

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 members of the editorial board are signed with initials.

visual arts

DEMOCRATIC VISTAS: Post Offices and Public Art in the New Deal. By Marlene Park and Gerald E. Markowitz. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1984. \$37.95.

This study of the post-office art commissioned by the Treasury Department's Section of Painting and Sculpture between 1934 and 1943 inevitably invites comparison with Karal Ann Marling's *Wall-to-Wall America: A Cultural History of Post-Office Murals in the Great Depression* (1982). Marling took an "iconological approach," focusing upon what the murals meant to the people of the time in an attempt to illuminate "popular taste." Park and Markowitz have written a more orthodox art history. They examine the assumptions and goals of the program, its administrative functioning and the aesthetic and ideological competition among the artists involved. But the bulk of the book is devoted to an analysis of the predominant motifs in the art produced. The aim behind the program was "to make the national government's presence felt in even the smallest, most remote communities." And there was an underlying thematic unity in the works commissioned by Section officials.

What they imposed on the artists was a realistic style, legible design, convincing drawing, and accuracy of representation. What they fostered were subjects of small town history and contemporary scenes. They also encouraged a positive view of society and a faith in the importance of peaceful social change. . . .

Whereas Marling called most of the Section's products "dismal," Park and Markowitz are more positive: "Today, if the best Section paintings and sculptures were exhibited together, they would be an impressive tribute to an innovative New Deal program."

Depending upon tastes, readers will opt for one or the other of these appraisals. In one regard, however, the Park/Markowitz volume is without question the superior due to the number and quality of its illustrations—162 in black and white, 11 in full color.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

ROBERT CAPA: Photographs. Edited by Cornell Capa and Richard Whelan. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1985. \$35.00. ROBERT CAPA: A Biography. By Richard Whelan. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1985. \$19.95.

Robert Capa is synonymous with war and documentary photography and photojournalism. His photographs, like his life, were characterized by personal compassion and risk as he covered the Spanish Civil War, World War II and the French war in Indochina, where he died at age 41 in 1954. Always taking a personal risk, Capa caught human beings at physical and emotional extremes. His photographs appeared so often in *Life* and other magazines that Americans counted him as one of their own. But this Hungarian-born Jewish nomad, who invented the name Capa, had no home. He wanted to be an American, however, which was one of the reasons that André Friedman took the name Robert Capa. Yet his work has influenced American photojournalism since World War II, as did his role as founder and sometime manager of Magnum Photos. Whelan's biography chronicles Capa's adventure-filled life and his relations with photographers and war correspondents; an assessment of Capa's impact on the American psyche still needs to be done. *Robert Capa: Photographs* is the sum of Capa's life work; it is worth a long look.

DMK

literature

ASPECTS IDÉOLOGIQUES DU ROMAN AMÉRICAIN DE LA DEUXIÈME GUERRE MONDIALE. By Pierre Deflaux. Paris: Didier Erudition. 1984. 160 Francs.

Deflaux's book is a study of ideological aspects of American culture as manifested in World War II novels. Much of the book is background—past, present and future—of American culture, society, history, dreams. The background leads integrally to a survey of American war novels from the 1940s to the 1970s— from popular paperbacks to best sellers to first-rate literature. The author gives close attention to about a dozen—representing a range from Harry Brown's *A Walk in the Sun* (1944), to Joseph Heller's *Catch-22* (1961).

Deflaux recognizes that American society is not ideologically oriented. But, with his French sense of ideologies— doctrines, implied beliefs, catchwords, standards, conventions, mores, etc.—he can see into those that either shape American thought or serve as alibis for it. This is the great value of the book.

The central matter is the analysis of the dozen exemplary novels, chosen to represent a spectrum from "conservative" to "liberal"—or I might say neo-liberal. But these are not ideological divisions. "Liberalism, in our view, is a constant of the spirit of dissent or opposition, a right to push to the limit, even to the point of insubordination, a dialectic of dispute." Conservatism, by contrast, is "adherence to a body of doctrines more or less obvious and intangible."

Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead*, Jones' *From Here to Eternity*, and Heller's *Catch-22* represent liberalism pushed to the limit.

One could say that *Catch-22* comes at the intersection of many ideas. So this novel serves as a paradigm in any analysis of contemporary American literature, whatever its slant: black humor, Jewish self-derision, anti-heroism, sick or deviant language, the absurd, avant-gardism, post-modernism, alienation, anarchism, violence, narcissism, the fantastic, etc. Heller clears many grounds simultaneously; he uses willful confusion of genre and themes to reproduce faithfully the confusion of spirit in a time when, as in the Renaissance, everything is changing, when norms unravel and open up an era as yet unseizable. (translations mine, J. A.)

Deflaux's sources include wide readings in American and European criticism, commentary and history, as well as the many novels themselves. Documentation is good, footnotes are accurate and informative, but the scholarly reader is hampered by the placing of the bibliography and index on two microfiche cards in a pocket in the back of the book—a good idea to save space but annoying if you want to check names, dates, publishers, etc. The text itself is very readable, in fact eloquent.

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FAST TALK & FLUSH TIMES: The Confidence Man as a Literary Convention. By William E. Lenz. Columbia: University of Missouri Press. 1985. \$21.00.

The author builds his thesis on Johnson J. Hooper's Simon Suggs (*Some Adventures of Captain Simon Suggs*, 1845) as the model of the confidence man as a "literary convention." Having established the reader's confidence a priori, he demonstrates through a slippery dialectic that all American literature that is true derives from the humor of the Old Southwest (viz Simon Suggs), and all the rest of American literature is false insofar as it deviates from the model. Benjamin Franklin and P. T. Barnum are respected as living precursors of the literary convention. Melville, Twain and William Dean Howells are okay because they "bring the conventions of the literary comedians and popular sentimentalists into contact with the earlier tradition of southwestern humor." The argument is based on a survey of secondary scholarly material plus shrewd readings of selected works by the writers mentioned above and a few others. Twentieth-century writers—Lewis, Fitzgerald, Faulkner, Ellison, Pynchon, Barth, et al— receive honorable mention. It's an interesting exercise in a kind of structuralist criticism. But as humbug, it doesn't quite come off.

Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

James C. Austin

AN AMERICAN PROCESSION. By Alfred Kazin. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1984. \$18.95.

The title of Alfred Kazin's study of "the major American writers from 1830 to 1930—the crucial century" is taken from Whitman's comment that Emerson was "the actual beginner of the whole procession" of American literary greats. "The principle character" of this study, as Kazin points out, is the "now legendary sense of self in America . . . along with the hopes of a 'free man's worship' that came with it, before the aggressive and ever more concentrated forces assimilated this sense of self into capitalism as theology."

Many American Studies students are going to have mixed responses to this book. It is undoubtedly a valuable contribution to our understanding of American literature and culture. Not only is it packed with insightful observation and provocative analysis, but it also adds an important humanistic dimension to more sociological studies of American individualism such as the recently published *Habits of the Heart*. But at the same time the book will be maddening to others because of the way it ignores more than a decade of feminist and minority criticism. Harriet Beecher Stowe is only mentioned; Charles Chesnutt and Kate Chopin ignored. Perhaps the reason the self has failed us is that men like Kazin have continued to be deaf to writers who presented an alternative to the "legendary sense of self" which captured the academy earlier in this century.

