

reviews

Note: In this section, three asterisks between reviews indicate that the review above is by the same reviewer as the review below. Reviews by the members of the editorial board are signed with initials.

arts

COLONIAL AMERICAN PORTRAITURE: The Economic, Religious, Social, Cultural, Philosophical, Scientific, and Aesthetic Foundation. By Wayne Craven. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press. 1986. \$39.50.

This important book discusses portraits in colonial America from their first appearance around 1665 to the era of the American Revolution. It focuses on their social and cultural context, drawing on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century material as well as on modern studies in history, biography and art history. It is particularly thorough in its use of published sources on prominent colonial artists and sitters. Its thesis is that when colonial portraits are examined in their cultural context they reveal a uniquely American style created in this new colonial setting.

There is no doubt that colonial portraits need to be reexamined in their cultural context. The author discusses a considerable number of portraits, covering a full range in terms of time period or geographical location, and the sitters' life, class, politics, or religion. This is very useful: for too long American colonial portraits have mainly been studied either for genealogical or art historical reasons, as examples of a family's history or an artist's work. To reunite them through the biographies of the sitters to their cultural context is important, and is the direction offering the best promise for a better understanding of both colonial society and its artists.

The author's suggestion that these portraits evidence a unique American style raises important questions about using an analysis of a painting in an interdisciplinary context. The author defines the colonial American style of painting by singling out specific American character traits as materialism, pragmatism, egalitarianism and self-confidence, and equating these with certain visual results. By doing this, he is using the term "style" to combine two different elements of a portrait—technique and content. However, it can be suggested that while technique does come under the artist's full control, content in portraiture often derives more closely from choices made by the sitter and artist together, especially when the size of the portrait, the clothing, biographical "props" and background details are concerned. Thus one aspect of the "style" of portraiture is innately biographical. Perhaps, therefore, it is not the aesthetics of colonial American portraiture that makes these examples different from English precedents, but the sitter himself, in dress, economic level and social status.

Dr. Craven's book is very useful as a survey of portraiture in colonial America. At the same time, it is provocative in its definition of a stylistic nationalism in the colonial period.

National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

Ellen G. Miles

MUSIC AT THE WHITE HOUSE: A History of the American Spirit. By Elise K. Kirk. *Music in American Life.* Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1986. \$24.95.

Rather than a history of the American spirit, this book serves as a microcosm of U. S. musical life, as reflected by tastes and activities of its presidents and their families. The U.S. Marine Band, which has performed at the White House since 1801, is as close as we get to The King's Musick; the immediate model was the small bands hired by (and paid privately by) our Revolutionary War officers for ceremonial and social occasions. Some presidents were accomplished musicians (Jefferson, Truman); nonetheless, musical activities usually were (and are) chosen by the First Lady. These activities included private musicales beginning with President Hayes, which eventually became almost a command-performance concert series with FDR, and shared by means of television under JFK. There is a full accounting of White House pianos, private and public, and even titles of some of the sheet music owned by presidential families. All aspects of American musical life—popular, folk, gospel, classical, even ballet, opera and rock—eventually represented. Some of the general connective threads with commonly-known historical background seem contrived, and there are a few minor errors (it's Letitia Baldrige, not "Baldrige"; Charles Seeger, unlike his sons Mike and Pete, was a folksong scholar, not singer). Nonetheless, Kirk's writing is smooth, the illustrations lavish, the research and documentation thorough. Highly recommended as a pleasurable and informative survey.

* * *

VIRGIL THOMSON: A Bio-Bibliography. By Michael Meckna. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1986. \$29.95.

The subject is vitally important in American composition of the second and third quarters of our century, and also among this century's most readable and influential music critics and commentators. The basic bibliographical information on Thomson's compositions and writings is contained in Meckna's reference work (printed by offset from his typewritten-looking computer printer). Lacking, however, are excerpts of reviews and other evaluations, which otherwise would have provided the user with a more informative guide to the relative importance and nature of Thomson's compositions and writings. This year (1987) Thomson reaches his ninety-second year, and I can testify (on the basis of a public interview sponsored by my university in April) that his views continue to be sharp and witty. Thomson is indeed a musical treasure of our time, worth more than this book reflects.

* * *

CHARLES IVES: The Ideas Behind the Music. By J. Peter Burkholder. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1985. \$17.95.

This is a wonderful book, of interest to American music scholars and to Americanists in general. Our sister organization, the Sonneck Society, in April 1987 awarded Professor Burkholder (on the music faculty of the University of Wisconsin, Madison) its Irving Lowens award, for the best book on American music published in 1985, with a citation reading in part: "Peter Burkholder's book traces systematically and in detail the development of Ives' views on music from his boyhood through the publication in 1920 of *Essays before a Sonata*. It is a thought-provoking examination of Ives' relationship to Transcendentalism, and a thorough examination of the influence of Ives' teachers, family, friends, and of his wife Harmony Ives on the development of the composer's aesthetic principles. We commend Peter Burkholder for his readable style, in which information drawn from a wide range of documentary and archival sources is clearly and

articulately presented. This book is a major contribution to our understanding of the philosophical framework underlying Ives' musical career." What more can I add?
University of Kansas J. Bunker Clark

UP FROM THE CRADLE OF JAZZ: New Orleans Music Since World War II. By Jason Berry, Jonathon Foose and Tad Jones. Athens: University of Georgia Press. 1986. \$35.00 cloth. \$15.95 paper.

As its subtitle indicates, the book deals with musical developments in the city of New Orleans during the last forty years. Three lines are followed: The main element is blues and rhythm & blues, which starts with Professor Longhair and "Fats" Domino, and reaches its high point in the late 1950s, although it remains an important part of the city's music; modern jazz, as exemplified by the Marsalis family; and the music of the Mardi Gras Indians, the main example of which is the Wild Tchoupitoulas. The authors have intimate knowledge of their subject, and they give us not only a history of the music, but also the musical families, the neighborhoods, clubs and bars where it all happened. They clearly love their city, and they write about it with understanding and enthusiasm. A wonderful book, highly recommended for anyone interested in American popular culture.
University of Kansas Michael Maher

WRITING NATURE: Henry Thoreau's *Journal*. By Sharon Cameron. New York: Oxford University Press. 1985. \$17.50. THOREAU'S COMPLEX WEAVE: The Writing of *A Week* on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers with a Text of the First Draft. By Linck C. Johnson. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia. 1986. \$37.50.

