

reviews

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historiography

THE END OF AMERICAN HISTORY: Democracy, Capitalism, and the Metaphor of Two Worlds in American Historical Writing, 1880-1980. By David W. Noble. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. 1985. \$25.00.

Noble brings new resources to the discussion of the perennial concern—the American-ness of American history. Specifically, he draws upon J. G. A. Pocock’s understanding of republicanism and Sacvan Bercovitch’s understanding of the American jeremiad to inquire about the particular themes that distinguish and unite the writings of historians Frederick Jackson Turner, Charles A. Beard, Richard Hofstadter and William A. Williams, and theologian Reinhold Neibuhr. Whether optimistic or pessimistic, expounders of a Conservative or a Progressive jeremiad, the first three of these historians, Noble argues, are thoroughly American in their concerns. These historians believe in an American future of increasing economic plenitude and see the world’s future in American democratic terms. William’s particular vision of American history breaks with this historical vision. Because Williams explores connections between political and economic realms, Noble gains hope that American historians may be moving beyond their supposedly limiting traditional concerns to discover a plural future with bounded possibilities for economic growth. Historians such as Noble prod us toward an appreciation of the larger contexts that our narrow monographs occupy. Historians will gain more from this complex and dense book if they are already familiar with the writings of Pocock and Bercovitch. Students of American culture will eventually discover this book as a manifestation of the “Small is Beautiful” ethos in scholarly discourse.

Franklin and Marshall College

Louise L. Stevenson

ULRICH BONNELL PHILLIPS: Historian of the Old South. By Merton L. Dillon. Baton Rouge and London: Louisiana State University Press. 1985. \$20.00.

This is a well-researched and judicious study of a prominent historian whose reputation as a scholar since his death in 1934 has fluctuated during changes of attitudes in society.

Native of Georgia, U. B. Phillips attended the University of Georgia, then took his doctorate at Columbia University under William A. Dunning. He was a productive scholar, collector of manuscripts and very effective teacher. His two best known volumes are *American Negro Slavery* (1918) and *Life and Labor in the Old South* (1929). These received general acclaim upon publication but by the 1950s and early 1960s they came under severe criticism for excessive sympathy for large planters and racist views towards blacks. Beginning in 1966, largely through the efforts of Eugene D. Genovese, there has been a revival of study and appreciation of these volumes for their perceptive views of the nature of class relationships between master and slave. The plans of Phillips for a three-volume work on the Old South were cut short by his death from illness at age fifty-seven.

University of Kansas

W. Stitt Robinson

designed environment

THE CROWNING OF THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE: Eight Great Spaces and Their Buildings. By Walter L. Creese. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press. 1985. \$55.00.

His book, Creese explains, explores “ways in which the American intellectual, turned artist,” reshaped the physical environment to foster “a wholesome adjustment to it, philosophically as well as physically.” As the subtitle indicates, the work consists of eight case studies: Thomas Jefferson’s plans for Charlottesville, Virginia; the “Estate Types of the Hudson Valley” culminating in the work of Andrew Jackson Downing; the shaping of Yosemite National Park; the building of Mount Hood National Forest and its Timberline Lodge; Frederick Law Olmsted’s Boston Fens; Chicago’s Graceland Cemetery; Riverside, Illinois (“The Greatest American Suburb”); and Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin.

On the surface, there were striking dissimilarities among the different sites not simply in physical configuration but in building and landscaping styles, but Creese finds a high degree of underlying continuity, due partly to the shared romanticism of their designers, partly to how each drew upon and learned from the work of their predecessors. Although the author’s philosophical ruminations at times appear strained, the details of the case studies are fascinating. And the illustrations are a delight.

University of Nebraska—Lincoln

John Braeman

ALMA MATER: Design and Experience in the Women’s Colleges from Their Nineteenth-Century Beginnings to the 1930s. By Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz. Boston: Beacon Press. 1984. \$25.00.

Focusing on the Seven Sister colleges, this blend of architectural and social history shows how founders’ intentions were incorporated into campus design and the organization of space; how colleges built upon the successes and errors of their predecessors; how communities of women among students and faculty reshaped the material environment to meet their own needs and aspirations; and how college leaders revised physical plans in response to new ideas about women’s roles and the purposes of education for women.

Although the emphasis is on architectural design, the book also deals with curriculum and social life. Meticulously documented and beautifully written, the book provides a brilliant analysis of the interaction among ideology, architecture and social experience. The author underscores how much fears of unfettered womanhood entered into the plans of founders and leaders, but she also documents the determination of women students, faculty and sometimes administrators, to order their own experience.

University of Missouri—St. Louis

Susan M. Hartmann

THE PUBLIC LANDSCAPE OF THE NEW DEAL. By Phoebe Cutler. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1985. \$25.00.

Focusing on rural programs—conservation, reforestation and development—as well as urban recreational spaces, the author examines ways in which New Deal programs

reshaped the American landscape. The WPA, CCC, TVA and other agencies constructed thousands of structures, playgrounds, parks and preserves across the nation, and evident in their diverse projects are such themes as nostalgia for an agrarian past, the didacticism of history and democracy—each an important measure of cultural concern during the Great Depression. The author's most original analysis explains the impact of the New Deal on the profession of landscape architecture, the shift from small-scale private projects to larger public ones. At times critical of public construction programs, at other times celebratory, this is a confused and thinly researched book.

Franklin and Marshall College

David Schuyler

CRABGRASS FRONTIER: The Suburbanization of the United States. By Kenneth T. Jackson. New York: Oxford University Press. 1985. \$21.95.

Crabgrass Frontier focuses less on suburbs than on the process of urban “deconcentration” and its overall impact on metropolitan America. It views suburbanization both as an expression of evolving American attitudes toward family, nature, city, class and race, and as a product of the nation’s physical and economic growth, system of land development, governmental policies and changing technologies of transportation and housing. Jackson synthesizes much familiar material in a fresh, insightful, digressive style. After highlighting the unfortunate effects of deconcentration on the environment and on the inner city and its residents, however, he falls back on such overworked formulas as “a loss of community,” a weakened family and “a cultural, economic, and emotional wasteland” to depict suburban society. Some readers may wish for more penetrating understanding of forty percent of the population, more than resides in either central cities or rural areas. Nonetheless, the author’s ability to link suburbanization thoughtfully to so many avenues of cultural and social development makes the history immensely valuable to students of American civilization. Much like suburbs themselves, *Crabgrass Frontier* offers something for everyone as it sprawls over the intellectual landscape in pursuit of a more humane metropolis.

Pennsylvania State University

John M. Findlay

SCULPTURE AND THE FEDERAL TRIANGLE. By George Gurney. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press. 1985. \$39.95.

A fine study of the architecture and sculpture of the seven buildings (including the Commerce Building, Justice Building and the National Archives) erected under the Public Buildings Act between 1926 and 1938 in the “Federal Triangle” of Washington, D. C. From an extensive study of primary sources, the author weaves factors in engineering and technology, architectural training and taste, and the careers of specific legislators, architects, sculptors and craftsmen into a narrative and analysis of this “largest and last grand statement in the United States of traditional Beaux-Arts principles combining architecture and sculpture.” It includes 280 little-known photographs of models, drawings, buildings, sculptures, and craftsmen at work.