University of Northern Iowa

Theodore Hovet

CRISIS AND COVENANT: The Holocaust in American Jewish Fiction. By Alan L. Berger. Albany: State University of New York Press. 1985. \$34.50 cloth, \$9.95 paper.

Berger's study of responses to the Holocaust in American Jewish fiction is both helped and hindered by its critical orientation. Readers given to seeing literature in religious terms may find much here that is suggestive; others are apt to find the book reductive in its theological focus and somewhat tedious in its expository mode. The tendency is to read individual novels as if they were part of a well-defined corpus of "Holocaust fiction" and then to understand this corpus as a many-sided reflection of Jewish covenant theology. While the interpretations of individual books are time and again clarifying, the author's mode of criticism has the effect of "translating" literature into the categories of theological discourse. A less determined study of the religious implications of this literature would be welcome.

Indiana University

Alvin H. Rosenfeld

THE LABOR OF WORDS: Literary Professionalism in the Progressive Era. By Christopher P. Wilson. Athens: University of Georgia Press. 1985. \$24.00.

Wilson brings interdisciplinary perspective to an area usually discussed by historians working within the conventions of journalism departments. He writes that "this study

began as a dissertation on Progressive-era literary radicalism," but "over time, my interest in literary livelihood deepened":

... what emerged was a social and cultural history of the mass literary marketplace which arose in America during the three decades after 1885. My interest here centers around a vital link in the market's early evolution: the genesis of the era's dominant professional style, the vocational manner I call 'popular naturalism.' My primary goal is to describe the emergence of this style in literary, occupational and cultural terms. More specifically, I want to show how the arrival of a 'progressive' publishing elite gave impetus to a popular style that is still very much with us today, to demonstrate how the contradictions within the market's occupational nexus exerted pressures and set limits on the literary practice of certain vanguard writers, and, finally, to suggest how the professional foundation of popular naturalism, vital as it was to the era's rebellion from Victorian culture, also impoverished and frequently disabled that rebellion, unwittingly setting the stage for the modern dilution of the naturalists' own cultural legacy.

He discusses in detail Jack London, Upton Sinclair, David Graham Phillips and Lincoln Steffens. Because he does not see a coherent debate about political values in the Progressive Era, he does not relate the career frustrations experienced by these men to issues of political ideology. Nevertheless the book does provide many valuable perspectives on this period and on these men. Its methodology should be taken into account by all students of American culture.

DWN

THE SPIRIT OF THE HUCKLEBERRY: Sensuousness in Henry Thoreau. By Victor Carl Friesen. Edmonton, Alberta: University of Alberta Press. 1984. \$21.00.

Friesen in this attractive book shuns gossip, biography, amateur psychoanalysis, literary theory and criticism. What then is left? Thoreau's own words, and they are more than enough. The constant quotations of Thoreau's scintillating statements produce a richness of detail that will delight all readers and impress specialists.

No deconstructionist, Friesen accepts Thoreau's direct statements and figures of speech as generally accurate, refuses to impose his own views on Thoreau's Transcendentalist inconsistencies, and does not claim him as a materialist, a permanent pantheist or a stoical ascetic. Instead, he emphasizes Thoreau's cultivation of his five senses in his sensuousness as the basis for his mysticism. In his hypersensitivity he heard "celestial" sounds in God's silences and apprehended the spirit of the huckleberry in a supersensory way.

Despite Friesen's learning, there are some problems. Chapters are loosely organized, so material on one topic appears in several places. The mosaic combination of Thoreau's fragments with Friesen's connectives makes for slow reading. Finally, there is no index to facilitate reference. Nevertheless, this charming book presents a balanced and valid view of Thoreau.

University of Iowa

Alexander Kern

MELVILLE AND THE GODS. By William Hamilton. Chico, California: Scholars Press. 1985. \$13.25 paper.

In this brief study, Hamilton reads Melville's works as a reflection of his search for God as epitomized by Ishmael's actions; of his defiance and destruction of God as represented by Ahab's incarnation of himself as God; and finally of his discovery of an indifferent, non-Christian deity in the sea. Hamilton's interpretation, which neglects other studies of Melville's religious convictions, nevertheless is persuasive in suggesting that Melville, at last, created a personal theology.

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IN HAWTHORNE'S SHADOW: American Romance from Melville to Mailer. By Samuel Chase Coale. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. 1985. \$24.00.

Coale argues that Hawthorne's Manichean vision of irreconcilable opposites, which found effective embodiment in his allegorical romances, underlies the vision and form of subsequent major American writers, including Melville and Frederic; Southern writers—Faulkner, McCullers, O'Connor, Stryon; Cheever, Updike, and Gardner; Oates and Didion. Although he focuses on the continuity of Hawthornian themes and structural devices in twentieth-century American fiction and recognizes that twentieth-century conditions have prompted their exaggeration, Coale clearly distinguishes between contemporary American romance writers and novelists. In acknowledging Melville as the first American writer influenced by Hawthorne, however, he does not sufficiently differentiate between the influence of these two nineteenth-century writers on the writers of the twentieth century.

University of Kansas

Elizabeth Schultz

EVE TEMPTED: Writing and Sexuality in Hawthorne's Fiction. By Allan Gardner Lloyd Smith. London and Sydney: Croom Helm; Totowa, New Jersey: Barnes and Noble Books. 1984. \$28.50.

In an attempt to discover the "fragmented biography" present in the materials of Hawthorne's work while avoiding the excesses and objections of the usual psychoanalytical studies, Smith has turned to the theories of Wolfgang Iser, "who retrieves from the text both an implied author and an implied reader, brought into being during the act of reading." The advantage of this procedure is that it focuses attention on the codes for the production of meaning encased in the author's culture and does not rely on simplistic notions of personal experience. Drawing on the work of Jacques Derrida, Freud and Roland Barthes, as well as Iser, Smith provides a new reading of Hawthorne which examines the connection between sexuality and writing as it is embodied in the texts, primarily of the novels, which reveal his pursuit of the issues of authenticity, sincerity and presence. Although often clogged by his overuse of critical jargon, Smith's study presents an interesting and convincing argument for seeing Hawthorne as a man caught between the two warring intellectual factions of the mid-nineteenth century: Lockian common sense and transcendentalism.

Iowa State University

Charles L. P. Silet

NOVELS, READERS, AND REVIEWERS: Responses to Fiction in Antebellum America. By Nina Baym. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. 1984. \$24.95.

Based upon her examination of more than 2,000 reviews appearing in major American periodicals between 1840 and 1860, Baym's book is an intensive exploration of the status of the novel and the act of novel reading in the United States during the mid-nineteenth century. Baym's findings handily demolish two of the most firmly-entrenched canards of American literary history: that the antebellum period was intrinsically hostile to fiction, and that "the sparseness of American social life" made the conventional novel difficult, if not impossible, to write. In point of fact, the United States between 1840 and 1860 was a nation of enthusiastic readers of American, British and Continental fiction (witness the 800 different titles Baym encountered), and the voluminous reviews of the era attest to the widespread impulse to fathom the novel as both an art form and a social phenomenon. Although Baym does offer some specific insights into the nineteenth-century American reading public (e.g., novel reading was far more a solitary pleasure than an occasion for family group activities), for the most part the book is valuable for its analysis of how antebellum reviewers perceived various technical aspects of the novel and, concomitantly, how their criticisms helped determine the quality and direction of the evolution of the American novel.

