiency. Its goal was to place the giving and disbursement of charitable funds upon a "scientific" basis, and, thereby, prevent indiscriminate alms giving, the diversion of the bulk of contributions to the most emotionally appealing, if not always the most necessitous, causes, and the duplication of efforts.

And an analysis of its subsequent growth could shed light upon such significant themes as:

1) The continuing vitality of voluntarism despite—and in part, in opposition to—the expansion of governmental welfare functions;

2) The process by which new elements (such as labor unions, for example) were incorporated—albeit slowly and oft-times grudgingly, since the leadership group remains still predominantly composed of well-off businessmen—into local power structures;

3) The changing priorities over time of these local establishments.

Unfortunately, the present slickly produced public-relations job does not fulfill the potentialities of its subject. What we have here is primarily an administrative history that traces the idea and its organizational expressions up through the end of World War I and then gives a year-by-year account of the activities of local community chests and their national umbrella organization.

The sponsor, the United Way of America, deserves thanks for making all these facts and figures readily available. But the work fails to place its story, except in a superficial chronological way, within the context of the larger changes in American

values and *mores* over the last century. And despite its more than ample documentation of the positive achievements of the Community Chest movement, it does not face up to the dangers inherent in a situation where life-or-death control over local "good works" is exercised by a single agency whose leadership is not representative of the community as a whole.

University of Nebraska—Lincoln

John Braeman

SOCIAL CONTROL OF THE WELFARE STATE. By Morris Janowitz. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1976. \$3.95.

This work of macrosociology has a prescriptive purpose: to outline the required institutional reshaping which will strengthen parliamentary democracy and social welfare in the United States. The author's concern arises from an analysis of the economics of social welfare, including expenditures for education and medical care, in the face of declining rates of economic growth. He asserts that "social control" classically meant "self-regulation," not conformity, and that democratic procedures of national planning are required to resuscitate social control of the American welfare state. He rejects class analysis of American politics, arguing that the growth of the welfare state since 1945 requires understanding pressure groups, especially those arising from occupational categories.

Specialists may disagree with particular points of the analysis which are expressed in general terms. It is beyond the author's scope, apparently, to deal in practical political terms with how the reforms he advocates may occur. The analysis seems sound, the solutions, regrettably, visionary.

Ohio State University

K. Austin Kerr

THE MASTER ARCHITECTS: Building the United States Foreign Service 1890-1913. By Richard Hume Werking. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky. 1977. \$18.75.

Reorganization of the United States foreign service in the two decades prior to World War I fit squarely within contemporary themes—order, efficiency, organizational rivalry and economic growth. Wilbur J. Carr, Elihu Root and other "master architects" struggled to overcome problems caused by political patronage and clumsy administration in the foreign service. Their efforts remind social scientists concerned with the broad implications of national policy that successful policy implementation requires a sound bureaucratic base. In the foreign service, as Richard Hume Werking shows, professionalization resulted in the enthusiastic promotion of American commerce abroad.

California State University, Sacramento

William O. Walker III

INDUSTRIALIZATION AND THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT, 1850-1900. By Irwin Yellowitz. Port Washington, New York: Kennikat Press. 1977. \$12.50.

Continuing his research into the relation between the labor movement and reform tradition, Yellowitz charts a remarkably consistent late nineteenth century pattern. Though widely varying in strength and degree to which innovation affected their trade, unions responded similarly; they rejected political action because of its marginal yield from the 1830s to the 1870s; formed no coalition with Social Progressives because competitive self-interest still dominated over concepts of social interdependence and community responsibility; relied upon modifications of their preindustrial arsenal (apprenticeship, hours regulation, immigration restriction, limitation of child and female labor, work rules) to blunt the effects of unbridled industrialization (oversupply of goods, unemployment, displacement). The book is impressively grounded in research on a wide variety of trades.

University of Maryland, College Park

Stuart Bruce Kaufman

TOWARD A WARLESS WORLD: The Travail of the American Peace Movement, 1887-1914. By David S. Patterson. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press. 1976. \$15.00.