By applying reader-response theory to Thoreau's *Journal*, Cameron limits the valid use of nature in its own right to pictures of propositions that result not in the "nothing" of dead-end ideas, but in almost mystical "joy." Thus in the *Journal* Thoreau transcribes nature in its own right for himself and posterity as audience, while *Walden* adulterates nature for a reading public with frequent unnatural intrusions which are not its best subject. Cameron thus eliminates science, society, economics and government from consideration. Consistently, Cameron also omits *Journal* texts that link nature with slavery and higher moral aspiration (E.g., *Journal* VI, 225; IX, 364-5; X, 133-4), presumably as not nature pure. Cameron also claims that Thoreau meant his *Journal* as autonomous and final, not as draft material for further work. But this conclusion does not fit the facts of Thoreau's life. In 1860 he was still using the *Journal* for social reform in "A Plea for Captain John Brown" and for scientific induction in "The Succession of Forest Trees." Thoreau is more than a nature writer and there is much more in his *Journal* than Cameron cares to admit.

If *Writing Nature* limits knowledge of Thoreau through lack of first-hand manuscript work and by exclusion of all but narrowly defined areas, Johnson in *Thoreau's Complex Weave* is expansive in aim. With the superior technique of recent expertise Johnson has done brilliant textual work. While Shanley had published the first draft of *Walden* from manuscripts at the Huntington Library, Johnson later noted that the scattered manuscripts described by Howarth included leaves that were a first draft of *A Week*. So Johnson with skilled labor produced this unique text which is important for his explanation of the development of *A Week*. Based on further biographical, historical and literary research, Johnson includes Thoreau's early excursions, his elegiac memorial to his brother John, his ambivalent concern with reform, his knowledge of the early New England colonists' relentless mistreatment of the Indians and his reading from Homer through Milton to the Romantic poets—all of them contributing to his ultimately American work.

This excellent study is limited by lack of aesthetic insight. The myriad facts are made of equal importance, as Johnson includes everything he has learned about *A Week*, which is itself regarded as of greater historical value than *Walden*. Although the acclaim of textual specialists is excessive, this is an admirable work.
The University of Iowa Alexander Kern

IMAGES OF CHILDREN IN AMERICAN FILM: A Socio-cultural Analysis. By Kathy Nerlock Jackson. Metuchen, New Jersey: The Scarecrow Press. 1986. \$22.50

There is little to recommend here. If someone wants a flawed and superficial analysis of the way children have been portrayed in American film, then *Images of Children in American Film* might suffice. One will learn that "prior to World War II the image of children in American films was one of unqualified ignorance." Following the war, darker depictions of young Americans appeared, but did not replace the theme of innocence.

The reader also finds a standard bibliography of scholarly work and a list of 150 films cited. Missing from the bibliography are works on childhood such as Bernard Wisby's *Child and the Republic*, Robert Coles's *Children of Crisis* series and Carl Segler's important work on the American family, *At Odds*.

The author claims that "films provide a key to important social attitudes that are deeply embedded in the unconscious or that are being repressed" and that "social attitudes toward children obtained from movies are difficult to ascertain from other sources, often because people are too guilty to admit to any resentment or neglect of children or simply because they are unaware of their own true feelings" or, one might add, these attitudes are hard to reconcile because the author has not looked in the right places.

Memphis State University

Joseph M. Hawes

autobiography

STATES OF PERFECT FREEDOM: Autobiography and American Political Thought. By Philip Abbott. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. 1987. \$20.00.

This is a suggestive and sobering contribution to the growing body of criticism of autobiography as cultural document and individual expression. Abbott's book largely ignores problems of language (fiction) and reflexivity (whether and how personal narrative refers to a prior reality beyond language), directing attention instead to autobiography as political thought legitimating the American liberal consensus. His title refers to Locke's assertion that political power is best understood in terms of man's "natural" or "ideal" state wherein the individual lives without depending upon another's will. By contrast with "sermonic" formulae, autobiography complements, completes and criticizes liberal theory through individual accounts of public and private praxis. Abbott discovers a common pattern of conversions connecting the diverse autobiographies of Franklin, Malcolm X, Abbie Hoffman, Thoreau, Whitaker Chambers, Lillian Hellman, Henry Adams, Steffens, Richard Wright, Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Jane Addams. "The movement from a life of sin to one of grace, from poverty to wealth, from egoism to altruism (or vice versa), from dependence to liberation forms the praxis of American political thought. One establishes a clear vision of the self as it currently exists, then as one would like it to be, with steps to achieve the latter." The autobiographical corollary, however, is equally clear: American conversions (often serial) are almost never complete; the new self often cannot find the answers the sermonic tradition requires; exile, alienation and fragmentation are more common than the ideal of a balanced autonomy and social union. "In a sense the autobiography subverts the ideological function of the sermonic tradition."

Since this liberal consensus has become doubly personal—with theories of the public good based on private experience—even extreme American lives are exemplary and functional. Even when an autobiographer records a crack-up rather than conversion to an integrated self, "whenever he finds a new self, no matter how at odds with the liberal consensus, he again becomes the raw material for the legitimizing tradition. He has succeeded, others too can now succeed." Thus the "failures" of an Adams, Malcolm X, or Hellman "are, when fully admitted, the ground for a new kind of American political thought." Each of the eleven autobiographers Abbott examines is an outsider whose actual experiences and dreams test official pieties of individual and collective liberation. Lillian Hellman is his extreme instance of "a tragic and fragile individualism," while "only with Jane Addams is the role of the immigrant as outsider transformed to genuine

freedom." If autobiography in America is predominantly a two-hundred-year record of estrangement, Abbott concludes, "what can we say about the moral success of the legitimizing tradition?"

AES

CHARLES A. LINDBERGH: A Bio-Bibliography. By Perry D. Lockett. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1986. \$29.95.

A brief (147 pages) analytical bio-bibliography of Charles A. Lindbergh divided into six sections examining his life, his role in aviation and American society, in popular culture, followed by a bibliographical essay, a selective bibliography and a chronology. Lockett in his favorable analysis argues that Lindbergh's life reflects "the pride, joy, certainty, sorrow and faith of the nation." He also devotes considerable attention to his love-hate relationship with the press and his symbolic entity combining within himself, particularly in the 1920s, the tension between the older frontier spirit and the dominant technocratic social order.

Iowa State University

Richard Lowitt

REINHOLD NIEBUHR: A Biography. By Richard Wightman Fox. New York: Pantheon Books. 1985. \$19.95.