University of Maryland-College Park

Elizabeth Johns

environment

ENCHANTMENT AND EXPLOITATION: The Life and Hard Times of a New Mexico Mountain Range. By William deBuys. Albuquerque: New Mexico University Press. 1985. \$14.95 paper.

This book deserves the careful attention of a very broad audience. It is a thoughtful and articulate analysis of social, political and ecological changes in north central New Mexico. It presents a very readable, objective and well integrated description of the clash of cultural differences, the forces of destruction, extinction and partial renewal, economic reality and greed. Although it is based on detailed and intimate knowledge of a specific area, its general

principles are well developed and the central message is clear: "in an unforgiving environment, small errors yield large consequences."

The University of Calgary

Dixon Thompson

THIS LAND, THIS SOUTH: An Environmental History. By Albert E. Cowdrey. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. 1983. \$23.00.

The author presents strong evidence of environmental wastefulness and destruction in the South. He argues that, although primarily caused by the settler's own farming, lumbering, hunting and flood control methods, destruction of this "paradise" has also been caused by the human diseases, agricultural infestations and the severe climate of the environment itself. This book is a resource rich with information about every aspect of the South's growth and change. However, data is often presented without analysis or interpretation. At times information is repeated; there is also an overabundance of medical facts, particularly related to diseases and epidemics.

Louisiana State University

Dana Nunez Brown

DESERT PASSAGES: Encounters with the American Deserts. By Patricia Nelson Limerick. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. 1985. \$22.50 cloth. \$12.95 paper.

An integrated review of eight major explorers, travellers and writers, some of whom profoundly influenced American attitudes toward southwestern desert regions. John C. Fremont, William Ellsworth Smythe, John Van Dyke, Joseph Wood Krutch and Edward Abbey are important inclusions, but the author's chapters on William Lewis Manly, Mark Twain and George Wharton James are unconvincing. John Wesley Powell deserves more than secondary attention.

Duquesne University

John Opie

LANDSCAPE AS PHOTOGRAPH. By Estelle Jussim and Elizabeth Lindquist-Cock. Seventy duotones and eight color plates. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1985. \$35.00.

This exceptionally handsome book is neither coffee-table showpiece nor historical survey, but a meditation on the meaning of landscape in the context of the relationship between image and idea over the last two centuries. From several angles ("Landscape as Artistic Genre," "Landscape as God," "Landscape as Fact," "Landscape as Symbol," "Landscape as Pure Form," "Landscape as Popular Culture," "Landscape as Concept" and "Landscape as Politics and Propaganda"), the authors consider how landscape photographs and our responses to them express implicit and explicit cultural assumptions. Some of the categorical divisions and the generalizations about culture and ideology could use more precision, but the text and the photographs combine with consistently thoughtful and provocative results. Includes footnotes and a useful bibliography.

Northwestern University

Carl S. Smith

COPING WITH ABUNDANCE: Energy and Environment in Industrial America. By Martin V. Melosi. New York: Random House, Alfred A. Knopf. 1985. \$10.95.

Coping with Abundance is a fundamental primer which describes the energy history of the United States. It attempts to shed new light on well-known historical information by "focusing on the economic, political, social, diplomatic and environmental implications of energy development and use." The author states that in order to understand "the current energy scene or to uncover the immediate roots of the crisis, one must "examine the nation's energy past effectively." The result reads somewhat like a corporate history of the nation's energy industries, with each examined from its initial birth and through a succession of national administrations. Loosely interwoven is a discussion of environmental issues in each industry over time, in an attempt to trace the incremental development of a national energy policy. The author clearly identifies and explains specific landmarks in

energy history, but fails to weave together the energy policies of successive administrations. Thus the link remains somewhat unclear between today's energy problems and those of preceding generations.

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THE TOURIST: Travel in Twentieth-Century North America. By John A. Jakle. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press. 1985. \$24.95 cloth. \$12.95 paper.

An extremely well researched and well written book, *The Tourist* examines tourism as a way of understanding and assessing the modern world. The author states that tourists can provide significant knowledge for the study of landscape history because they are often "more appreciative of a locality's picturesque or romantic qualities than locals stuck in more utilitarian mind sets." The book uses published diaries, journals and travel books by tourists describing their own trips. Nature, region, history and city are examined through the eyes, ears and hearts of twentieth century tourists, painting a vivid picture of the North American landscape of the early 1900s.

University of North Carolina

Deborah E. Ryan

literature

NATHANAEL WEST. By Robert Emmet Long. New York: Frederick Ungar. 1985. \$13.95.

There has been a remarkable number of brief guides to the life and works of Nathanael West in the last twenty-five years. And possibly this (in Ungar's Literature and Life Series) is the best of them, if only because the author has the previous ones to use and improve on. It is a balanced analysis of Freudian, Marxist, biographical, archetypal and textual criticism of West's four short novels in a clean literary manner that eschews jargon. Perhaps it is weakest in textual analysis, though it points up passages in West that are worth special attention. Perhaps it spends a little too much time over parts of West's plots to explain what West made clear enough. It is at its best on West's sources in Dostoevski, Poe, Eliot, Pound, W. C. Williams, Fitzgerald, Faulkner, the *symbolistes* and the imagists—and others. It is also good on West's anticipation of the black humor, the absurdism and the Jewish-American writing of the fifties to the eighties, while it carefully distinguishes between demonstrable influences and general literary currents. Long's closing assessment is: "His [West's] subject was dark, and even gross, but he infused it with the charm of his humor. Few writers have ever written of horror with such gaiety." The volume includes a good biographical chronology, a good introductory bibliography and excellent footnotes.

University of Illinois-Collinsville

James C. Austin

KATE CHOPIN. By Barbara C. Ewell. New York: Frederick Ungar. 1986. \$16.95.

Although somewhat constrained by the requirements of the Ungar "Literature and Life" series—e.g., a story-by-story-exegesis of all of Chopin's fiction—Ewell has written a sensitive, intelligent analysis of Kate Chopin's work. After an initial chapter that sketches Chopin's life, the book emphasizes Chopin's development as a writer during her short career. Ewell treats Chopin's short fiction more thoroughly than have many critics, showing especially how her various themes and characters developed over time. In particular, Ewell recognizes and emphasizes Chopin's awareness and sensitive treatment of such major social issues as racial integration, the difficulties of Victorian marriage and women's sexuality, the last of which caused a storm of adverse criticism when Chopin's best-known work, *The Awakening*, was published in 1899. The chapter on *The Awakening* is one of the best brief analyses of the novel available, summarizing the major critical approaches to date and placing the novel firmly in the context of Chopin's career. Because Ewell sees clearly Chopin's development as both a woman and a writer, she approaches *The Awakening* as the culmination of Chopin's continual struggle with the issue of achieving "personal integrity

in a world of conventional constraints," and thus underlines its importance as a comment on American culture.

NW

WITH EARS OPENING LIKE MORNING GLORIES: Eudora Welty and the Love of Storytelling. By Carol Manning. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1985. \$29.95.