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UNCLE TOM'S CABIN AND AMERICAN CULTURE. By Thomas F. Gossett. Dallas, Texas: Southern Methodist University Press. 1985. \$29.95.

Part social history, part literary history, part literary criticism and part biography,

Gossett's book is a wide-ranging, rather uneven study of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*—the circumstances surrounding its genesis, the popular and critical reaction to it and its short- and long-term impact upon American society. Although there are difficulties with this study (Mrs. Stowe herself remains an oddly elusive figure, and Chapter 13, "The Reception Abroad," regrettably is limited only to the British response), Gossett nevertheless argues persuasively that *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (as both a novel and a series of plays) was simultaneously a mirror of America's attitudes towards race, regionalism and religion, plus a tool for implementing social change throughout the past 130 years.

Alice Hall Petry

HENRY JAMES AND THE PROBLEM OF AUDIENCE: An International Act. By Anne T. Margolis. Ann Arbor, Michigan: UMI Research Press. 1985. \$39.95.

This detailed analysis of Henry James' lifelong relationship to his audience revises and expands upon recent studies by William Veeder, Henry Nash Smith and Marcia Jacobson similarly concerned with James' debt to or interest in the popular literary conventions of his day. Margolis begins by rejecting the long-established view that, following the professional disappointments of the 1880s, James "was prepared to ignore or defy the expectations of the reading public" and to devote himself religiously to the perfection of form. Drawing variously on research in the Anglo-American book trade as well as on his reviews, notebooks, letters and fictional texts, she traces James' highly ambivalent and ever-changing attitudes toward the two groups of Anglo-American readers which made up his audience throughout his career: the popular, mass market audience and the English-speaking avant-garde. She demonstrates that up to and during the years in which he revised his work for the New York edition James continually strove to satisfy the often contrasting expectations of both audiences in the hopes not only of sustaining the commitment to art applauded by his disciples but also of gaining the "big sales and popular success" for which he had always yearned. Margolis' reading of James' unpublished correspondence to his literary agent, J. B. Pinker, is particularly instrumental in establishing the businessman's side of the Master's personality during his final years. One wonders, however, where in her history of James' relationship with his audience she would fit the major writings of his post-*Golden Bowl* period. By ending her study with the depression James suffered after the financial failure of the New York edition, Margolis prematurely puts an end to the "problem of audience" for Henry James.

St. Olaf College

Carol Holly

STEPHEN CRANE. By James B. Colvert. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 1984. \$24.95.

In seven crisp chapters, each coalescing around a place or places lived in or visited extensively by the fine writer who is the subject of this monograph, James Colvert gives us a shaped, informed, factually accurate, uncontentious, critically astute introduction to America's emblematic writer of the 1890s ("indisputably the most gifted American writer of his generation, and the most precocious") that will not be soon superseded. Among the more reasonable of Crane's major critics writing since the "rediscovery" of Crane by John Berryman and R. W. Stallman thirty-five years ago, Colvert is more interested (and rightly so) in defining the character of Crane's artistic gift and his commitment to the artistic ethics of remaining true to his own personal honesty than in dwelling on his sometimes less than attractive personal traits as did Thomas Beer and Robert Stallman. After all, what is important about Crane, Colvert asserts, is his "innovative impressionistic style, vivid irony, and penetrating psychological realism—all characteristics of style and vision that anticipated Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Anderson, and Faulkner by twenty-five years." Colvert's critical interpretations of individual texts are always sound, but he is particularly astute on the way Crane's major themes and characteristic techniques (particularly his own brand of impressionism—which was a matter of both aesthetics and ethics) are already present in his earliest work. This excellent "sketch" (as Colvert calls it) is generously illustrated.

Brown University

George Monteiro

EDMUND WILSON. By David Castronovo. New York: Frederick Ungar. 1985. \$15.50.

This is a modestly useful introduction to Wilson as a Man of Letters. Castronovo attempts to find unifying concerns in Wilson's disparate work, often persuasively, although occasionally with over-ingenuity. An almost inevitable limitation of such a short book (fewer than 200 pages) on such a large *oeuvre* is superficiality: *Patriotic Gore* in particular gets short shrift.

University of Iowa

John Raeburn

PROLOGUE: The Novels of Black American Women, 1891-1965. By Carole McAlpine Watson. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1985. \$27.95.

Recognizing that art itself was not the primary goal of early black women writers, Watson discusses the ways in which they used conventional aesthetic devices to further their attempts to uplift Afro-American people morally and spiritually, to promote racial solidarity and to protest racial injustice. Although this study identifies historical changes in the didactic concerns of these writers and differentiates them as a group from novels written by whites, there is little emphasis placed on their particularly feminist orientation. Useful appendices of chronologies, themes and plot summaries of the novels.

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EXORCISING BLACKNESS: Historical and Literary Lynching and Burning Rituals. By Trudier Harris. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. 1985. \$22.50.

In general, Harris' study demonstrates an irrefutable connection between Afro-American history and literature. In particular, it demonstrates that Afro-American poets and novelists since 1853 have been concerned to represent the devastating range of psychological, political and social effects upon blacks of attempts by whites, through the rituals of lynching, to degrade them, to dominate them and to exorcize them from the land. Her analysis of the historical fear of lynching upon black males and of its continuing impact upon the imaginations of such contemporary writers as John Wideman, David Bradley and Toni Morrison is powerfully persuasive.

University of Kansas

Elizabeth Schultz

WILLIAM FAULKNER. By Alan Warren Friedman. New York: Frederick Ungar. 1984. \$15.50. FAULKNER AND THE NOVELISTIC IMAGINATION. By Robert Dale Parker. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press. 1985. \$16.95.

Friedman's volume is the more basic of the two works. It serves as introduction to newcomers or as refresher course for older readers as it follows Faulkner's emotional need to tell and retell, to fail in the story but to try again. In central chapters on major novels the obsessive patterns of "violent deaths, appalling sex and worse marriages, self-indulgent garrulity" are traced and the centrality of repetition underlined in the multiple narrators. Friedman finds also the opposite movement: the desire not to tell, the negation of information (and of characters—"the substanceless shell," "dreaming, not living") or retardation of movement. He explores the relationship between early and late works (*Flags in the Dust/The Reivers*) and continuation of characters' lives in the Snopes Trilogy. The short stories—only a few—get some attention in their relation to *The Unvanquished*, *The Wild Palms* and *Go Down, Moses*. This is a scholarly, well-documented book with bibliography slanted toward recent criticism.

Robert Dale Parker takes up that "deliberately withheld meaning" pointed to by Friedman (and Conrad Aiken in 1939). "Something" happens, has or will happen (the words appear everywhere) but eludes us, leading us on. Parker's opening chapter makes brief distinctions among novels: the epistemological uncertainties in *The Sound and the Fury* and tactical ones in *Sanctuary*, combinations of both in *Absalom*. This chapter with its discussion of Faulkner as modernist and of his relationship to Conrad, James and Melville is more exciting than the other four chapters which spell out—sometimes in repetitive detail—the gaps and uncertainties and consequent design of major novels. The book, free

of specialized language, incorporates the criticism of structural theorists (Parker cites especially Jonathan Culler) and numerous other recent investigators of narrative strategy. For the reader who has wrestled with the ambiguities Parker provides the more intriguing text.