Fox's excellent biography helps to explain both Niebuhr's changes in position as he responded to successive conditions and in reputation as ideologies split. He made his name as a reformer, but after World War II he moved from "left-liberal" to "right-liberal." In religion, he moved from the attack on immoral society to the recognition of man's sinful nature, though still paradoxically believing in the "courage to change" what could be changed. Fox effectively denies the view of both the new religious right and the new left that Niebuhr became a neo-orthodox neo-conservative.

A conscious outsider as the middlewestern son of a German immigrant preacher, Niebuhr retained a broader pattern than the New England Puritan and Emersonian traditions. In his prophetic preaching he challenged his hearers to apply Christian ethics to present problems. In Detroit he exposed the philanthropic pretensions of Henry Ford, backed labor, socialist causes and the United States in World War I, but the chaos after the Versailles Treaty made him into an influential pacifist who had more effect on Martin Luther King's non-violent crusade than did Mahatma Gandhi. When he first taught Christian Ethics part-time at Union Theological Seminary, his conservative colleagues objected more to his midwestern accent and uncouth manners than to his radical ideas. But an offer from Yale gained him tenure at Union where his pragmatic ethics won followers. When the rise of Hitler seemed more dangerous than war, Niebuhr became an ardent anti-Nazi.

In the 1930s Niebuhr's religious emphases moved from ethical reform toward a theology of the sinfulness of man. Because pride, the greatest sin, perverted all men and movements, no earthly utopia would ever be obtained. While Niebuhr himself suffered from pride, he also showed humility. He always maintained he was no systematic theologian, yet the insights of *The Nature and Destiny of Man* made it a major work in American theology.

After World War II American exceptionalism seemed to be substantiated by the defeat of Fascism, the enmity of Russia and American rise in the Peace Corps, Fulbright grants and the spread of American Studies. Consequently, he turned his attacks away from American materialism to Communism. Uncharacteristically affirmative about the U.S. Constitution, with its checks, balances and personal freedoms, he still knew it would not work in the Third World. And while he berated the Russians, he also objected to the atom bomb, the Korean conflict, the attack on Vietnam and claims of moral superiority when the U.S. was becoming more like Russia by using the same techniques.

Fox's book is generally sound in its judgments of Niebuhr, recognizing his greatness while noting his deficiencies and avoiding excess adulation and praise. Yet Niebuhr's chief writings do not receive just treatment, because Fox uses scholarly hindsight to

emphasize every defect as if to prove his own superiority. Nevertheless, this is an impressive book on a major man in an important period.

University of Iowa

Alexander Kern

science and technology

SHIFTING GEARS: Technology, Literature, Culture in Modernist America. By Cecilia Tichi. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1987. \$35.00

As Americanists in many fields well know, the critical literature on the transformation of America during the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries is extensive as well as full of valuable models of cultural history. The processes of profound economic, social and cultural change from rural-agricultural to urban-industrial, from post-Romantic to modernist, have been described and analyzed by Robert Wiebe and Alan Trachtenberg (history), Alfred Kazin and Warner Berthoff (literature), Lewis Mumford and William Jordy (architecture), John Kasson (technology), David Danbom (agriculture), John Haller (medicine) and Stephen Kern (concepts of space and time), among many others. To this extensive corpus Cecilia Tichi adds this useful and wide-ranging synthesis. Her critique embraces and interrelates scientific and technological concepts and inventions with cultural artifacts and consciousness. She traces the rise and wane of gear-and-girder technology which as variously typified in the Bessemer converter, truss bridge, automobile and skyscraper made a new world (a world view) of component parts as the new "standard for what was considered natural," elevated the engineer to the status of culture hero, and created the value-cluster of efficiency, stability, speed, the elimination of waste and functional regularity which came to dominate home, childrearing, education, art and literature, as well as factory, farm and office. Tichi's analysis inevitably covers much familiar territory but also extends the range of archetypes, innovators and creators. She brings into one coherent narrative Bellamy, F. W. Taylor, Veblen and Henry Adams; Frank Lloyd Wright, Pound, Sheeler, William Carlos Williams and Dos Passos; Froebel toys and Erector sets; the modern kitchen, the El and the Empire State building; The Winning of Barbara Worth and Herbert Hoover. Her discussions are richly illustrated by photographs, advertisements, engineering drawings, paintings. The ample and impressive bibliography attests to the fields she has explored in both primary and critical texts as she maps the profound cultural shift from Civil War muskets to the computer.

AES

MASTERS OF MADNESS: Social Origins of the American Psychiatric Profession. By Constance M. McGovern. Hanover, New Hampshire: University Press of New England. 1986. \$22.50.

The author traces both the history of certain mental asylums and of the superintendents of them in the mid- to late-nineteenth century when there was an attempt to use so-called moral therapy to cure the mentally ill. McGovern is at least as concerned with other occupational, if not precisely the professional (in our modern, as distinct from the nineteenth century notion of that much-abused word) histories of these museum superintendents as she is with the ideas, the world-views and the therapies they believed in and used with their patients. Her historical arguments are based on reasonably sound and judicious reading of the sources; it may well be anachronistic to refer to a "profession" or to "psychiatry" before such existed in historical fact, but perhaps I am picking nits to all but historians. The author is far more concerned with the social policy implications of her research; she is anxious to contribute to the contemporary debate over whether the dependent and the mentally troubled should be "deinstitutionalized" or not—that is, discharged from mental institutions and left to fend for themselves with, in some cases, some outpatient care. She is convinced that the lessons of the past, to the effect that deinstitutionalization is not a good idea, should inform contemporary debate.

* * *

THE CONTINUOUS WAVE: Technology and American Radio, 1900-1932. By Hugh G. J. Aitken. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1985. \$67.50 Cloth. \$19.95 Paper.

In recent years there has been much debate within and without the scholarly community or communities, over whether technology is and has been an autonomous force that drives society. The distinguished author provides us with both a clearly written, thoughtful and well researched monographic account of the development of radio, especially on its technical side, and a response to the whole debate that is chewy, reflective and complex. He describes a critical period in the history of radio when continuous wave technology made reliable long distance communication by "wireless." He shows how the superiority that Americans had achieved in radio technology by the mid-1910s enabled individuals in the U.S. Navy to sustain American supremacy. Then, he discusses the events leading up to the formation of RCA as both a private corporation and an instrument of national policy in radio. Ultimately this sustains the American edge in the field; it creates the opening of the mass market for radio in American culture. To state his conclusion, that broadcasting did not result from the inexorable unfolding of a technological imperative latent in radio technology, but that it came to the fore when continuous wave radio finally found a mass market, is, in a sense, to cheat, for the book is too rich to simplify and vulgarize in this way. American Studies scholars would find much to learn in this book about modern technology and culture, whether they agreed with Professor Aitken or not.