This explores the intricate connection between Welty's deep grounding in the southern oral tradition and the unique colloquially-metaphoric flavor of her work. Manning proposes that Welty's cultural love of storytelling and her familiarity with the ancient conventions of that art explain the novelty of her early fiction and become central to the realism of the later works. Though occasionally repetitive in style, the book is especially helpful in analysis of Welty's own relationship with her heritage, which, Manning argues, is generally very positive, but not uncritical; the Southerners' almost exclusive focus on local people and events can reinforce a social incestuousness that can be stultifyingly provincial and cruelly intolerant. Equally insightful are chapters on Welty's use of classical and Southern myths both to aggrandize and deflate her characters through deft manipulation of these allusions. Less developed is just how Welty compares with other contemporary Southern writers; the occasional comments which are included indicate that further analysis of Welty's artistic place could have strengthened Manning's argument for Welty's cultural debts. This is, nonetheless, a thorough, thoughtful, critique of Welty as a storyteller, and as a historian of storytellers. It will be useful to both aficionados of Welty and to those interested in the rich oral tradition of the South.

University of Missouri—Kansas City

Marlene Springer

DICKINSON: Strategies of Limitation. By Jane Donahue Eberwein. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. 1985. \$25.00.

Working closely from Dickinson's poems and private letters, Eberwein argues that the poet's sense of "limitation and personal insufficiency" were vital for her understanding of herself and the world. Dickinson's lifelong fascination with circles, circumferences, discs, circuits, diameters, boundaries and transitions—and, concomitantly, her preference for short or aphoristic poems, plus a perception of herself as physically small and ineffectual—illustrate that Dickinson paradoxically cultivated a sense of constriction or limitation so as to explore such broad, elusive concepts as death and immortality. Eberwein's study analyzes dozens of standard and lesser-known poems from the Dickinson canon, while offering sensitive discussion of her work habits, reading interests and attitudes towards poetry and religion—all with an eye to the central issue of limitation. This informed, highly readable book must be counted as a vital contribution to Dickinson studies.

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EMILY DICKINSON AND THE LIFE OF LANGUAGE: A Study in Symbolic Poetics. By E. Miller Budick. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press. 1985. \$22.50.

This is a book to be used with caution. The latest in a series of studies which approach Dickinson at the level of language, it argues that the poet mistrusted conventional symbolism—and in particular "the sacramental symbolizing of nature" so often used to convey matters of Christian faith—because it tends to be distorting and ultimately reductive. The thesis is provocative, and Budick occasionally uses it to good effect, most notably in her analysis of "A Bird came down the Walk." But too often Budick's thesis seems forced; worse, it can distort poems it is intended to illuminate. For example, the analysis of "The Soul selects her own Society" reads too much symbolism into Dickinson's "plentiful, disruptive dashes" and selective capitalization. That punctuation mark which appears even in Dickinson's recipes and the Germanic capitalization used by many English-speaking people in the nineteenth century are flimsy evidence that this is a poem probing the limitations of symbolic renderings of Puritan election, visible sanctity and biblical exegesis. Part of the problem with this book is that Budick concentrates on language at the expense of an informed use of biographical data. The intensely personal "I Felt a Funeral

in my Brain,” for example, is seen as a statement of “the torture of the mind that afflicts [Dickinson] and her fellow New Englanders” due to “the peculiarly literalistic way they tended to interpret themselves and their world, their inclination to discover divinity within the fleshliness of self and their desire to find an absolute and material symbol for the immaterial spirit of the divine.” Budick’s insistence upon Dickinson’s mistrust of symbolism is so extreme that it is something of a shock to read late in the book that “The purpose of this study is not to deny that Dickinson uses symbols. Nor do I wish to claim that she uses symbols simply to undermine them”; rather, Dickinson “tread[s] a carefully delineated middle ground between the worship of symbols and their total rejection.” What apparently was meant as a clarification and extension of the book’s thesis leads only to further confusion and doubt. In the final analysis, Budick’s book does offer a few insights, but it must be counted a minor contribution to Dickinson studies.

Rhode Island School of Design Alice Hall Petry

HARRY KEMP: *The Last Bohemian*. By William Brevda. Lewisburg: Bucknell University Press. London and Toronto: Associated University Presses. 1986. \$37.50.

Brevda’s critical biography of Harry Kemp, surely the most outrageous of American “hobohebian” poets in the first half of this century, is the first such study. Given the general thoroughness of the author’s account and the limitedness of Kemp’s poetic accomplishments (though he occasionally turned a decent line in outdated diction), it is probably also the last. Brevda paints a convincing and well-researched portrait of a compulsive romantic with a penchant for self-promotional “spectacularisms” who spent his life styling himself as a neo-Keatsian poet and sensual visionary. Brevda’s task is aided by Kemp’s having played his own Boswell and having blustered himself memorably into the lives of numerous journalists and famous contemporaries, many of whom were quick to celebrate or otherwise support his minor talent. Indeed, this well-indexed book makes almost a who’s who of Kansas, London, Greenwich Village and Provincetown from around 1910 until Kemp’s death in 1960. Brevda finally judges Kemp a “failed writer” but a “staunch bohemian,” one whose life, prefiguring the cultural vagabondage of Jack Kerouac and the flower children, dramatizes salient issues about the condition of the idealistic and creative temperament in a philistine society.

University of Kansas Michael L. Johnson

SILENCE AND NARRATIVES: *The Early Novels of Gertrude Stein*. By Janice L. Doane. Contributions in Women’s Studies, No. 62. 1986. \$27.95.

Doane traces the development of an “aesthetics of silence” in Stein’s early narratives: *Q.E.D.*, *Fenhurst*, *Three Lives* and *The Making of Americans*. The theme of silence—beginning with reticence about lesbian relationships—encompassed more general questions about female expression in a male-dominated world and female narrators in texts bound by patriarchal assumptions. Doane argues that the theme of silence and the hesitant narrator lead Stein to create an opaque style.

Others have seen Stein’s obscurity as a veil for “forbidden” autobiographical content. But Doane criticizes this reductive approach, acknowledging Stein’s concern with language and the narrative. Stein’s interest in silence is an aesthetic choice, not just personal necessity. The exploration of feminine speech in a patriarchal context is the source of her radical challenge to logical and narrative convention.

Doane’s approach combines generally convincing careful close reading with feminist and Freudian theory. Some points should be argued more directly (e.g., that the assumptions of conventional narrative are patriarchal); and the close readings should return readers more directly to the larger theoretical questions raised in the introduction.

Doane’s *Silence and Narratives* not only presents skillful readings of Stein’s important early narratives, but also recognizes radical assumptions underlying relatively conventional narratives. It argues quietly but convincingly that Stein’s radical approach to language is a search for a woman’s voice within a genre that rests on patriarchal assumptions.

University of Kansas Randa Dubnick

WILLA CATHER'S SHORT FICTION. By Marilyn Arnold. Athens: Ohio University Press. 1984. \$10.95 paper.