University of Iowa

Joy C. Steele

AMERICAN POETRY AND JAPANESE CULTURE. By Sanehide Kodama. Hamden, Connecticut: Archon Books. 1984. \$27.50.

In the history of Japanese influence on American poets, Whitman's salute to "venerable Asia, the all-mother" provides the author a convenient beginning, but of modern poets, he notes, "there is no end." Between this mighty alpha and endless omega Kodama reworks some of the territory covered by Earl Miner's *The Japanese Tradition and British and American Literature*, but in narrowing the focus to American poetry he is able to make usefully detailed comparisons of Japanese raw material and American productions. Kodama makes extensive use of unpublished sources: letters of Longfellow, letters and the library of Amy Lowell, the notebooks of Ernest Fenollosa, and the haiku of Richard Wright. (Other poets substantially treated are Kenneth Rexrth, Richard Wilbur, Allen Ginsberg and Gary Snyder.) The best discussion is of Pound's *Cathay* which, Kodama persuasively argues, draws upon "Fenollosa's notebooks, unavailable to scholars until recently, and erroneously thought to have been full of errors." Kodama offers ample evidence of the play of Pound's use of Fenollosa's "almost exact, literal renderings of the Chinese poems," the Japanese transliterations and the English glosses.

Austin Community College

Wayne Pounds

"A WHITE HERON" AND THE QUESTION OF MINOR LITERATURE. By Louis A. Renza. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press. 1984. \$19.95.

This highly original study of Sarah Orne Jewett's widely anthologized short story employs recent critical approaches to demonstrate that so-called "minor literature" like "A White Heron" is often work that cannot be properly understood and evaluated by conventional critical practices. Through a series of brilliant readings—from the perspectives of regionalism, feminism, pastoralism and the literary sketch—Renza finds new and provocative meanings in a text that refuses to conform to the traditions with which it is usually linked, and thereby forces the reader to re-think questions of canonicity. As illuminating and convincing as are its analyses of "A White Heron," the most significant achievement of this book is its challenge to received opinion and value and to unexamined critical method. The text of the short story is included.

University of Kansas

Donald F. Warders

THE AMERICAN DREAM AND THE POPULAR NOVEL. By Elizabeth Long. Boston: Routledge and Kegan Paul. 1985. \$22.50.

Elizabeth Long investigates best-selling hard cover novels in America between 1945-1975 to conclude that the nation moved from celebrating "a vision of entrepreneurial success" to a sense of "loss of all traditional sanctions, ideals and authorities." She adds a survey of the ideas of six sociologists of that era which she says fail to show the "empiricism" of her study on "the range of reflectiveness" she discovers in the popular mind.

The problems in the book relate to the cursory treatment of the novels and the total lack of reference to either economic-political events in the period or to earlier literary precedents. Thus Long claims that this period was "the first time when the limits and the contradictions" of the success dream were widely recognized. The novels in Long's first decade are too simply described as glorifying business success "without any personal cost" and as presenting lower class people in only hostile terms. These conclusions rely heavily on religious historical tales which, with one exception, suggest little concern about entrepreneurial values except to insist that they must be subordinated to spiritual ones. And the novels of the post-1969 years seem less expressions of continuing disintegration, as Long

argues, than reaffirmations, sometimes desperate, of liberal or conservative social obligations.

The question of why some best-sellers are used and many others neither mentioned nor seemingly read is left unanswered, despite lengthy methodological justifications. The writing is gracelessly full of terms like privatistic, commodified, totalizing, concretize and even "in like wise." Probably sociology deserves more blame than even best-sellers here. Long seems most comfortable with the sociologists, whose work she describes with considerable precision and depth.

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

David Grimsted

THE AMERICAN PRIVATE EYE: The Image in Fiction. By David Geherin. New York: Frederick Ungar. 1985. \$16.50 cloth, \$7.95 paper. DASHIELL HAMMETT. By Dennis Dooley. New York: Frederick Ungar. 1985. \$14.95 cloth, \$7.95 paper. REX STOUT. By David R. Anderson. New York: Frederick Ungar. 1984. \$12.95 cloth, \$7.95 paper.

More than a dozen studies of detective and suspense fiction have now been published in Ungar's Recognition Series, and stock-taking seems in order. These are doggedly determined reviews of both Victorian and modern writers, and a large part of each book consists of plot summaries that try not to give away the identity of a murderer. No particularly striking theory of the roots of a genre has been proposed, and perhaps it is as well that extravagant claims for the literary merit of these practitioners seem to have been toned down by vigilant editors. (The word "possible" in Anderson's sentence, "With the possible exception of Holmes and Dr. Watson, Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodwin form the most successful partnership in crime fiction," may grate on the sensibilities of a Baker Street Irregular.) It is unclear whether a rigid format prevents these critics from relating their chosen authors to larger sociological and cultural considerations; Dooley's chapter on the Depression years and the rise of fascism is a feeble wave in the right direction, but Hammett's relationship to history is worth thinking about in subsequent chapters, too, and Dooley is too often overwhelmed by plot details. So, for that matter, is Anderson's summation of Rex Stout's career; Stout, who flourished for thirty years, was a cranky liberal who detested J. Edgar Hoover and supported the Vietnam War; a full-scale consideration of his career would have attempted to make more of such inconsistencies. Geherin (who has contributed three titles to the series) has read hundreds of private-eye novels, but his thousand-word summaries of writers like Norbert Davis and Howard Browne obscure the genuine importance of those who really count among his twenty-seven chosen examples. An analysis of the reasons why Mickey Spillane's novels have sold in the millions—a fact that distresses Geherin—must grow out of a firmer conceptual base than we discover in *The American Private Eye*. These books are respectable hack-work, and Anderson's biographical chapter is genuinely informative; but one wonders what audience Ungar is aiming at. Books such as these cannot confer respectability on schools of fiction that (to some extent self-consciously) ignore conventional concepts of literary niceness. Most readers of detective and suspense fiction couldn't care less.

University of Kansas

Harold Orel

WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE. By E. Jay Jernigan. Boston: Twayne Publishers. 1983. \$15.95.

A volume in The Twayne United States Authors Series that presents "for the first time," according to the author, both a critical assessment and systematic analyses of White's numerous publications. Altogether twenty-one of White's twenty-five books, sixteen of which are collections that include, among other items, short stories, magazine articles, editorials, newspaper copy, lectures and letters are critiqued. The introductory chapters place White and his career in historical perspective, while the last of the study's six chapters assess White as the voice of the midwestern middle class. In all, this brief (155 pages) well written, carefully researched volume provides a handy reference to readers interested in the ever fascinating career of one of the more interesting and able American journalists.

Iowa State University

Richard Lowitt

autobiography

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL OCCASIONS AND ORIGINAL ACTS: Versions of American Identity from Henry Adams to Nate Shaw. By Albert E. Stone. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 1982. \$28.50 cloth, \$9.95 paper.

James Olney in the introduction to his useful collection of essays, *Autobiography: Essays Theoretical and Critical* (1980), points out that autobiography has become the “focalizing literature for various studies” such as American Studies, Black Studies, and Women’s Studies because it “offers a privileged access to an experience” (13). For this reason, the nature of autobiography has become a matter of great interest to American Studies scholars and Albert E. Stone’s book has been “much anticipated,” as Olney notes.