* * *

INVENTING THE NIH: Federal Biomedical Research Policy, 1887-1937. By Victoria A. Harden. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1986. \$32.50.

The author sees the rise of the National Institutes of Health as coming from a long line of political debate over research and regulation of public health. This begins with turn of the century concern over infectious diseases, foods and drugs. The expansion of federal regulation of health issues throughout the twenties then leads to the creation of the NIH in 1937. This is institutional and political history, a study of the "evolution" of federal policy, not a history of scientific and medical research. One might question whether there was a meaningful relationship between the humble bacteriological laboratory of 1887 and the National Institute of Health in 1937, for each seemed, from one point of view, to represent the "wisdom" of entirely different epochs in the history of American civilization. But the information is solid and authoritative and useful.

HC

education

AMERICAN LITERATURE AND THE ACADEMY: The Roots, Growth, and Maturity of a Profession. By Kermit Vanderbilt. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 1986. \$34.95.

This is a carefully researched, lengthy and informative history of the academic and intellectual campaign to "build respect for America's authors and create standards of excellence in the study and teaching of our own literature." Most of the movement's leaders were university professors, white and male. Their modern lineage reaches from Moses Coit Tyler (*The Literary History of the American Revolution, 1897*) to Robert Spiller, Willard Thorp, Henry S. Canby and Thomas H. Johnson (*Literary History of the United States, 1948*). Midway stands the *Cambridge History of American Literature, 1917-1921*, created by W. P. Trent, Carl Van Doren, John Erskine, and Stuart Sherman. Besides these pioneers, and often dissenting from their orthodoxies and timidities, were a succession of notable insurgents and mavericks whose solitary achievements often matched in cultural importance the multi-volumed histories. Van Wyck Brooks' *America's Coming-of-Age*, V. Parrington's *Main Currents of American Thought*, Norman Foerster's *The Reinterpretation of American Literature*, Granville Hicks' *The Great Tradition*, F. O. Matthiessen's *American Renaissance*, Alfred Kazin's *On Native Grounds*

receive Vanderbilt's historical attention. All these authors struggled to impose upon a neglected and diffuse body of writing their various theories of literary/historical evolution, aesthetic evaluation and literary nationalism. Also discussed in this pietistic account are a host of other cultural and institutional aspects of American literature, including university curricula, professional associations, journals and off-shoots like the American Studies Association. Vanderbilt's research will prove permanently valuable to the profession itself, though even today's proud practitioners of a now dominant field may experience data overkill. Who really cares that Parrington as a Harvard undergraduate received a B from Barrett Wendell in composition, that Matthiessen paid \$348.04 in author's corrections in the proofs of his masterpiece?

AES

POWER AND THE PROMISE OF SCHOOL REFORM: Grass-Roots Movements During the Progressive Era. By William J. Reese. New York: Routledge and Kegan Paul. 1986. \$39.95 cloth. \$14.95 paper.

By looking in depth at educational reform movements in Kansas City, Milwaukee, Rochester and Toledo, Reese has constructed a different vision of the educational history of the Progressive Era than that found in Lawrence Cremin's *The Transformation of the School* and David Tyack's *The One Best System*. Writing in 1961, Cremin had described educational reform as the achievement of Progressives with a sense of social responsibility. But Tyack in 1974 wrote that Progressives were expressing the interests of corporate capitalists who wanted to use the schools to inculcate obedience to their control of the nation's destiny. For Reese, however, the voices of educational reform were in conflict as socialists, many middle-class women and some male Progressives committed to local autonomy debated those professionals who spoke for centralization and the corporate capitalists who wanted social control. Reese proposes, therefore, that educational reform in the Progressive Era should be understood as a dialectic. Specific reforms represented partial victories and partial defeats. Neither grass-roots democrats nor corporate Progressives were able to achieve total victory.

DWN

BLACK HIGHER EDUCATION IN KENTUCKY, 1879-1930: The History of Simmons University. By Lawrence H. Williams. Studies in American Religion, No. 24. Lewis-ton, New York: Edwin Mellen Press. 1986. \$59.95.

This institutional and cultural history of Kentucky Baptists and their Simmons University of Louisville traces the post-Civil War emergence, against serious obstacles, of a Black American middle-class Protestant culture. Its ideological core was a conservative theology which combined Ethiopianism and black Landmarkism. Educationally, black Kentuckians followed an independent, often separatist path which in 1979 led to the establishment of State (Simmons) University, a wholly black-owned and controlled institution. With the later addition of medical and law departments to the original college Simmons became the only black university in the South, save Howard, offering both liberal arts and these professional courses. Until the Great Depression, Simmons survived in spite of constant financial difficulties, while racism and paternalism and competition from private and ultimately public colleges for blacks. Williams traces the careers and widening influence of Simmons graduates in Louisville's, Kentucky's and the nation's schools, pulpits, courts, hospitals and in municipal politics. These men and women testified to Simmons' half-century of community service to the ideals of black pride and autonomy.

AES

landscapes

THE VISUAL ELEMENTS OF LANDSCAPE. By John A. Jakle. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. 1987. \$35.00 cloth; \$14.95 paper.

John Jakle uses the tourist's view in the tradition of the detached observer in so much of Western artistic criticism as the point of reference for a well-developed critique

of how and why we appreciate what we see in the landscape. This book represents an admirable start at breaking through the functional theories and perspectives that have dominated landscape analysis of the last twenty-five years by focusing entirely on their visual aspects and the process of visualization. The author sets out a concise critique and encapsulation of the more well-known theories as they relate to his subject, and proceeds from this to categorize and elaborate, in developmental fashion, the visual clues to landscape appreciation.

Alexandria, Virginia

Roger Courtenay

FOREST PARK. By Caroline Loughlin and Catherine Anderson. Columbia: The Junior League of St. Louis and the University of Missouri Press. 1986. \$29.95.

In 1944, a promotional brochure described Forest Park as the "crowning glory of the City of St. Louis." That claim, made by park promoters in numerous other cities during the last 135 years, suggests unanimity of opinion about what a park should be. *Forest Park* should, finally, dispel that myth: it chronicles not only competing constituencies for park use, and the changing nature of recreation, but also the developmental threats Frederick Law Olmsted feared, and which have transformed the naturalistic parks created during the nineteenth century. *Forest Park* also demonstrates the extent to which parks have been and continue to be at the mercy of partisan politics.