This first full-length study of Willa Cather's short fiction establishes Cather as a master of the short-story form. Although Cather is primarily known as a novelist, she published more than sixty short stories during her career, and several of these, including "Paul's Case" and "Neighbor Rosicky," are regarded as masterpieces. Arnold considers Cather's stories in a chronological progression, from early stories written while she was in college to her last stories, providing brief, pertinent biographical information and relating the themes and techniques of the short fiction to those of her novels. This consideration illuminates the range of Cather's thematic and stylistic concerns, as the stories allow her to work out concepts and techniques that also found expression in her longer fictional works. Arnold is insistent on Cather's devotion to the art of fiction, emphasizing the extent to which she was critical of her own accomplishments. This book is most useful as a reference work for both the reader new to Cather's short fiction and the experienced scholar: the treatments of individual stories are clear and instructive, and extensive chapter endnotes locate sources of further information and provide contexts for individual stories.

NW

arts

ROGER SESSIONS AND HIS MUSIC. By Andrea Olmstead. Ann Arbor: UMI Research Press. 1985. \$39.95.

Coming out as it did in the year of the composer's death, this slender volume is a welcome addition to the limited list of readable books devoted to individual American composers. Olmstead combines her interviews with Sessions with short analytical sketches of his most important works. While the analysis may be too technical for American Studies generalists, the book should be of value to those with some musical background: the writers of program notes, and, as a point of departure, those wishing to understand this angular and much underestimated music.

University of Kansas

Charles K. Hoag

CHAPLIN: His Life and Art. By David Robinson. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company. 1985. \$24.95.

David Robinson was given access to Chaplin's personal papers, records, letters and photographs in order to write what may be the definitive biography of this often controversial cinematic figure. Tracing Chaplin's life from his early childhood with his alcoholic father and mentally disturbed mother, the author explores Chaplin's dizzyingly meteoric career as he became the most famous man in the world, through his various scandalizing marriages, including the infamous paternity suit, to his persecution by the House Un-American Activities Committee for his leftward leaning political attitudes. Robinson's unprecedented use of Chaplin's private papers make this study the most valuable and most comprehensive of all of the many biographical works on the film director/actor. In addition the author does much to correct the gossip and half-truths which mar the other biographical works on Chaplin.

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PICTURES AND TEXTS: Henry James, A. L. Coburn, and New Ways of Seeing in Literary Culture. By Ralph F. Bogardus. Ann Arbor: UMI Research Press. 1984. \$42.95.

The author argues that the use of photographic frontispieces in the New York Edition of the works of Henry James is an early instance of an aesthetic recognition of the symbolic importance of photography. The fact that James chose Langdon's pictures over the more conventional illustrations reveals the master's sympathetic understanding of the evocative

power of the photographic image. This is an excellent study of the relationship between photography and literature and the importance of the photographic image as a literary metaphor in the late nineteenth century and provides an illuminating focus on the fiction of Henry James.

The volume contains an especially convincing discussion of the visual tendencies, both pictorial and cinematic, which appear in James' later fiction. In spite of his neglect, at times scorn, of the "art" of photography in his essays, James' fiction reveals a spacial quality and a modernist pictorial consciousness which related time and motion and space in a new type of composition and which together were largely responsible for his radically experimental prose style.

Iowa State University

Charles L. P. Silet

WINSLOW HOMER WATERCOLORS. By Helen A. Cooper. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. 1986. \$39.95.

This is a very solid book. It is pretty, too: the color cuts are numerous and lovely. Helen Cooper has done her homework; the volume answers questions technical, historical and aesthetic, assembling information which was simply not readily available a few decades ago. Let me suggest ways in which this specialized art book is useful to American Studies. "Study 'transit of culture,'" one of my graduate school professors preached. Whenever we can learn the sources which influence an artist, we learn about lines of communication which were available and open at the period; we may learn also about the state of media and about subtle aspects of style. In accounting for Homer's watercolor technique, for instance, Cooper shows what Homer learned from books, what from his commercial work, what from paint catalogue instructions, what from his work in oils (and vice versa, for the watercolors influenced the oils as well). Barbizon painters strongly influenced Homer; John La Farge said that Homer "has, like myself, been largely made by them" (52). The story of influences on Homer is much more involved than La Farge could have known, but drawing that connection raises very interesting issues. What Homer did technically with watercolors was, ultimately, so revolutionary that we are likely to lose track of how close his subjects were in various periods to work which other artists were doing. His topics do reflect theirs. Sometimes his manner as well, for there is a period-style, a visual language common to the era.

Cooper also covers the influence on Homer of science in general and color theory in particular. She provides generous quotations from contemporary critics who, despite our clichéd assumption that art pundits always failed to appreciate what was new and always panned the experimental, were often excellent. I had not known, moreover, that Homer's entire career was so carefully covered in the contemporary press. Cooper is conscientious also in her coverage of art trends in the United States. One has to immerse oneself in the periodical literature to find out things of this sort. She notices in the 1870s a striking increase of interest in this country in tendencies in European art, a sensitivity which flavored the painting even of such reputedly reclusive and idiosyncratic painters as Homer.

I very much appreciated the detail and texture incorporated in the prose in this volume. Homer's art took a sharp turn after his famous stay in the Tynmouth area in England, but I had never before understood exactly what Cullercoates, the village where Homer lived, was like: it had an artist's colony, and there was at the time an established market for genre stuff dealing with seacoast folk. Knowing those facts certainly changes our perception of Homer's work in that era and of its social context.

Cooper pulls together the scholarship of others and fills gaps with original work of her own in a book of unusual depth and fruitfulness. People who come to it just for aesthetic kick will be rewarded, but it also speaks eloquently to art historians and to the imaginative American Studies reader as well. It shows Homer's paintings in social, intellectual and stylistic context in their own landscape, so to speak, against the society, the popular and commercial culture, the art and the environment in which they were set. All these good things can be said of Cooper's work, then, because she provides adequate context, technical, aesthetic, intellectual and social.

SGL

PHILADELPHIANS AND THE CHINA TRADE, 1784-1844. By Jean Gordon Lee. Essay by Philip Chadwick Foster Smith. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 1984. \$45.00.

From the initial voyage of the *Empress of China* in 1784 to 1842, when the Treaty of Nanking changed the trade patterns between the Orient and the west, Philadelphia merchants occupied a pre-eminent position in the China trade. The city served as entrepot for the dissemination throughout the country of luxurious textiles, porcelains, furniture, lacquers, ivories and paintings. While these goods answered to the aesthetic, social and economic interests of Philadelphia's aristocracy, they also exerted influence in shaping these interests. In a handsomely-produced and illustrated catalog for the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Philadelphia Maritime Museum, the authors examine the people and objects that constituted Philadelphia's China trade. They describe the vicissitudes of the trade, the lives and motives of the men who pursued it, and the role which the objects they brought back played in Philadelphians' lives. They make us aware of the city's cosmopolitan culture and provide fascinating insights into Philadelphia tastes and aesthetic presumptions. For a specialized book, *Philadelphia and the China Trade, 1784-1844* is highly suggestive, and is recommended to historians of American art and material culture generally as well as to specialized scholars of Philadelphia's culture and economy.

LBM

DRAWN TO ART: A Nineteenth Century American Dream. By Diana Korzenik. Hanover, New Hampshire: University Press of New England. 1985. \$35.00.