Stone takes the approach that autobiography is much more than a branch of imaginative literature, that it involves “complex processes of historical re-creation, ideological argument, and psychological expression” (19). In order to provide a framework for understanding these complex processes, he closely examines autobiographies by 16 representative Americans ranging from Henry Adams to Nate Shaw, Anais Nin to Thomas Merton. Then, in a productive analytical move, he compares “synchronically works which deal with similar themes, social institutions or strategies of self-construction” (19). By so doing, he is able to draw some highly insightful conclusions about such matters as the relationship of history to personal identity, the influence of childhood on the autobiographical vision and the role of violence on the creation of identity. He is also deeply concerned with what autobiography has to reveal about sex and race roles in American society. Thus the study provides a kind of typology of the versions of “American identity” that can be found in American autobiography and the representative “cultural contexts” that shaped those versions. This is an important effort and will be of much use not only to other students of autobiography, but also to literary theorists struggling to understand the relationship of language and literary form to concepts of individual identity.

Stone, like Olney, is very much aware in constructing this typology that post-structural literary theory has made highly problematic the whole concept of autobiography as a privileged source of insight into a mind and a culture. Nevertheless, disciples of Jacques Derrida and Roland Barthes would probably feel that he has not sufficiently stressed the fictional nature of the autobiographical self. For American Studies students, however, it is Stone’s effort to keep in sight the historical person behind the fictional self which provides a valuable guide for the use of autobiography in cultural studies.

University of Northern Iowa

Theodore R. Hovet

FICTIONS IN AUTOBIOGRAPHY: Studies in the Art of Self-Invention. By Paul John Eakin. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press. 1985. \$26.00.

For three decades now, the increasingly sophisticated analysis of autobiography as a complex cultural activity and artifact has been a notable development in literary and cultural studies. To the cadre of major critics leading the movement—Georges Gusdorf, Jean Starobinski, James Olney, Philippe Lejeune, Robert Sayre, Karl Weintraub, Elizabeth Bruss and others—can now be added Paul John Eakin. For his *Fictions in Autobiography* is a judicious, far-ranging, immensely clarifying discussion of the modern art of self-construction which addresses several issues long perplexing readers and critics. The simplest yet most stubborn of these is the apparent opposition between autobiography as history and self-biography, a referential narrative of a prior self in its world, and autobiography as fiction, a purely reflexive art of self-creation. Ranged against each other are ordinary readers, with their apparently unslakable thirst for and trust in autobiography as potentially verifiable truth, and structuralist or deconstructionist critics (like Roland Barthes and Paul De Man) for whom the autobiographical project produces only fictions, inasmuch as coherent histories and identities are illusions: only language is truly present. The question of the priority of self or language, Eakin argues, is irrelevant and unanswerable. He asserts instead that “self and language are mutually implicated in a single, interdependent system of symbolic behavior” (192). Autobiography and the ongoing process of identity formation are consonant activities, never-completed dramas of memory and imagination. What unites both is narrative or (in L. O. Mink’s term) configurational thinking as a primary mode of human consciousness and self-conception.

If story-telling is a basic mode of existence as well as a specific literary form, this is best demonstrated in autobiographies, particularly those by Mary McCarthy, Henry James, Jean-Paul Sartre, Vladimir Nabokov, Alfred Kazin, Frank Conroy, Saul Friedlander and Maxine Hong Kingston. Eakin selects these texts because each is about the making of existential fictions by both actor and author. From McCarthy's counterpointed tale of girlhood lies to Kingston's cross-cultural "talk-stories," Eakin assembles an anatomy (or coherent sequence) of prototypical autobiographical acts of self-awareness in terms both of *remembered* experience and the fiction-making activity (often begun in early childhood) of *remembering*. Each author is and was a supreme fictionist whose imaginative reconstructions bridge the chasm between life and language. Each succeeds in creating the illusion of an historical presence and social voice while simultaneously showing that this autobiographical self is an illusion.

Eakin's richly-documented argument necessarily privileges literature over history, psychology, ideology and spiritual confession. Moreover he believes that models for the activation of particular identities—McCarthy's ideal of the popular girl, James' of the Civil War hero—originate in a culture's high art, literature and philosophy. Some might argue that powerful models—of the modern American self at least—are generated by mass media and social movements. Eakin's is essentially an elitist, apolitical conception of culture and autobiography. Testing the borders of his domain, by scrutinizing problematic autobiographers like Malcolm X and Thomas Merton who have more explicit agendas and less artistic careers, might have made his case even more persuasive. Nevertheless, *Fictions in Autobiography* is an admirable achievement, no less stimulating in generalizations than in interpretations of particular texts.

AS

women

READING THE ROMANCE: Women, Patriarchy, and Popular Literature. By Janice A. Radway. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1984. \$7.95.

One of the promising projects of current American Studies, the analysis of popular culture in terms of what the British Marxist Tony Bennett calls "the cultural activation of texts" and their "popular reading formations," is signally advanced in this impressive and original book. By no means limiting herself to a Marxist critique, Janice Radway combines hypotheses and methodologies from ethnography, sociology, feminist and object relations, psychology, narrative theory, and reader response criticism. Her goal is to explain, better than Ann Douglas, John Cawelti, Kay Mussell and others have done, how and why American women read paperback romances like Kathleen Woodiwiss's *The Flame and the Flower*, an Avon Spectacular. Rather than focusing on texts or individual responses, Radway traces the complex cultural process—at once commercial, ideological, historical and psychological—by which such best-sellers are produced and marketed, read and talked about, introjected and criticized, treasured and dismissed.

Central to this mass exchange of meanings, values and emotions is the pervasive ideology of patriarchy. Radway analyzes the subtle ways apparently unsubtle stories are used by some women to resist as well as accept their social circumstances: marriage, motherhood, the nurturing of others. Readers in "Smithton," the midwestern suburb in which Radway conducted interviews and polls, are not merely passive receptors of the thinly-masked messages romances communicate. Guided by "Dot Evan," a bookstore employee whose shrewd understanding of her customers' taste in romances blossomed into a widely-distributed newsletter and advisory ties to New York publishers, these readers actively read romances as, in their words, a "declaration of independence." Their leisure-time consumption of mass-market commodities, Radway argues, is emotional self-sustenance, at once compensatory escape from husband, children and suburbia and combative engagement with society's definitions of feminine identity. Readers are deeply satisfied by certain "ideal" romances in which a domineering, undemonstrative hero is miraculously transformed into a tender, attentive lover by the spunky, usually virginal heroine. The psychological satisfactions accruing from this activity are both positive and ambiguous, leading readers to draw rough but sharp distinctions between "good" and "bad" romances. One psychic satisfaction is definitely *not* masochistic, for Radway breaks

with other critics in denying women's secret attraction to rape and brutal exploitation. She argues instead that the violence and male-female misunderstanding readers encounter on the way to the romance's inevitably happy ending help establish a mature identity in both heroine and reader. A once-immature feminine psyche achieves a measure of independence by gentling her macho partner into a more androgynous husband and thus receiving the nurturing attention of the lost mother along with heterosexual love from an adult male. Smithton readers assert that this vicarious experience can change their own lives. But since Radway's interviews are short-term, focused primarily on the activity of reading, and include no husbands, she hesitates to support these claims. What her study does indicate is that romance reading supplements available sources of emotional satisfaction for white, middle-class American women. Although the commodities thus consumed proclaim patriarchal values, women readers learn to "counter-valuate" by assenting to domestic love's triumph over male autonomy competition, and public achievement. Pointed to but left unexplored is the big question on popular culture's agenda: what are the relations between women's (or men's) subsequent behavior in the social world of this vicarious activity of reading romances and of consuming (and adapting) other mass forms? *Reading the Romance* is a model guide for such future examinations and offers additional evidence of lessons American Studies can learn from Women's Studies.