In this thoughtful, well-written, and admirably researched monograph, the author succeeds in illuminating the complex history of the American peace movement in the generation preceding World War I. As he demonstrates, that movement gradually ceased to pose a significant challenge to the prevailing social order and, consequently, proved unable to halt the drift toward war. Caught up in the elitist and nationalist

currents of the time, much of the peace movement rallied to the flag during the world conflagration. This destroyed the credibility of older, conservative peace organizations and set the stage for a more thoroughgoing critique of war and social injustice.
State University of New York, Albany
Lawrence S. Wittner

family

CHILDREN IN THE NEW ENGLAND MIND. By Peter Gregg Slater. Hamden, Connecticut: Arcon Books. 1977. \$15.00.

Slater's lucidly written book analyzes ideas regarding children (living and dead)—including both specifics of child-rearing advice as well as broader philosophic contexts of socialization—in New England between the 17th and mid-19th centuries. Slater writes as self-avowedly an intellectual historian, rather than as a “new” social historian: only through systematic analysis of ideas, he reasons, can one eventually understand the interaction of ideas and behavior. Given this stance, the author is appropriately cautious about making linkages between ideas and behavior.

The book explicates the markedly disparate views of the child's nature over 200 years in New England. “The causes of the disparity,” says Slater, “must be sought in the adult mind and the factors which influenced it.” Slater's text consists of four independent but related essays, “all of which have as their main theme the Calvinist outlook on children as it was affected by faith's inner tensions, by other points of view, or by changing cultural patterns.”

Within the parameters of his approach, Slater makes a valuable scholarly contribution to the history of ideas relating to American family experience. Among points of interest, the author shows that the potentially confusing twentieth-century American experience of being confronted simultaneously by various and contradictory ideas about child nature and training has ample precedents in the American past.
University of Kansas
G. H. Steere

A DIVIDED PEOPLE. By Kenneth S. Lynn. West Port, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1977. \$11.95.

Kenneth S. Lynn has written an interesting, though not entirely convincing, study of Loyalists and Patriots in the American Revolution. His thesis is that the nature of father-son ties affected, in large part, attitudes toward Royal authority. In homes where fathers governed in an autocratic manner and compelled unquestioning obedience, childhood habits of submission to patriarchal government fostered submission to Royal government in 1776. Conversely, in homes where fathers allowed sons more independence, particularly in matters of career, the young were more likely to question, criticize and ultimately resist attempts to increase imperial power. Patriots, concludes Lynn, generally had more emotionally satisfying relationships with their fathers or with father-figures than did Loyalists and were psychologically more prepared to accept independence. Two chapters of biographies, 13 of Loyalists (Benedict Arnold to Peter Van Schaack) and 18 of Patriots (John Adams to Anthony Wayne), serve to illustrate the different father-son dynamics in the households.

Lynn's biographies, however, are the principal weakness of the book. They average less than 3 pages in length, with the result that all of the characters studied seem one dimensional, narrowly hued to fit Lynn's thesis. And in no case did Lynn study households wherein Patriots and Loyalists grew up in the same family, a situation requiring more sophisticated analysis and lengthier explanation. While family history as a research field holds much promise for the future, this particular book seems premature.
Western Reserve Historical Society
Raimund E. Goerler

agriculture

HIREN HANDS AND PLOWBOYS: Farm Labor in the Midwest, 1815-1860. By David Schob. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1975. \$10.95.

Schob's book is uneven in scope and narrow in focus. Ohio and Illinois seem to dominate the discussion and sources; Minnesota is included and Iowa is excluded. Diligent use of manuscripts and contemporary sources produced a wealth of descriptive information about the need for hired labor and how it worked in “set up,” prairie breaking, teamstering, harvesting, digging, horticulture and off season jobs, but does

not give much sense of the life of hired laborers as persons. The topical organization leads to repetition, and the introduction of statistical data and comparative comments in the last chapter does not overcome the narrow focus.

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TENURE, NATIVITY AND AGE AS FACTORS IN IOWA AGRICULTURE, 1850-1880. By Seddie Cogswell, Jr. Ames: Iowa State University Press. 1975. \$5.00.

Cogswell, through a detailed analysis of census data for twenty-six townships in eastern Iowa, argues that increasing tenancy was not a sign of agricultural distress but a temporary stage for younger farmers beginning farming. The book is narrow in scope, but the detailed evidence raises very broad questions and offers some answers which will require scholars to reevaluate their generalizations about farm tenantry.

Iowa State University

James Whitaker

WHEN FARMERS VOTED RED: The Gospel of Socialism in the Oklahoma Country-side, 1910-1924. By Garin Burbank. Westport: Greenwood Press. 1976. \$13.95.