This is a book in search of a subject. It is based on a cache of recently discovered nineteenth century papers which have not been digested or interpreted. Practices of vernacular art training in the home and public schools, the alleged subject, is presented with a multitude of irrelevant and disconnected facts. Without suggesting the context of American art institutions in the late nineteenth century, the author implies that Boston and Manchester were virtually the only places where training in art was available. Some scholars may find interest in bits and pieces of information on the history of Manchester, the development of wood engraving, the career of Henry Herrick, the lives of the Cross children, or art institutions in Boston.

National Museum of American Art—Smithsonian Institution

Lois M. Fink

the new deal

THE LIMITS OF SYMBOLIC REFORM: The New Deal and Taxation, 1933-1939. By Mark H. Leff. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press. 1984. \$32.50.

This work is the most important contribution to our understanding of the New Deal published in recent years. Leff provides impressive supporting evidence for the emerging consensus about the limited impact of the New Deal in altering the basic structure of wealth and economic power in the United States. He shows how Roosevelt, hoping to achieve recovery via cooperation with business, shied away from redistributive tax policies during the first phase of the New Deal. When a complex of factors led FDR in 1935 to abandon his former accommodationist approach to business, he came out as the champion of reforming the tax system to strike against the "economic royalists." But his advocacy of tax reform had no more than a symbolic function; his so-called soak-the-rich proposals, in other words, involved a rhetorical rather than substantive attack on the nation's wealthy. "By no stretch of the imagination," Leff concludes, "was the New Deal tax system a vehicle for broad income redistribution to lift up those at the bottom of the economic pyramid . . . [T]he share of tax collections drawn from potential sources of redistributive taxation (mainly the personal and corporate income taxes) was considerably *lower* in the New Deal than in World War I, the 1920s, or the decades succeeding the New Deal."

The question that remains is whether Roosevelt could have been successful if he had been more deeply committed to large-scale income redistribution. Leff appears to think yes. But a strong counterargument can be made that political and ideological obstacles made any meaningful tax reform impossible.

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DEPRESSION WINTERS: New York Social Workers and the New Deal. By William W. Bremer. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1984. \$29.95.

The role played by a network of New York-based social workers in the New Deal was much commented upon by contemporaries and has since been pointed out by Clarke Chambers in his *Seedtime of Reform: American Social Service and Social Action* (1963). So Bremer is not so much plowing new ground as filling in details. He finds that the New York social workers' most creative period was from 1928 through 1934. During those years, they publicized the need for governmental action to deal with the unemployment problem, initiated experiments that strongly influenced New Deal policies, and pushed forward "the politicization of social work itself." By 1936, the group had lost its former cohesion, and thus its influence. Bremer's most important contribution lies in his recognition of the limits of the social work ethos. The New York social workers broke with the past by affirming the responsibility of society to guarantee all its members an adequate standard of living. Yet they remained "descendants of a nineteenth-century middle class that valued autonomy in a community's affairs, the holding of private property, an ethic of work, and individual enterprise."

* * *

HUGH S. JOHNSON AND THE NEW DEAL. By John Kennedy Ohl. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press. 1985. \$25.00

From the start, the National Recovery Administration was attacked by adherents of the antimonopoly tradition as a thinly disguised cartelization scheme. And within a remarkably brief time, complaints were heard from even those who had been favorably disposed that the experiment in industrial self-government gave too much power to big business, was anti-labor union and was retarding rather than promoting recovery by its acceptance of production quotas and price-fixing. Major responsibility for those failings was blamed upon the shortcomings—personal, administrative and ideological—of NRA chief Hugh Johnson. Historians of the New Deal have generally echoed this negative appraisal of man and agency. This thoroughly researched full-scale biography provides more information about Johnson himself and the day-to-day operations of the NRA than has been previously available. Although not disputing that "the minuses of the NRA outweighed its pluses," Ohl argues that Johnson's achievements have been insufficiently appreciated and his shortcomings exaggerated. "In hindsight," he rightly concludes, "it is questionable whether anyone could have made NRA a success, given its 'confusing welter of contradictions and conflicts.'"

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

REDNECK LIBERAL: Theodore G. Bilbo and the New Deal. By Chester M. Morgan. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press. 1985. \$27.50.

Morgan has produced a well-written revisionist study that convincingly portrays Bilbo in the 1930s as an ardent New Dealer who waged, on behalf of his poor-white constituents, a continuous battle in Mississippi against his delta-county opponents for political power and federal patronage. His senatorial career during the New Deal, like that of another Dixie-Demagogue, Huey Long, who in seeking to establish a political base in Mississippi aroused Bilbo's enmity, was not consumed by racism. However, by the 1940s Bilbo came to realize what others recognized earlier, that New Deal liberalism would ultimately threaten white supremacy, the one Southern institution that both the "Prince of the Peckerwoods" and his Bourbon opponents wished to avoid challenging. Morgan's penetrating study raises interesting questions about the nature of Southern liberalism and the impact of the New Deal in the South.

Iowa State University

Richard Lowitt

colonial massachusetts

SMUGGLERS AND PATRIOTS: Boston Merchants and the Advent of the American Revolution. By John W. Tyler. Boston: Northeastern University Press. 1986. \$25.00.

Progressive historians often depicted Colonial merchants as a united community whose politics were dictated by economic self-interest. According to John W. Tyler, this was only partially the case in Boston. While economic self-interest was probably paramount in determining a merchant's politics, different merchants had widely different economic interests, and therefore moved in different political directions—particularly after Parliament's passage of the Townshend duties in 1767. Specifically, wholesalers with large inventories to sell off, smugglers and merchants who traded primarily with non-British parts of the world strongly favored nonimportation of British goods and generally became patriots. By contrast, retailers with small inventories, together with merchants trading primarily with Britain, were less likely to support nonimportation and often became neutrals and Tories. The evidence for this includes a thoroughly researched statistical profile of almost all of Boston's late-colonial merchants, as well as an impressive array of traditional literary sources. The result is a far more complex portrait of Boston's merchant community than the Progressive historians envisioned, and a convincing reassertion of the leading role played by smugglers in the patriot cause. An important revisionist work, this merits the specialist's serious attention.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

John H. Pruett

KING AND PEOPLE IN PROVINCIAL MASSACHUSETTS. By Richard L. Bushman. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1985. \$25.00.

Richard L. Bushman brings to this study an excellent background in the culture and intellectual history of New England. Bushman's thesis is that the people of Massachusetts venerated their King, but, lacking the social structure to support monarchical sentiments, grew antagonistic to the changes that imperial control brought after 1763. Important in the gradual disenchantment were the power of Parliament, the salaries of imperial officials, local control of politics, an inherent independent attitude among the citizens of Massachusetts, the perception of official corruption in imperial affairs and the "country party" rhetoric that expressed a local political culture. Although his thesis is novel only in its concentration on a local rather than a national or imperial political culture, Bushman nevertheless combines it with an overview of events, ideas and political structures to provide persuasive reasons for the growing antagonism between Crown and people and the consequent support for independence by Massachusetts.

University of Florida

Eldon R. Turner

law

DUE PROCESS IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE. By Jerry L. Mashaw. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1985. \$24.00.