AS

LIBERTY, A BETTER HUSBAND: Single Women in America: The Generations of 1780-1840. By Lee Virginia Chambers-Schiller. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press. 1984. \$22.50.

Chambers-Schiller's scholarly and sophisticated study of single women shows how many antebellum American women regarded their single state as "blessed." Using women's fiction, periodicals, advice books, letters and memoirs, she demonstrates how these women embraced their single state by choice, and not by chance. Chambers-Schiller limits her study to the lives of one hundred single, middle and upper class women in the northeast. This decision allows her to show how the women's attitudes reflect "mainstream" American culture, for the single women, on the whole, wanted the same types of economic, social and intellectual autonomy that men of the era associated with self-reliance and individual rights.

Despite the positive rhetoric used to describe the single state, however, many of the single women in this study did not find it so much blessed as filled with conflict and tension. The real strength of Chambers-Schiller's approach rests in her careful, balanced and honest accounting of the difficulties as well as successes single women had in ensuring any autonomy whatsoever. She shows that the cult of domesticity, with its careful delineation of men's and women's spheres, ironically hampered single women's chances to leave the domestic sphere and, in fact, depended on a reserve army of single sisters and relatives who—regardless of plans and careers—were expected to fill in during times of family sickness and distress. In this regard, as well as in others, Chambers-Schiller balances positive and negative aspects of the cult of single blessedness. Her study, as a whole, gives American Studies students needed perspective to published research on the cult of domesticity, women's struggles for equality, and the nature of female friendships. It also invites these scholars to examine further the role of single women in other geographic locales and time periods.

University of Northern Iowa

Grace Ann Hovet

FROM WORKING GIRL TO WORKING MOTHER: The Female Labor Force in the United States, 1820-1980. By Lynn Y. Weiner. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1985. \$17.95.

Providing an invaluable frame work for grasping the history of women's employment, this book analyzes the economic and social forces accounting for women's increasing participation in the labor force as well as the ideas and public policies attending that development. Weiner explains the transition of the typical female worker from single woman to married woman with children and explores the public debate over women's departure from their traditional roles. She underscores the class and race biases of social

concerns by demonstrating that sustained interest in working women arose only when white, non-poor and native-born women entered the work force in large numbers.

Public attention to women's employment consistently centered on the conflict between women's work and their domestic responsibilities, but the changing identity of the female worker altered the focus of the discourse. Before 1920, potential damage to future motherhood was the major concern; subsequently, employment became acceptable for single women, and public attention focused on the psychological consequences of work for actual motherhood. Resisting change was the domestic ideology that assigned women primary responsibility for their families' emotional well-being.

The author's judicious generalizations are rooted in a superb blend of quantitative and qualitative sources, resulting in a study of great significance for those interested in the changing demography, ideology and public policy related to women's employment.

University of Missouri-St. Louis

Susan M. Hartmann

IN THE COMPANY OF EDUCATED WOMEN: A History of Women and Higher Education in America. By Barbara Miller Solomon. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press. 1985. \$25.00.

With this book on the history of women's higher education, Solomon has created the new standard reference work for the field. In ten years of research in primary sources and secondary literature in women's history, education and sociology, Solomon and her research assistants have uncovered virtually everything on the subject. The result is a book indispensable to the scholar, yet accessible to general readers.

The first three chapters analyze American women's desire for higher education in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Utilizing recent secondary literature, Solomon recounts the developing relationship between republican government and women's education. The next hundred pages comprise the heart of Solomon's work: women's higher education during its formative period, 1870-1920. Here she builds on the work of younger scholars in the discussions of women's newly-won access to higher education, the social background of college students before 1920, the curriculum, collegiate life and the issue of "after college, what?"

The final third analyzes women's higher educational history after 1920, with special attention to the diverse experiences of white Southern, Catholic, Jewish and black women in colleges and universities, and to the conflicting desires of educated women for careers and family life. Solomon's treatment of the post-World War I period fills a long-standing gap in the literature of women's history. She rejects the view of the post-suffrage era as a time of retreat and regression for women's ambitions. She finds instead a wide-ranging debate over the desirability and difficulty of wives and mothers having careers. Only in the 1950s did most American college women opt for a life totally in the private sphere.

Although the comprehensiveness and rich detail are the best features of this book, they too often draw Solomon away from a conceptual and original analysis of women's higher educational history. For example, while she discusses college women's participation in the suffrage movement, and the recent advent of women's studies, Solomon comes to no general conclusions about women's politics and education. Similarly, she fails to place college women into the more general framework of the history of higher education, of professionalization, or of changes in marriage and family life.

Nonetheless, Solomon has successfully surveyed and synthesized women's encounter with liberal education from the colonial era to the present, creating a solid, credible, if not always exciting, piece of work.

University of Rochester

Lynn D. Gordon

A WOMAN'S QUEST FOR SCIENCE: Portrait of Anthropologist Elsie Clews Parsons. By Peter H. Hare. Buffalo, New York: Prometheus Books. 1985. \$22.50.

The career of Elsie Clews Parsons represents a distinctive intellectual odyssey: from reformist sociology at the turn of the century, to cultural radicalism in the pre-World War I years to empirical ethnology in the 1920s and '30s. Despite its title, this brief biography is concerned more with Parsons' "striking personality" than with her lifelong quest for a scientific understanding of social conservatism and social change. The author has drawn on newly discovered personal papers to offer fascinating glimpses of this resolute iconoclast as

daughter, wife, mother, colleague and friend, but his “portrait of a personality” is diminished by the lack of sustained and informed attention to the work which Parsons herself described as “so large a part of life.”
Columbia University

Elizabeth Capelle

politics

A CITY IN THE REPUBLIC: Antebellum New York and the Origins of Machine Politics. By Amy Bridges. New York: Cambridge University Press. 1984. \$29.95.

In this sophisticated and provocative study, Bridges sets herself a dual task: to trace the emergence of what became the prototypical big city political machine in pre-Civil War New York and to explain why machine politics became the prevailing form of city government in the United States as a whole. The standard explanation is that machine politics developed in response to the influx of foreign-born immigrants and the resulting ethnic conflicts. Bridges shows that the major features of the system were in place before there was a significant immigrant presence. Machine politics, she argues, grew out of the confluence of two phenomena—the beginnings of industrialization and the extension of the franchise as the result of the abandonment of property qualifications for voting.