The significant vote given the Socialist Party in Oklahoma during the Progressive Era raises interesting questions. This study relates it to origins in the Populist movement, evangelical Protestantism and agrarian discontent as well as National Socialist goals. Based, to some extent necessarily, on limited sources, this is the best study thus far on the subject, but a definitive work is yet to be done. Agrarian radical opposition to the Ku Klux Klan in the early 1920's is a worthwhile adjunct to the account.

University of Tulsa

I. E. Cadenhead, Jr.

native americans & the government

THE NAVAJOS AND THE NEW DEAL. By Donald L. Parman. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. 1976. \$17.50.

In 1933, Commissioner John Collier confronted the dilemma of persuading or forcing the Navajos to reduce their livestock herds in order to conserve a rapidly eroding land base, while at the same time gaining their confidence so as to assure their participation in other New Deal rehabilitation programs. Parman, in this well documented volume, describes both the strategies which Collier employed, and the persons whom he chose to carry them out. The resulting narration is fascinating, and the book is, by all odds, a major addition to the growing literature of the important Collier period in U.S. Indian administration.

University of Arizona

James E. Officer

INDIAN PEACE MEDALS IN AMERICAN HISTORY. By Francis Paul Prucha. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 1971. \$15.00.

Prucha's examination of medals produced by the United States government for presentation to American Indians reveals the centrality of these objects to the conduct of Indian relations. Part I of his book describes the uses of the medals from their earliest employment as instruments of political diplomacy through their devaluation into decorative trinkets by the end of the nineteenth century. Part II is an illustrated catalogue of the medals, with commentary on the origin, iconography and historical role of each. Extensive documentation and bibliography follow the text.

University of Illinois

Ann Lee Morgan

women

THE BONDS OF WOMANHOOD: "Woman's Sphere" in New England, 1780-1835. By Nancy Cott. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1977. \$12.50.

This excellent interpretive essay attempts to resolve the apparent paradox of the emergence of the "cult of domesticity" and the early feminist movement among white middle-class women in New England during the early national period. Cott concludes that domesticity provided a "group consciousness" which in turn led to women's demands for increased rights. The volume is particularly strong on the use of women's diaries, letters and other personal sources.

University of Northern Iowa

Glenda Riley

PERISH THE THOUGHT: Intellectual Women in Romantic America 1830-1860. By Susan P. Conrad. New York: Oxford University Press. 1976. \$12.95.

Conrad well summarizes the thought and writings and the life patterns of Margaret Fuller, Elizabeth Ellet, Lydia Maria Child, Louisa McCord, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Elizabeth Oakes Smith and Caroline Dall, all historians of women, intellectual feminists or "women of letters," intent upon de-defining woman's sphere: She explores the vital question of how they reconciled the enormous tensions inherent in the contradictory roles of passive lady and autonomous thinker. Her solution is that Romanticism, with its reverence for sensitivity, permitted the ideally intuitive woman to write about her sex. Unfortunately, this framework belittles women's agency in challenging the mighty constraints on ante-bellum women.

Ohio State University

Karen J. Blair

literature

HENRY JAMES—THE LESSONS OF THE MASTER: Popular Fiction and Personal Style in the Nineteenth Century. By William Veeder. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1975. \$16.00.

Well-versed in both popular fiction and drama, Henry James transmuted their conventions of style and characterization in his own fiction. This excellent work demonstrates, by quantitative stylistic analyses as well as by provocative references to a variety of nineteenth-century documents, how James acknowledged the literary conventions and the social conditions of his day, yet criticized them thoroughly. Veeder discusses James' early fiction, but focuses primarily on *Washington Square* and *The Portrait of a Lady*, arguing persuasively that James drew Catherine Sloper and Isabel Archer in relation to Victorian concepts of women, to the radical "Woman Question," and to their own flawed, yet marvelous humanity.

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HENRY ADAMS AND HENRY JAMES: The Emergence of a Modern Consciousness. By John Carlos Rowe. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. 1976. \$12.50.