As Mashaw points out, "Administrators make decisions that affect us from *before* the cradle to *beyond* the grave." The major protection for the individual against the abuse of administrative power has become the due process clause. The Supreme Court has interpreted the due process clause not simply as requiring that government must follow particular decision-making processes, but as giving, in certain areas, the individual substantive rights that government can not violate regardless of the decision-making procedures followed. The major focus of this work is on the first aspect—what are "the appropriate collective decision processes . . . for a liberal-democratic state of substantial size and advanced technological development"? Mashaw lays down as the ideal that "collective decision processes in a liberal state must employ techniques that sharply constrain *personal* domination." As for the means, his first criteria is "broad opportunities

for participation in collective decisions.” His second is more controversial: “the use of *impersonal* rules or principles.” As he, however, puts the matter in an allusion to the original title of Franz Kafka’s *The Trial*, “To have an administrative state without rules is to have not due process, but *Der Prozess*.”

* * *

THE GREAT ‘RED MENACE’: United States Prosecution of American Communists, 1947-1952. By Peter L. Steinberg. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1984. \$35.00.

There is an immense body of writing dealing with the background, dynamics and implementation of the Truman Administration’s legal attack upon the Communist Party. In the present volume, Steinberg draws upon the limited number of documents from the FBI files that he managed to pry out of the Justice Department under the Freedom of Information Act to fill in fuller details of the role played by Bureau chief J. Edgar Hoover in pushing the Truman Administration into acting against the CP. And personal interviews and correspondence with former CP leaders has provided him with new information about the debate within the Party over strategy. Otherwise, he largely recapitulates the known. Even as a handy synthesis, however, the work is marred by awkward writing, poor organization and a reflexive anti anti-Communism that sees a network of “‘patriotic’ bureaucrats” allied with “the essential sources of right-wing power” promoting the attack on the CP as the opening wedge “for the general restriction of individual liberty.” Like too many present-day “liberals,” Steinberg prefers to ignore two inconvenient facts: first, that the CPUSA was the loyal agent of Moscow; second, that the Soviet Union was (and remains) a threateningly expansionist power.

* * *

RAWLS AND RIGHTS. By Rex Martin. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas. 1985. \$25.00.

John Rawls’s *A Theory of Justice* has attracted a remarkable amount of attention for a work of abstruse theorizing and near-unreadable prose style. The reason the work has attracted so much commentary, pro and con, is that Rawls was rightly read as purporting to justify a higher degree of equality of outcomes in American society. Now Rex Martin has joined the fray in a book that aims at “reformulating Rawls’s theory.” What he means is that he out-Rawls Rawls. Thus, he not only affirms “a right of every person in a Rawlsian well-ordered society to a minimum level of income,” but argues that this right has “priority over either essentially aggregative considerations (such as the GNP or market efficiency) or over distributive results (such as, quite possibly, the ownership of productive property) which do not establish and guarantee the same social stake—an acceptable one—for each and all.”

University of Nebraska—Lincoln

John Braeman

war

PRESIDENT WASHINGTON’S INDIAN WAR: The Struggle for the Old Northwest, 1790-1795. By Wiley Sword. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 1985. \$24.95.

This is a narrative account of the Indian war in the Ohio Valley of the Old Northwest for the brief five-year period that witnessed victories for both participants. The Indians decisively defeated General Arthur St. Clair in 1791 and General Anthony Wayne prevailed at Fallen Timbers in 1794 which was followed by the Treaty of Greenville in 1795. After extensive research in both primary and secondary sources, the author devotes the greater attention to the organization and operation of the military forces of the United States government and misses the opportunity to explain more fully the organization and

traditions of Native Americans in their war expeditions and their efforts to protect their Indian lands.

The use of President Washington in the title is a rather curious one for he plays a minor role in the whole discussion. The most extensive reference to the President is his emotional reaction to the disastrous defeat of General St. Clair.

One of the strongest features of the book is its vivid accounts of military battles. It also provides a detailed examination of the Indian war that has received less attention than other conflicts in Indian-white relations.

University of Kansas

W. Stitt Robinson

AMERICAN MYTH AND THE LEGACY OF VIETNAM. By John Hellmann. New York: Columbia University Press. 1986. \$24.95.

When a much needed and long awaited book appears, one hopes that it will meet the challenge its important purposes impose. John Hellmann's does. Consciously in the tradition of *Virgin Land*, *The Machine in the Garden*, and *Regeneration Through Violence*, Hellmann's book succinctly surveys the impact of the Vietnam cul-de-sac on American frontier myths and then speculates about the need for a new myth that, the author argues, "a people cannot function without." Hellmann reviews the manipulations of myth that inspired our intrusion into Vietnam and the antiwar movement that responded when these myths proved impotent against the unprecedented situation. He then studies a skillfully selected group of American creative responses to the disaster—Robert Stone's *Dog Soldiers*, Michael Herr's *Dispatches* and Tim O'Brien's *Going after Cacciato*, and with special perspicacity, two great anti-epic films, Michael Cimino's *The Deer Hunter* and Francis Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*. Hellmann then speculates on George Lucas' *Star Wars* trilogy as the basis for a new myth (though its impact seems already to have faded and he wrote too early to consider what one hopes will be the transient *Rambo*). What is involved here could be resolved only in decades; but John Hellmann has provided a sound starting point for the basis of many American Studies explorations to come. MUST READING! (I cannot recall having used such an imperative before).

Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis

Warren French

THE TAINTED WAR: Culture and Identity in Vietnam War Narratives. By Lloyd B. Lewis. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1985. \$27.95.

Utilizing sociological methodology and terminology the author endeavors to discover why the Vietnam War differed, in the minds of American soldiers, from other combat experiences. Numerous quotations are employed to illustrate theories of human motivation and attitudes to participation in this "unique" war, and the "cultural indoctrination" of the American troops designed to prepare them for hostilities in a World War II "paradigm" type of war. The author also deals with the basic aspects of killing or being killed as he probes the reactions to this unpopular conflict.

University of Miami

Raymond G. O'Connor

media

NO SENSE OF PLACE: The Impact of Electronic Media on Social Behavior. By Joshua Meyrowitz. New York: Oxford University Press. 1985. \$22.50.

Inspired by Irving Goffman and Marshall McLuhan, *No Sense of Place* argues that the electronic media, especially television, have merged formerly distinct and separate worlds, undermining the importance of physical place while creating new identities and roles based on sharing of information. Although the approach is essentially sociological, Meyrowitz is interested in the transformation of post-World War II culture, and the book is packed with interesting historical examples. Case studies examine how the electronic media have

restructured gender relations, blurred childhood and adulthood, and eliminated political heroes. Well written and compelling in its thesis, *No Sense of Place* joins Richard Schickel's *Intimate Strangers* and Neil Postman's *Amusing Ourselves to Death* as the best recent analyses of television's impact on American culture.
State University of New York—Fredonia

William Graebner

MAGAZINES OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH. By Sam G. Riley. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1986. \$49.95.

This is solid, serious attempt to provide brief histories and to characterize each of about ninety magazines published in the south. In the cases of those magazines with which I am familiar, I found it accurate, perceptive and intelligent. It is true that sometimes Riley in giving excerpts implies that the excerpts are "typical," and, of course, there is no way that they really can be, since the magazine format itself implies enormous variety. But he is right to give such samples; I am sure that they, like the book itself, are intended to stimulate further fruitful and productive research.