The colonial city was “a society of mutually dependent interests.” Although political leadership was exercised by the merchant elite, “[t]he duties and obligations of those in different classes to one another formed the normative basis of social life.” Industrialization led to growing class consciousness and worsening class conflict. The extension of the franchise made politics the arena in which such conflict was fought out, with control of the government the prize. The political machine was “a compromise”—a means of accommodation between “the ‘dangerous classes’ and the ‘respectable element.’”
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

THE DECLINE OF AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES, 1952-1980. By Martin P. Wattenberg. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. 1984. \$15.00.

Wattenberg’s thoughtful study contributes to our understanding of major changes. In examining the literature on realignment/dealignment and the data from survey research, he discovers that the data frequently suggest conclusions different from those common in the literature. For example, Americans generally seem not to view parties as too similar, or to be hostile to them. Rather, they tend to see them as increasingly less relevant. He traces this attitude back to the beginning of his three-decade study. The 1984 election results bear out the conclusions. In the absence of strong party feeling, politics has become personalized, particularly at the presidential level. Wattenberg argues that the low rates of voting partly reflect the lowered partisanship which has brought about a corresponding lack of stability and continuity. Thus, without encountering hostility, parties nevertheless perform more and more weakly, leading toward an increasing volatility in the electorate. When one considers the vital role that parties have played throughout American political history, the implications are disturbing.

* * *

THE OTHER CANDIDATES: Third Parties in Presidential Elections. By Frank Smallwood. Hanover, New Hampshire: University Press of New England (published by Dartmouth College). 1983. \$20.00.

Frank Smallwood’s study of third-party presidential candidates begins with a brief but valuable history, and concludes with discussions of the “two-party monopoly” and the future of third-party movements. The bulk of the book concentrates upon the 1980 election and the ten minor-party candidates plus the independent John Anderson who managed to obtain spots on the ballot in two or more states. Candidates ranged from the far left to the far right, including the Communist, Socialist Workers’, Workers’ World, Socialist,

Citizens, Libertarian, American and American Independent Parties. Additionally, there were John Anderson's National Unity Campaign, and two single-issue groups, the Prohibition and Right-to-Life Parties.

Smallwood interviewed all eleven candidates, except for the Communist Party's Gus Hall, who sent his campaign manager. He found them to be a "remarkably open and cooperative group," who, despite sharp differences, agreed on a number of items. They generally were received fairly and courteously, and the local news treated them satisfactorily. The national media, on the other hand, virtually ignored them. They all complained of the barriers to their candidacy, and agreed that they resulted from an unjust exercise of power by the two major parties. They all agreed, moreover, that their campaigns had been exhausting, but worthwhile.

Smallwood was in an excellent position to treat the subject; his experience as a stand-in candidate in Vermont for vice president with John Anderson enabled him to deal with the issues and the candidates intelligently and sensitively.

MJS

GRASS ROOTS POLITICS: Parties, Issues, and Voters, 1854-1983. By Richard J. Jensen. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1983. \$27.50.

This overpriced volume consists of two parts. There is a fifty-seven page introductory essay followed by a collection of extracts from contemporary documents that is more than twice as long. The authors focus upon two major topics. The first is the rise and fall of the party as an institution. The second is the formation and dissolution of voting alignments over the past 130 years. As might be expected given Jensen's past work, heavy emphasis is placed upon the role of ethno-cultural differences in explaining voting behavior up to the New Deal. But the post-1938 conservative resurgence is pictured as the result of more and more Americans coming to feel that the benefits they received from government programs were being outweighed by the costs to them.

* * *

THE PRESIDENCY OF HERBERT C. HOOVER. By Martin L. Fausold. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas. 1985. \$22.50.

This study contributes to the more favorable reevaluation of Hoover that has been underway recently. Fausold has combined intelligent reading of the more important new scholarship on the period 1920-1933 with extensive research of his own in the manuscript sources, most notably the rich lode now available in the Hoover Presidential Library. He sees as Hoover's guiding principle the concept of "ordered freedom" that he derived from his Quaker heritage. Hoover's ambition—or to be more accurate, hope—was to maintain individual freedom while simultaneously harnessing that freedom to the service of the larger public good by self-discipline and voluntary cooperation. And Fausold concludes that Hoover's "very success" in keeping his solutions to the depression within the allowable limits of that vision is what was responsible for his political undoing.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

science and the public

MECHANICAL METAMORPHOSIS: Technological Change in Revolutionary America. By Neil Longley York. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1985. \$35.00.

York insists that two revolutions occurred during the Revolutionary era: one toward political and the other toward technological independence. About half of the book focuses on technology and public attitudes concerning it during the war, showing its possibilities and limitations then. The rest of this carefully researched book is devoted to "proving" the author's thesis. Much of the information as history of technology is not new, but Professor York has attempted to place it within a much fuller context than mere "hardware" history,

as well as a better historical context than Roger Burlingame's old works. His discussions of technology are nicely turned (e.g., the chapter on the Pennsylvania rifle). The linear aspects of his thesis about the "roots" of technological adulation among Americans may be questioned, although few would; his references to "Americans" and "attitudes" and the like may strike some as too indefinite, not to say gelatinous; and his larger framework of American history is relentlessly conventional and traditional. If this is an instance in which the parts add to less than the whole, it is nevertheless a useful book and an interesting, if arguable, hypothesis.

HC

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND THE QUEST FOR LEGITIMACY: Farmers, Agricultural Colleges, and Experiment Stations, 1870-1890. By Alan I. Marcus. Ames: Iowa State University Press. 1985. \$22.50.

In this well-researched monograph Marcus in addressing "the farm problem" in post-Civil War decades has chosen to focus not on political reform, but on managerial, educational and scientific programs for improving farm economy and rural life. Though farmers, who could and did influence legislatures and appropriations, by no means played a merely passive role, those who figured more noticeably in whatever was achieved included editors and writers in the farm press, superintendents of experimental and demonstration farms, state boards of agriculture, agricultural colleges and agricultural scientists in such farm-related business enterprises as the making of fertilizers.

After taking into account the growing awareness among farm people of the virtual bankruptcy of the traditional "autonomous individual," Marcus develops in detail the thesis of a continuing conflict between two approaches or programs, each with ardent champions and critics. One, the agriculturists, advocated common sense observation, empiricism, classification and respect for the systematic "laws" of agriculture. To them a business-like management for efficient production and marketing seemed the best way to alleviate if not to solve farmers' problems. The contending group sought to legitimize agricultural science. This meant far more than chemical testing and standardization of fertilizers. It included soil physics, statistics and the applicable specialties in the biological sciences. Without defining legitimacy in so many words, Marcus seems to have in mind full acceptance by the older scientists, priority in the agricultural world and conformity to the findings of agricultural science.

Marcus' considerable achievements in this book owe a good deal to the broad context within which he analyzes his findings. The treatment of what was learned from European predecessors and counterparts, of how it was learned and in what ways it was adapted is nicely handled. It is also refreshing to find attention to the role of conflicting values in American culture: individualism v. cooperation, faith in science v. anti-intellectualism, as well as tensions between "theory" and "practice," between tradition and modernization. Values associated with local initiative and control and with overlapping and sometimes competing perceptions of the functions of state and federal governments help us to understand the varieties of approaches to the management of experiment stations, the place and role of colleges of agriculture in state universities in different regions and states and the trend toward national support of scientific agriculture.