Confronted with the uncertainty of an increasingly pluralistic world at the end of the nineteenth century, Henry Adams and Henry James sought to discover in their varied literary, historical and autobiographical works the means for sustaining a livable social context. Rowe's discussion, which is grounded in a consideration of the century's epistemological upheaval, suggests that Adams' *Esther*, *Democracy*, *Mont-Saint-Michel and Chartres* and *The Education*, and James' *The American Scene*, *The Wings of the Dove*, *The Golden Bowl* and "The Beast in the Jungle" are attempts "to give symbolic shape and meaning to a reality and a self." Rowe's study explains how both authors, unwilling to be defeated by the forces of nihilism, came to rely upon the importance of processes and relationships, not as things in themselves, but as functions. Rowe's book is of value for its insights not only into the workings of the historical and aesthetic imaginations of Adams and James, but also for its reflections on the effects of the philosophical malaise and the cultural discontinuity of the nineteenth century.

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THE ART OF LIFE: Studies in American Autobiographical Literature. By Mutlu Konuk Blasing. Austin: University of Texas Press. 1977. \$11.95.

Discussing *Walden*, *Song of Myself*, James' Prefaces, *The Education of Henry Adams*, *Paterson* and the poetry of Frank O'Hara, Blasing theorizes that history and myth inform the autobiographical mode. Her five chapters on these six writers, however, are only tenuously related, and although she makes occasionally perceptive observations on the nature of autobiography, e.g., its inevitable comic tone and its double perspective, these are buried in the text. Her brief final chapter attempts to deal with the proclivity of Americans to write autobiography, but the implications of the chapter are neither fully examined nor linked to the previous discussions. While her chapters on the individual writers are informative, the book as a whole, as a consideration of either autobiography itself or the cultural underpinnings of these autobiographies, lacks integrity.

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BARAKA: The Renegade and the Mask. By Kimberly W. Benston. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1976. \$12.50.

Through careful analysis of his poetry, prose and drama, Benston traces the growth of LeRoi Jones from an a-political, existentialist, Beat poet to Imamu Amiri Baraka, politically conscious, *engagé*, Afro-American writer. The struggle of the hero in Jones' early autobiographical work, *The System of Dante's Hell*, to find his identity and a sense of community is resolved in Baraka's later works, especially in his ritualistic drama which is based on a "unity of feeling and total participation" with the audience. The value of Benston's study lies in the illumination it brings first to Baraka's career and second to the nature of Afro-American literature, the black aesthetic, and the difference between Afro-American literature and recent Euro-American literature.

University of Kansas

Elizabeth A. Schultz

MARK TWAIN SPEAKING. Edited by Paul Fatout, Iowa City: University of Iowa Press. 1976. \$22.50.

To Americans of the latter nineteenth century, Mark Twain was a well-known public speaker who also wrote books. In spite of Hal Holbrook's popularity as an impersonator, this sense of Twain's oral art has been largely lost today, partly because of inadequacies in the two editions of *Mark Twain's Speeches* which preceded Paul Fatout's more satisfactory effort. The first, published in 1910, collected 105 speeches, arranging them haphazardly; Albert Bigelow Paine grouped 84 addresses into a chronological outline for the 1923 edition. Fatout, by comparison, offers 195. His book is indexed, and he includes a 34-page calendar of Twain's public-speaking performances.

Fatout originally prepared his manuscript for the Iowa-California series of The Works of Mark Twain, but problems of establishing authoritative texts from newspapers, magazines and books made the collection unsuitable for that scholarly project. As an example, Fatout was forced to draw on seven variant texts in constructing what he terms a "composite" of Twain's controversial speech at the birthday dinner for John Greenleaf Whittier in 1877. But Fatout's knowledgeable conjectures and unobtrusive editorial commentary mean that *Mark Twain Speaking* will remain the standard edition of Twain's speeches for many years.

University of Texas

Alan Gribben

THE LIFE: The Lore and Folk Poetry of the Black Hustler. By Murray B. Binderman, Ronald B. Newman and Dennis Wepman. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 1976. \$15.00.

A collection of folk poems, known as toasts, from and about the sporting life, the life of pimps, hustlers, junkies, prostitutes in the black urban community. Without making moral judgements on either the exploitative "mackmen" or the oppressive racist society, the introduction to this collection surveys the important values of "the life," the attributes of its heroes, and the particular aesthetic qualities of the toasts. Each of the 34 toasts presented here is preceded by a headnote which relates it to other toasts, evaluates it aesthetically and describes the raconteur and the effects of the toasts on their audience.

University of Kansas

Elizabeth A. Schultz