Although the authors might have analyzed the similarities between G. M. Kern's 1876 plan and that of the Bois de Boulogne, as well as the ways in which Forest Park's design and development not only paralleled but differed from park history in other cities, this is a thoughtful, well-researched and interesting book.

Franklin and Marshall College

David Schuyler

blacks

DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE: A South Carolina Slave Community. By Charles Joyner. Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press. 1984. \$24.95 cloth, \$9.95 paper.

Joyner reconstructs slaves' lives in one South Carolina lowcountry community, explores their mind-set and documents how cultural creolization transformed diverse African influences into the Afro-American slave culture distinctive to the Waccamaw River rice country. Competent as historian and folklorist, the author examines an impressive range of evidence, supplementing sensitive analyses of oral tradition and material culture he and other field researchers (particularly those in the 1930s) have collected, with a thorough appraisal of written records.

By investigating the central themes of work, material environment, "free time," religion, folk tales, language and emancipation, Joyner eloquently and convincingly portrays the slaves' world and world view. His in-depth analysis of one community, which testifies to the remarkable complexity and vitality of slave life, accords with the best recent scholarship, and affirms his timely call for more such local studies. Resourceful use of a linguistic model to illustrate cultural creolization, while more speculative, nevertheless provides a fascinating consideration of how Gullah evolved, and frames issues for subsequent debate.

This is an excellent study, a seminal work whose innovative methodology signals an exciting development in slavery historiography.

Rider College

Roderick A. McDonald

RICHARD WRIGHT'S ART OF TRAGEDY. By Joyce Ann Joyce. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press. 1986. \$19.95

The idea of arguing that *Native Son* (1940) is genuine Aristotelean tragedy may be, as Professor Joyce asserts several times in her text, a break from the traditional critical analyses of the novel, but in the end it really fails to uncover any new or fresh ground. This study provides some insights but not really enough to rescue it from being thesis-ridden and prosaically descriptive. There are moments of pretty good criticism though:

the chapter on Max's and Buckley's closing arguments at Bigger's trial, the comparison of Bigger to Job, the discussion of Wright's technique (although the discussion of images tends to get a bit flat-footed and pedestrian). But on the whole Professor Joyce's reading is too simplistic and instead of engaging the complexities of the novel simply reduces them.

Washington University

Gerald Early

DE LAWD: Richard B. Harrison and *The Green Pastures*. By Walter C. Daniel. New York: Greenwood Press. 1986. \$29.95.

This is a significant contribution to the history of African/American theatre, which traces in minute detail the evolution of the Pulitzer Prize play, *The Green Pastures* by Marc Connelly, from the sketches of Roark Bradford to the valedictory performances of a remarkable black actor in the role of "De Lawd." The author makes it clear that it was this actor who was primarily responsible for the universal critical acclaim which the production enjoyed.

Written as a study of Richard Berry Harrison's relationship to the play, the book carefully delineates the economic and social circumstances at the time of the play's creation and production, problems encountered in bringing it to the stage and the events leading to its inevitable demise in 1935 with the sudden passing of Harrison after five years of almost continuous performances in New York and on the road. It is a scholarly and meticulously documented compendium of the era in which the black theatre was dependent upon plays written by whites, an era needless to say wanting in scholarly evaluation.

Daniels posits and the study confirms that Connelly's play was not just a recopying of Bradford's "Old Man Adam and His Children" but an inspired creation which would have died aborning had it not been for the talents of the principal actor in the role of "De Lawd."

Lincoln University

Thomas D. Pawley

women

GROWING UP FEMALE: Adolescent Girlhood in American Fiction. By Barbara A. White. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1985. \$29.95 cloth, \$12.95 paper.

Growing Up Female probes an aspect of American literature that has never received the attention it deserves: the fictional depiction of adolescent girls. There is no question that a book on this subject is long overdue (there are many studies of male adolescents in American fiction) and no question that White has conducted extensive research. The problem is one of methodology. Chapter One offers a broad overview of how the concept of adolescence—and in particular female adolescence—arose in response to shifting socioeconomic realities from medieval times to the present (*vide* Ariès). White valiantly tries to mesh the findings of assorted anthropologists, psychologists and historians, but the issue is simply too complex to be probed adequately in seventeen pages. Similar problems arise in the other three general chapters on female girlhood in American fiction, Chapter Two on "the girl protagonist" in novels written before 1920, Seven, on the same topic using 200 novels written between 1920 and 1972, and Eight, on the literature after 1973, the seemingly arbitrary date apparently intended to acknowledge the major wave of feminism that began in the early 1970s. Although White makes some valid observations (e.g., female adolescents of the nineteenth century tended to be compartmentalized as either little girls or "little women," with no hint of an interim stage), the amount of literature she's dealing with is simply too unwieldy to generate any but the most superficial generalizations. Likewise, the blocks of time (such as "pre-1920") are too vast for her purposes. Surely the girl adolescents in novels inspired by the example of F. Scott Fitzgerald in the 1920s cannot be compared readily to those of the 1960s.

Similarly unfortunate is White's decision to focus on three writers whom she found to be representative novelists of female adolescence: Ruth Suckow, a popular author of the 1920s and 1930s; Carson McCullers (*The Member of the Wedding*, 1946); and Jean

Stafford (*The Mountain Lion*, 1947). The discussions are insightful, but why choose three authors who were writing during approximately the same period, instead of a series of representative novelists from, say, Susanna Rowson to Anne Tyler? Perhaps this approach would correct the book's seeming imbalance. Then again, it still would not resolve two other major difficulties: adolescent girlhood in fiction by minorities is barely mentioned, and White excludes all novels by men. With no mention of Faulkner's *Caddy Compson*, Crane's *Maggie* or Fitzgerald's army of flappers—a fictional model that profoundly affected a generation of adolescent girls in the United States—White's book has been seriously compromised.

There are detailed notes and an extensive bibliography, but *Growing Up Female* is essentially a very basic introduction to a very complex aspect of American Studies.
Rhode Island School of Design Alice Hall Petry

SURVIVAL IN THE DOLDRUMS: The American Women's Rights Movement, 1945 to the 1960s. By Leila Rupp and Verta Taylor. New York: Oxford University Press. 1987. \$19.95.