SGL

reform

STILL THE GOLDEN DOOR: The Third World Comes to America. By David M. Reimers. New York: Columbia University Press. 1986. \$25.00.

This factual and analytical study offers a comprehensive account of the legislation, administrative policy and human developments that have shaped U.S. immigration, both legal and illegal, since 1945. In the dismantling of the restrictive national Origins Quota System refugees finally gained a footing. Little did policy-makers realize that demand for asylum would increase significantly, that the principal beneficiaries of liberalization would not be Europeans but Asians and Latin Americans and that the numbers of undocumented would escalate. Reimers explains why and how the character of the American population is changing and intelligently discusses the arguments and consequences surrounding the change.

University of Kansas

Sharon R. Lowenstein

REFORM IN AMERICA: The Continuing Frontier. By Robert H. Walker. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. 1985. \$25.00.

"The immediate purpose of this work," Walker explains, "is to propose a way of organizing what we know about reform." He distinguishes three major types—or "modes"—of reform on the basis of goal: "the improvement of politico-economic democracy"; "the improved treatment of specific individuals and groups"; and "the alteration of society by reference to a substantially different model." As his example of the first, he traces the money question from Jackson's fight with the Bank of the United States through the establishment of the Federal Reserve system; for the second, the struggle for black and women's rights; for the third, visions of alternative communities, attempted or simply written about, from Oneida to James W. Rouse's Columbia, Maryland. He goes on to compare the "modes" in respect to principal actors, characteristic form and dynamics. He concludes by finding that all share a common set of implicit assumptions: "the unacceptability of the status quo, the primacy of the collective good, the importance of the United States as a social experiment, and the protection of the Bill of Rights."

On matters of substantive detail, Walker treads largely familiar ground. And his taxonomy of reform is too ideologically Procrustean to accommodate the diversity of motivation and purposes that has animated protest in the United States.

* * *

CLASS AND REFORM: School and Society in Chicago, 1880-1930. By David John Hogan. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 1985. \$30.00.

This case study of Chicago applies a sophisticated neo-Marxist approach to the development of public education during the age of "the market revolution." Although many readers will be put off by the jargon ridden prose, the work has sufficient provocative insights to warrant attention. Unlike many left-leaning critics, Hogan eschews as overly simplistic the "social control" interpretation. He agrees that progressive educational reform was "very much a class movement"—its proponents being "almost exclusively upper middle class and business class individuals, either by birth or achievement." But he finds that their motives were more complex than simply a drive to make the schools the handmaidens of industrial capitalism. Rather, they aimed simultaneously at its "reform and rationalization." And while some of their proposals provoked "class-conscious opposition from working-class groups or constituencies," others were accepted and even actively supported by such groups.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

ORGANIZE OR PERISH: America's Independent Progressives, 1913-1933. By Eugene M. Tobin. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1986. \$37.50.

Tobin makes a contribution by thoroughly tracing the reform activities of progressives such as Amos Pinchot, Frederic Howe, Crystal Eastman and George Record from the Progressive party of 1912 to the coming of the New Deal. But his approach is that of a traditional political historian. He does not try to relate these figures to the Anglo-American culture of which they were members. When he discusses their failures to make alliances with farmers and industrial workers, he does not raise the issue of the significance of the cultural differences which separated eastern Anglo-Protestant patricians from Catholic workers or midwestern Lutheran farmers. He offers no theoretical explanation for their relative cultural and political isolation from the farmer-labor groups with which they hoped to build an effective national third party.

DWN

foreign relations

A DIPLOMATIC HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. By Jonathan R. Dull. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press. 1985. \$15.95.

This book is a synthesis of recent scholarship on the diplomatic histories of all the major European powers as well as the specific diplomatic history of the American Revolutionists. This is the first such synthesis since Samuel Flagg Bemis', *The Diplomacy of the American Revolution* was published a half-century ago. The author believes it is necessary to understand the diplomatic history of the American Revolution within the context of the shifting concerns of the major powers for the balance of power on the European continent. He wants to correct the tendency of American historians to isolate or overemphasize the place of the American Revolution within that larger context.

DWN

THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO. By Josefina Zoraida Vazquez and Lorenzo Meyer. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1985. \$29.00.

Two of Mexico's leading historians join together to interpret Mexican-United States relations from a Mexican point of view. They make clear that although they will attempt an objective analysis, their efforts are not impartial. Yet, to this reader, their interpretations are not substantially different in tone from the most serious and sensitive North American evaluations of this relationship. The authors argue that North American accounts do not

give sufficient weight to the impact of Mexico's loss of national territory to the United States on our subsequent relations.

Their short book provides a clearly written interpretation up to the 1980s of the tensions in our relationship. They are successful in objectively conveying Mexican sensitivities to certain issues. For example, they cite the interesting case of strong Mexican reactions to the U.S. efforts to control apthous fever in Mexican cattle in 1947. They further stress how the accumulation of incidents and North American prejudices explains the collective image Mexicans have of the U.S. Their point of view would be more valuable if greater attention were paid to evaluating the domestic motives for Mexican foreign policy decisions, and if their work included an explicit, general conclusion. North Americans will find this interesting reading.

Central University of Iowa

Roderic A. Camp

social & cultural history

CHALLENGES TO AMERICAN VALUES: Society, Business and Religion. By Thomas C. Cochran. New York: Oxford University Press. 1985. \$13.95.

The author has always been interested in the interrelationship of the history of ideas with the history of social and economic institutions. Here he presents his overview of those interrelationships from the first European settlements to the 1980s. His perspective seems to be a modification of that presented by Frederick Jackson Turner in the late 1890s. As for Turner, so for Cochran, the agricultural resources of the New World made it possible for Euro-Americans to create a national culture which was more individualistic and democratic than was true of their European homelands. But Cochran finds that culture to be more acquisitive, capitalistic and anti-intellectual than Turner had. Turner lamented that the coming of an urban-industrial environment from Europe to America was threatening the American heritage of individualism and democracy. Cochran laments that the entrenched values of the nineteenth century have made it difficult for Americans to cope with the bureaucratic and scientific components of the new environment as well as the demands for planning. In pointing out that American per capita increases in productivity have lagged behind that of many other industrializing nations since the late nineteenth century, Cochran blames not only values but also the large size of the United States. He expresses hope, however, that Americans will overcome the cultural lag of their values and come to grips with the current environment.

DWN

INVENTING THE DREAM: California Through the Progressive Era. By Kevin Starr. New York: Oxford University Press. 1985. \$19.95.

Like its predecessor, *Americans and the California Dream, 1850-1915* (1973), this second volume of a projected trilogy is a richly evocative examination of the emergence of distinctive regional culture in California. Focusing on the creation of an image of the state as a healthful, fecund American Mediterranean, and the selling of that image to the nation, Starr ranges broadly over literary, cultural, economic and political terrains. Narrative in style and biographical in organization, the book nevertheless pays close attention to cultural conflict and to attempts to raise the level of civilization in California. Carefully researched and lucidly, brilliantly written, *Inventing the Dream* is an outstanding achievement.