Historian Leila Rupp and sociologist Verta Taylor have combined their talents to fill a major gap in our understanding of the women's rights movement in the years immediately following World War II. Amassing a great deal of information about the Woman's Party and other organizations, they trace the deepening divisions among women during a period when the "women's movement" was narrowly focused on struggles for legal rights primarily helpful to professional women, rather than on the needs of all women regardless of race and class. The descriptions of the racism of many advocates of women's rights, their willingness to support Joseph McCarthy and the exclusive nature of their groups are not pretty, but Rupp and Taylor probe into the commitments which motivated such behavior. But the authors do more than tell a story. They have used their information to theorize about the importance of elite groups for the survival of social movements during periods of social conservatism and of the declining popularity for their causes. In doing so Rupp and Taylor raise provocative questions for historians, sociologists and activists. Such questions are particularly relevant for feminists today who are seeking to transcend traditional barriers between women.
Appalachian State University Marilyn Dell Brady

ethnicities

EMIGRANTS AND EXILES: Ireland and the Irish Exodus to North America. By Kerby A. Miller. New York: Oxford University Press. 1985. \$35.00.

This is an outstanding as well as controversial study of the Irish, their culture and values, the socioeconomic and political developments transforming their land and traditions, and the attitudes that shaped their responses to the deteriorating conditions in their homeland. While those conditions compelled many of them to emigrate to North America, Miller argues that the forces propelling them outward both antedate the Great Famine and persist after it. They were rooted in the commercialization of the economy and the Anglicization of the society, culture and church. Together, those forces altered traditional land patterns, social relations, class differences and Catholic church practices and policies, weakening the Gaelic culture and the long existing bonds that had held the Irish so strongly to it.

Miller deftly describes key elements in the culture and historical experiences of the Irish, especially of the Catholic Irish, that fostered a mind-set in which they viewed emigration as an involuntary exile, a banishment, warranting a whole set of rituals in wakes to mourn those departing. Likewise complicating Irish adjustment in America, he argues, were their powerful localistic traditions, pastoral life style and values that emphasized communalism and collectivism, dependency, fatalism, a sense of sinfulness and passivity—stasis over action. Political and religious nationalism and Anglophobia were widespread, and he acknowledges that many of these peasant characteristics were intensified by the damaging effects of conquest, severe proscription and extensive pauperization, but he stresses the cultural interpretation.

The results of this culture-cum-conquest, Miller claims, frequently crippled ambition and left many Irish (again, particularly the Catholic Irish) ill-equipped to cope readily with their migration experience and the new urban, industrial society they encountered. Many did experience social mobility here, did achieve middle class status, did retain strong family ties, did send considerable remittances home and did form numerous organizations here, but, Miller states, marginality, homesickness, alienation and a general exile mentality characterized many more of them for decades. Although relatively few returned to Ireland, there was much ambivalence. The strong nationalism propagated by Irish leaders often exploited the exile mentality and guilt feelings which persisted among those who had emigrated. Not until the partition and the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1921, he concludes, did the exile mentality fade.

California State University—San Bernardino

Elliott R. Barkan

LATINOS IN THE UNITED STATES: The Sacred and the Political. By David T. Abalos. Notre Dame, Indiana: Notre Dame University Press. 1987. \$21.95.

In recent years, a number of scholars have begun studying the concept of "Latino," an all-embracing bond which unifies the identity of several nationally and culturally different Spanish-speaking groups. Works inspired by this perspective, like Padilla's *Latino Ethnic Consciousness: The Case of Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans in Chicago* (1985) and Joan Moore and Harry Pachon's *Hispanics in the United States* (1985) reflect the realization that Spanish-speaking ethnics have begun seeking affinity and solidarity with one another primarily as a political organizing strategy to attaining commonly shared interests. In *Latinos in the United States: The Sacred and Political*, David Abalos takes the argument a step further, suggesting that certain cultural elements are at the center of this pursuit for Latino identity and political cleavage. In particular, Abalos singles out the Catholic religion and its many sacred symbols as a major force responsible for conditioning and shaping the emerging Latino reality in the United States.

Abalos frames his argument within the theory of transformation (indeed, a problem for general readers is his use of technical jargon of that theory), stressing the need to change the real underlying, patterning forces of life which are responsible for denying Latinos the right to define and shape their own environment. The process of transformation Abalos proposes begins with the self (the personal), for the "rebirth" or liberation of the self leads to social and political consciousness (e.g., Latino awareness and identification). The Latino world then becomes one of the discoveries individuals will experience after undergoing this type of transformation.

Though quite difficult to read, the book is very inspiring. It provides a different seed from which to develop a Latino world perspective.

Northern Illinois University

Felix M. Padilla

law

JUSTICE DOWNWIND: America's Atomic Testing Program in the 1950's. By Howard Ball. New York: Oxford University Press. 1986. \$21.95.

A fallout map on p. 42 depicting heavy radiation from a 1957 Nevada test site atmospheric blast ought to be compared to data from the Cherynobl accident. One public health official said "my instruments went off the scale." Federal officials knew the hazards since the 1940s, but between 1951 and 1958 allowed hundreds of blasts because "downwinders" only numbered 100,000 people in eastern Nevada and southwestern Utah. Children ran outside to play in ash-colored radiation flakes from "Dirty Charlie" in 1953 while government agents covered themselves up. As a result, children and adults fell victim to various forms of cancer at a rate many times the national average. Federal officials repeatedly (even today) claimed the threat to people in St. George, Utah, was minimal while in fact they were receiving as much as 20 times the maximum allowable radiation. Numbers died. But political scientist Howard Ball notes in this exemplary case study that federal officials purposely lied, suppressed data, placated and confused local citizens about the hazards. This denial of harm was consciously accepted by presidential administrations from Truman through Reagan without exception, and all the

congresses. Ball's hero is federal judge Bruce S. Jenkins, who devoted his energies to the scientific, medical and societal details when he supported downwinder claims in two *Allen vs U.S.* court cases in 1982 and 1984. But the government is appealing and the issue is unresolved thirty years after citizens were harmed. The author analyzes in detail the technological, medical, legal, policy, ethical and human issues. Should a few be penalized to benefit the many? Is government duplicity in some cases acceptable? What is fair compensation? Ball makes clear that American bureaucracies and legal systems broke down. In Lyndon Johnson's words, American society has not yet been able to come to terms with "the dark side of technology."

New Jersey Institute of Technology

John Opie

LEGAL REALISM AT YALE, 1927-1960. By Laura Kalman. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1986. \$35.00.

The epilog of this book opens with a phrase often heard among American legal scholars: "We are all realists now." How this came to be is skillfully developed in Kalman's study which, while focusing on Yale, comes close to being an history of legal realism in the United States. It is a subject that has been deeply in need of a definitive exposition. Kalman comes very close to accomplishing that task.