Franklin and Marshall College

David Schuyler

THE CRAFT APPRENTICE: From Franklin to the Machine Age in America. By W. J. Rorabaugh. New York: Oxford University Press. 1986. \$24.95.

This book is intended to convey to a reader "what it was like to be an apprentice" in eighteenth and nineteenth-century America. It is based on an impressively large, diverse and hard-won body of primary sources, spanning the years from 1720 to 1870. Scores of apprentices are permitted to speak for themselves while reasons for decline of the institution of apprenticeship are developed in the background.

The reader will find a great deal of information regarding living conditions, masters good and bad and unhappy apprentices, but no trustworthy account of the nature and substance of the trade knowledge that apprentices were learning. In the nineteenth century, we learn, the master's authority was undermined by "alternative sources of knowledge" and that "if a youth wanted to learn a craft, he needed only a book and not a master." The author seems unaware of the essential difference in knowing, in words, what a craftsman does and in the craftsman's knowing how to do it. The absence of any deeply informed sense of the nature of skills and other aspects of nonverbal knowledge unfortunately vitiates explanations and discussions of technical changes in crafts. The illustrations are decorative rather than informative.

University of Delaware

Eugene S. Ferguson

religion

NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, OR MADMEN: The Puritan Adjustment to Quakerism in Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts Bay. By Jonathan M. Chu. Contributions to the Study of Religion, No. 14. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1985. \$27.95.

As the author relates, Massachusetts perceived the first visiting Friends as a disruptive force, but since Puritans did not try to compel orthodoxy in belief, they sought to suppress Quakers on the grounds of sedition rather than heresy. When England imposed religious toleration on the colony, the General Court shifted responsibility for regulating Quakers to county courts. These bodies weighed political and economic as well as religious considerations in judging offenders, and since resident Quakers were often worthy members of the community, religious toleration gradually emerged. By 1681 Massachusetts had suspended all laws regulating Quaker behavior.

Much of this story is familiar, and some weaknesses mar this study. The word "madmen" is perhaps overused. The book gives an erroneous impression of the origins of Quakerism. The concept of separation of church and state is loosely handled. Compulsory church attendance figures prominently, yet the author shows no awareness of my work on the subject, *Redeem the Time: The Puritan Sabbath in Early America* (1977). Mr. Chu has carefully evaluated relevant materials, nevertheless, and he casts fresh light on an important subject.

University of Illinois—Urbana

Winton U. Solberg

THE AMERICAN CHURCHES IN WORLD WAR I. By John F. Piper Jr. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press. 1985. \$27.50.

This is a useful study of much of the history of the relationship of Protestant and Catholic churches with a war-time government. It describes the development of the chaplaincy, the ecumenical nature of Protestant cooperation and the necessity of centralization of Catholic authority in the National Catholic War Council and the Knights of Columbus. Its chief weakness is its failure to discuss any church opposition to the war except for passing mention of the historic peace churches or to discuss the origin of the religious anti-war movement in the founding of such groups as the American Friends Service Committee and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Contains a helpful bibliography.

St. Paul School of Theology—Kansas City-Missouri

John M. Swomley Jr.

PERFECTION SALAD: Women and Cooking at the Turn of the Century. By Laura Shapiro. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. 1986. \$16.95.

In this entertaining book, Shapiro traces the scientific cooking movement from its origins in nineteenth-century domestic science to its apotheosis in twentieth-century home economics departments. Shapiro argues that movement leaders engaged in a self-defined crusade to reform American eating habits. In their zeal to spread the gospel of science, they

emphasized nutrition and appearance over flavor in creating such culinary abominations as color-coordinated meals and sweet salads. Scientific cooks recommended white sauce as an all-purpose concealment and gelatin to keep untidy ingredients from sprawling over the plate. The movement culminated in the introduction of Crisco, a product "from which virtually everything had been stripped except a certain number of nutrients and the color white." Scientific cooks, Shapiro argues, succeeded in producing a more uniform American cuisine but undermined themselves by creating in home economics a female ghetto that paralleled such "male" fields as chemistry and agriculture. Shapiro's study is not strictly academic but it is thoroughly researched and useful to scholars of women's history.

The American University

Kay Mussell

DANIEL BELL AND THE AGONY OF AMERICAN LIBERALISM. By Nathan Liebowitz. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1985. \$29.95.

According to the author, "This book is an analysis of Bell's efforts to construct a theory of the postindustrial society." In fact the book is a study of most facets of Bell's writings during the bulk of his career. It analyzes the End of Ideology controversy, deals with the many contradictions in Bell's work and assesses the degree to which Bell himself was an idealogue. Since the author attempts to treat Bell as "nearly a mirror of American intellectual history for the past 40 years," students of modern American Studies should find the book both useful and interesting.

Northern Illinois University

Robert W. Schneider

SOCIALISM AND AMERICA. By Irving Howe. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 1985. \$17.95.

Though the author denies that this is a formal history of the Socialist movement in America, he does provide a capsule account of socialism and socialist thought in recent American history. More importantly Howe accounts for the failure of socialism to have a lasting impact on American life. Because the movement never really came to grips with such shared national myths as the importance of the individual, which undercut a belief in collective action, and a feeling that America had had its revolution in 1776 and needed no other, the socialists did not confront the uniqueness of American culture and thereby self-destructed in their own sectarianism and political ineptitude.

Iowa State University

Charles L. P. Silet

WITNESSES AT THE CREATION: Hamilton, Madison, Jay, and the Constitution. By Richard B. Morris. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston. 1985. \$16.95.

Minority opinions notwithstanding, Morris presents the traditional interpretation of America's "critical period," emphasizing the failure of revolutionary radicals to create a workable federal government, the fundamentally and irreparably flawed Articles of Confederation, the "bankruptcy" of the nation under the Confederation Congress and the "last chance" offered by moderates meeting at Philadelphia during the summer of 1787. Morris' major concern is with the Federalists' battle for ratification, the success of which he attributes to their better organization; to the failure of the Anti-Federalists to provide a reasonable alternative (amending the Articles constituting an unreasonable alternative); and, ultimately, to the persuasive abilities of the three visionary founders of the new republic.

Creighton University

Bryan F. Le Beau

THE PERSONAL PRESIDENCY: Power Invested, Promise Unfulfilled. By Theodore J. Lowi. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. 1985. \$19.95.

Building upon his widely acknowledged work *The End of Liberalism* (1969, 2nd ed. 1979), Theodore J. Lowi analyzes the modern Presidency which he declares to have become

“plebiscitary” or “personal.” As he does in his earlier work, he proceeds from the assumption that we are now in a “Second Republic,” one which started with FDR and reached full development in 1961, a system that is significantly different from the traditional government dating from the Founding Fathers.

Completed just before the 1984 re-election of Ronald Reagan, the book carries its analysis into the current administration and provides suggestive insights into the current scene. It is of major value in tracing much of the development of what Arthur Schlesinger called the “imperial Presidency” to the well-known pronouncement of the President’s Committee on Administrative Management that “our president needs help.” One may differ with some of the author’s interpretations but any reader will find this a thought-provoking analysis.

University of Kansas

Francis H. Heller