The principal figures of American legal realism, Karl Llewelyn above all, always denied that legal realism was a "movement," claiming instead that there were as many kinds of legal realism as there were individuals professing to be legal realists. But Yale Law School probably harbored a larger group of realists than any other law school, including such highly articulate exponents as Jerome Frank, William O. Douglas and Underhill Moore. More importantly, under the leadership of its dean, Robert Hutchins (soon to become president of the University of Chicago), Yale not only revamped its curriculum but it added to its faculty non-lawyers (the economist Walton Hamilton, the political scientist Harold Lasswell, the philosopher F. S. C. Northrop, the historian Fred Rodell) in a deliberate effort to introduce different perspectives, both to the classroom and to the agenda of faculty scholarship. Kalman provides a thorough and balanced assessment of the intellectual surge that took hold of the Yale Law School: Yale was indeed the core of legal realism.

Kalman follows the gradual change that overcame Yale after Hutchins, Douglas, Frank and others followed calls to work in larger arenas. Accompanying that development, however, was the equally gradual acceptance of legal realism by Harvard Law School—whose erudite dean Roscoe Pound had long been one of the most vocal critics of legal realism. It is a fascinating page in American intellectual history—especially if one bears in mind how much legal realism owes to pragmatism.

University of Kansas

Francis H. Heller

POSTMORTEM: New Evidence in the Case of Sacco and Vanzetti. By William Young and David E. Kaiser. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. 1985. \$20.00 cloth, \$8.95 paper.

Attempting to establish once again the guilt or innocence of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti through a careful, judicious analysis of the evidence, some of which has only recently become available, the authors, keeping in mind the principles of Anglo-American jurisprudence and the logic of historical inquiry, conclude the two Italian born anarchists "innocent in the absence of any convincing proof of their guilt," of murder during a payroll heist in 1920 in South Braintree, Massachusetts.

Their analysis places the case within the context of the post-World War I Red Scare and shows how this climate affected the prosecution; it convincingly demonstrates that "virtually every piece of evidence against the two men ultimately rested upon falsehoods and fabrications." Their most important point, cogently presented, is that most likely a substitution of bullets by the prosecution took place.

Iowa State University

Richard Lowitt

UNEQUAL LAWS UNTO A SAVAGE RACE: European Legal Traditions in Arkansas, 1686-1836. By Morris S. Arnold. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press. 1985. \$23.00. THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAW IN FRONTIER CALIFORNIA: Civil Law and Society, 1850-1880. By Gordon Morris Bakken. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1985. \$29.95.

Twenty-five years ago, a now eminent legal historian deplored the fact that American legal history had yet to discover the many opportunities available to it and to free itself of an essentially arid, antiquarian tradition. Since that time there has been a truly remarkable flowering of scholarship in the field. The two books under review are representative of many that have appeared in the last two decades. As such, they demonstrate the value of legal history to the broader understanding of the American past.

Morris Arnold's gracefully written volume describes and analyzes the French presence in what is now part of Arkansas through the legal institutions and practices of the French in that territory. The early settlements in Arkansas rarely had civil officers and the administration of justice was often in the hands of the military. French law, as it thus entered Arkansas, was largely rudimentary but remained the foundation of the settlements until after the Louisiana purchase. Partly because Arkansas' French past is not often remembered, this is an intriguing contribution to our knowledge.

Gordon Bakken's volume is the first of four intended to explore the relationship of law and society in nineteenth-century California. It is a work of careful scholarship providing valuable insights into the tumultuous years when the gold rush and the immense opportunities for industry brought about an unprecedented rush of new population to California and with it social and legal developments of almost tumultuous dimensions. Not surprisingly, Bakken demonstrates that law on the books was not always fully mirrored by law in action.

University of Kansas

Francis H. Heller

dixie

WHY THE SOUTH LOST THE CIVIL WAR. By Richard E. Beringer, Herman Hattaway, Archer Jones and William N. Still, Jr. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press. 1986. \$29.95.

This large volume attacks the familiar theme of why the South lost the Civil War with efforts to suggest additional explanations to the many that have been discussed during the more than 100 years since the conflict. One major thesis states the insufficiency of Southern nationalism—a nationalism that “does not refer to a style of government policy or economic organization but to the emotional bonds between citizens of the would-be nation”—to sustain Confederate efforts. Another explanation is that “Key questions of morale, willpower, guilt, and regret over the positive attributes of rejected decisions will prove the factors that best explain Confederate behavior.” To these and the further suggestion that “the Confederacy's tombstone should read, ‘Died of Guilt and Failure of Will,’” this reviewer responds that the authors' efforts are provocative but unconvincing. One of the most significant contributions of this volume is the analysis of the military campaigns of the war in relation to the writings of Karl von Clausewitz and Antoine Henri Jomini, with additional references to the views of Heinrich Dietrich von Bülow. Somewhat surprisingly, the study is silent on the failure of confederate diplomacy. The authors do not suggest the contrast of Confederate failure with the success of the American colonists in the American Revolution: their diplomacy gained help from abroad; they too had to deal with disunity, indeed, with greater disunity, exemplified by the attitudes and actions of the Loyalists.

* * *

THE SELF-INFLICTED WOUND: Southern Politics in the Nineteenth Century. By Robert F. Durden. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. 1985. \$16.00.

This relatively brief volume of five chapters reviews Southern politics "from a predominantly nationalistic, optimistic mood in the Jeffersonian era to a sullenly sectional, chronically defensive attitude in the decades after the Civil War." Succinctly stated, its major thesis "is that the single greatest cause of the essentially tragic political fate of the South in the nineteenth century was a self-inflicted wound: the gradual surrender of the southern white majority, beginning in the 1820s, to the pride, fears, and hates of racism." Well organized and superbly crafted in literary style, the volume effectively traces this familiar theme. With this limited perspective, however, it does not provide the broader dimension of social and economic factors or identification of regional culture, nor does it demonstrate that the South had no monopoly on racism.

* * *

WRITING THE SOUTH: Ideas of an American Region. By Richard Gray. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press. 1986. \$29.95.

This is a challenging study by a British author based upon the assumption that "the South is primarily a concept, a matter of knowing even more than being." Its purpose is to describe the work of Southern authors who, it is believed, have "been engaged not so much in writing about the South as in writing the South," and who "have, whether they have known it or not . . . been busy reimagining and remaking their place in the act of seeing and describing it." Very eclectic in pursuing this abstract theme, the author ranges over selections from the colonial period to the present with emphasis upon the following: the ideal of the country gentleman in colonial Virginia; the plantation society of the Old South as revealed in novels by such writers as William Gilmore Simms, William A. Caruthers and Nathaniel B. Tucker; literature of the New South with major emphasis upon Mark Twain as "a writer possessed by his Southernness, locked into a relationship with a place he simultaneously loved and despised"; identification of the Nashville Agrarians with major attention to *I'll Take My Stand* and the diverse careers of the group after the 1930s; the fiction of William Faulkner, who, even though a modernist, was a "literary regionalist" with ideas "of a very particular place and time" in his "fiction that was regional in the best sense"; and finally contemporary Southern writing described as "amphibious, attached partly to the old structures of perceptions and partly to the new" with particular attention to Eudora Welty and Walker Percy. It is the opinion of this reviewer that the author was more successful in describing the fictional characters in works of Mark Twain, Faulkner and others than in developing the major thesis of their "writing the South." The author concludes with the belief that in the "crisis-ridden South . . . the substantial innovations that have occurred in the historical fabric of the region will lead to equally substantial innovations in its thinking."

University of Kansas
W. Stitt Robinson

other topics

THE PARADOX OF PROFESSIONALISM: Reform and Public Service in Urban America, 1900-1940. By Don S. Kirschner. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1986. \$32.95.

This is an important intellectual history of the professionalization of urban reform from the Progressive Era to the New Deal. Kirschner is interested in how middle-class reformers perceived urban people and their problems. He finds that these white Protestants defined urban problems from the values of their nineteenth-century origins in an America of small towns. The paradox he finds is that these reformers, in trying to establish the ideal of small-scale, homogenous communities in the fragmentation and alienation of the twentieth-century city, found themselves increasingly committed to the

use of large-scale, impersonal government bureaucracy. In 1940, when he ends his analysis, this contradiction between local community as an end and national bureaucracy as a means had not been resolved.

DWN

THE UNEASY STATE: The United States from 1915 to 1945. By Barry D. Karl. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press. 1983. \$22.50.

In this challenging and provocative essay Professor Karl argues that between 1915 and 1945 the United States grappled with the reality of a society that industrialization and technology had nationalized and centralized. Americans wanted to strengthen their national government to regulate these new forces but not at the expense of their individual liberty or their local attachments. These conflicting desires, Karl believes, created an uneasy state.

Karl's history thesis is that Progressivism introduced the idea of a national regulatory state by proposing to substitute the norms of the social scientist for the deals of the professional politician. World War I pushed Progressive reform to an extreme that Americans reacted against. The 1920s witnessed private efforts to attain some rational economic and cultural nationality but it was the New Deal that provided the greatest sustained effort to modernize the state.

The New Deal is thus the centerpiece of Karl's analysis. Karl portrays a complex struggle between social scientific planning and politics that in the end accustomed the American people to accept the need for government programs without accepting the power that programmatic planning implied. Franklin Roosevelt contributed importantly to this outcome by always putting politics ahead of planning, seeking to make the existing structure work more effectively than seeking to change it. World War II simply reinforced this process so that by 1945 the United States had acquired a stronger national state managed by politicians who looked for short-term results and rejected the social scientist's belief that you can predict the future.

This is an ambitious book. Karl tries to synthesize a tremendous amount of scholarship while maintaining a balance between structural and cultural categories of nationalism. The result is that although his argument is clearly stated, its development is hard to follow: generalizations are followed by summaries of secondary works, not always, in my reading, appropriately presented. But anyone who tries to shape a vast secondary literature to the contours of an original idea is bound to invite this kind of quibbling. My principal reservation about Karl's analysis—a kind of bicentennial suggestion—is that he never seriously analyzes the structure of federalism under our Constitution and the federalist political culture it produced. From its inception the American state has been ill at ease because our Founding Fathers wanted to divide sovereignty and not to concentrate it. What Karl has discovered for the years 1915-1945 is merely one chapter in a two-hundred-year saga. Indeed, for our own day his period is not much more instructive than previous ones, such as 1848-1877, and probably less so than 1933-1970. Karl's concluding sentences, which call for a new federalism, as well as other passages that note the persistence of federalism, suggest the critical importance of this theme. The genius of Franklin Roosevelt and other great leaders has been their recognizing this condition and exercising the political skill to make the Founders' system work.

Iowa State University

George McJimsey

FISHER FOLK: Two Communities on Chesapeake Bay. By Carolyn Ellis. Lexington, Kentucky: University Press of Kentucky. 1986. \$20.00.

Reports of the lives of isolated peoples have a significance that overshadows their exotic appeal. They provide the social scientist with a natural experiment in which the effects of social variables can be discerned. Carolyn Ellis exploits this advantage to trace the influences of the larger society on human enclaves, specifically two communities of fisher folk living on peninsulas and islands off the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay. She describes their way of life with sensitivity and insight, but she has given us much more than a fascinating report. It is important for her sociological interpretations of cultural and social change. She effectively employs conceptual tools to make sense of the multiple processes that have been transforming the way of life of once isolated people.

An unusual feature of Professor Ellis' research is the use of comparative analysis of two bay communities having different degrees of isolation from mainland influences. Although their origins were similar, outside institutional and technological changes have affected one more than the other. Thus she is able to identify diachronic changes analagous to those that occurred over many decades.

The process of change revealed by this research is far from a linear progression in the various facets of society. Rather it is a complex interaction of often conflicting influences on community structure and the life course of individuals.

University of Kansas

E. Jackson Baur

THE KOREAN WAR: Challenges in Crisis, Credibility, and Command. By Burton I. Kaufman. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1986. \$34.95.

Based on a complete range of secondary sources and a good use of the contemporary press and material in the National Archives and the Truman Library, this book provides a balanced overview of United States decision making from 1950 to 1953. Kaufman sympathizes with the Truman administration in facing nearly insoluble dilemmas, but he also refrains from issuing a broad indictment of General Douglas MacArthur's conduct.

University of Colorado, Boulder

Robert D. Schulzinger

HEADS, HIDES & HORNS: The Compleat Buffalo Book. By Larry Barsness. Fort Worth, Texas: Texas Christian University Press. 1985. \$40.00.

This is the definitive work on America's most celebrated animal. The story of the buffalo and its impact on man is scrutinized from every conceivable slant, from tongues to tails, from tepees to tanneries. The author's sources were exhaustive. His writing style is lively and lucid. No layman or historian can seriously consider delving into the history of the buffalo without reading this book.

Northeast Texas Community College

Benton R. White