In view of the commendable attention to cultural context one might wish that Marcus had gone even further. He might, for example, have put the two programs into more explicit relationships to the whole complex and far-ranging reform movements in the decades after the Civil War. Perhaps, too, without charge of "presentism," it might have been helpful to develop those aspects of business culture that influenced the agriculturists.

Agricultural Science and the Quest for Legitimacy deserves respectful attention and a more widespread reading that the title may seem to invite. Its author largely succeeds in his claim for correcting many traditional views. These include such things as the presumed "unique" role of chemistry in the agriculture science of the period, the status and functioning of agricultural colleges and experiment stations, and the significance as well as the legislative history of the Hatch Act. Thus the book is a "must" for agricultural historians and it should attract historians of science and its applications. Beyond this, the book can be a rewarding experience for any historian: it throws a good deal of light on the social aspects of decision-making, the importance of values in social change and the conflict between tradition and modernization.

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Merle Curti

BEYOND VELIKOVSKY: The History of a Public Controversy. By Henry H. Bauer. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press. 1984. \$21.95.

This is not so much a history as a multi-faceted analysis of the Velikovsky controversy and a critique of both sides. Its chemist author concludes that Velikovsky was indeed a crank, but chastises the scientists who applied that label without adequate investigation. The scientists instinctively knew that Velikovsky's theory was wrong, but failed to recognize that their contemptuous response to it would strike non-scientists as an arrogant appeal to authority and thereby bring undeserved support to Velikovsky.

The issue is not whether Velikovsky's theory about world-shaking catastrophes a few thousand years ago is valid, but how the scientific community should explain to the public its summary dismissal of theories that flatly contradict established scientific principles, and its refusal to take seriously those who do not follow accepted scientific procedures. This is a difficult problem, but one that cannot be avoided since "the public" includes politicians, educators, parents and others who may wield considerable power in such matters as financial support for research and determination of school curricula. Bauer shows the fallacy of simplistic criteria for judging theories, such as their ability to make correct predictions—Velikovsky's "prediction" of such phenomena as radio emissions from Jupiter is a notorious example. He points out that scientists' resistance to new ideas proposed by unqualified outsiders is not a sign that science is moribund but a condition for it to remain alive and vigorous. He offers no simple way to determine whether the scientific community or the outsider is "right" in any given instance, but he suggests that those who are willing to take the time to study such a dispute in detail may be rewarded by something like the satisfaction a scientist or scholar derives from original research. Bauer's comprehensive survey of the literature (his bibliography lists 476 items) certainly makes it easier for others to conduct their own investigation into this case.

University of Maryland

Stephen G. Brush

intellectual history

HABITS OF THE HEART: Individualism and Commitment in American Life. By Robert N. Bellah, Richard Madsen, William M. Sullivan, Ann Swidler and Steven M. Tipton. Berkeley: University of California Press. 1985. \$16.95.

The central problem of this book is American individualism, which "may have grown cancerous . . . threatening the survival of freedom itself." Recognizing that individualism lies at the very core of American culture, and that it is not to be abandoned, the authors argue for the recognition of its historical coexistence with classical republicanism and biblical religion. They maintain that such recognition has been lost in our "therapeutic" culture resulting in a way of life "that is neither individually nor socially viable."

Habits of the Heart is the work of four sociologists and one professor of theology. The title has been taken from *Democracy in America* (1835 and 1840), where Alexis de Tocqueville used it in referring to the mental habits, or the notions, opinions and ideas, that shape American society. As did Tocqueville, the authors pay particular attention to the relationship between those mental habits and religion, political participation and economic life. The book contains sections of sociological analysis and historical context, but it rests on the interwoven interviews of over 200 largely white, middle class Americans. All have pursued the "extravagant search for true self"; all are disillusioned.

Habits of the Heart presents a powerful indictment of American society. It breaks little new ground, however, as much the same case has been made by Robert and Helen Lynd, David Riesman, Christopher Lasch and even Robert Bellah himself in *The Broken Covenant* (1975). Bellah's culprit then was "utilitarian self-interest." Now, it is "ontological individualism." Our salvation, then as now, lies in nothing less than the transformation of our consciousness, culture and society.

Creighton University

Bryan F. Le Beau

FORGOTTEN PROPHET: The Life of Randolph Bourne. By Bruce Clayton. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press. 1984. \$25.00.

Criticism of Bourne's life has now come full circle. The mythic figure of Bourne, created in the 1920s, was balanced during the 1960s by a de-mythologized figure, as the proclamation, "War is the health of the state," reverberated through our culture. Vitelli's recent book, three anthologies and my edition of Bourne's letters have helped keep Bourne accessible—not bad exposure for a promising writer whose career lasted seven years.

Clayton reimmerses Bourne in the 1920s myth of the alienated intellectual and ignores previous studies, except for John Moreau's biography (details), J. R. Vitelli's study (a single footnote) and Christopher Lasch's reading (a tendentious criticism). Despite the enthusiastic effort to bring the young culture critic to life, *Forgotten Prophet* remains an intellectual biography.

Clayton skates across the surface of his subject. An insistent allusiveness replaces cultural context. Through this scholarly namedropping Bourne comes to anticipate figures from Reinhold Niebuhr to 1960s radicals. Clayton downplays the constellation of values revealed in Bourne's letters, which underscore the battle between body and soul, cripple and intellectual and homogenizes the relationship between Bourne and his friends. Bourne parcelled himself out to correspondents; the letters reveal fruitful juxtapositions, not the narrative continuity that Clayton assumes.

University of Wyoming

Eric J. Sandeen

HERBERT CROLY OF *THE NEW REPUBLIC*. By David W. Levy. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press. 1985. \$32.50.

A beautifully written and carefully researched biography of a founding editor of *The New Republic* cogently illustrating the Comtean influence which he imbibed from his father and which reasserted itself in his major publications and in many of his *New Republic* editorials. Almost half of the volume examines Croly's career as an editor. And each of Croly's two major works, *The Promise of American Life* and *Progressive Democracy* merits a separate chapter. His consistency in expounding basic ideas stressing nationalism, centralization of authority, social amelioration, stronger unions and better standards of social justice is carefully delineated, as well as his shifting religious views. In all, *Herbert Croly of The New Republic* is a first-rate intellectual biography of a major American political philosopher whose circle of friends and acquaintances included many of the major figures of the progressive era.

Iowa State University

Richard Lowitt

rural studies

THOSE WHO STAYED BEHIND: Rural Society in Nineteenth-Century New England. By Hal S. Barron. Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Modern History. New York: Cambridge University Press. 1984. \$24.95.

The outflow of population from rural New England beginning as early as the 1840s has been frequently noted, but rarely explored in depth. Thus, the present case study of the township of Chelsea, Vermont, represents a significant contribution to our understanding of nineteenth-century American social history. As might be expected, Barron finds that the stayers-on were predominantly those with an established foothold in the local economy. But he finds exaggerated the conventionally bleak picture of long-term economic decline. Relatively few farms were deserted; rather "agricultural development in Chelsea had reached the limits of its growth and had leveled off." His major contribution is showing the contrast that existed between such a stable rural community and the flux and change found in the more rapidly growing areas of the country. Unlike people on the frontier and in the cities, "those who stayed in the township experienced few dramatic changes over the course of their lives." But what most distinguished Chelsea was its transformation into "a remarkably homogeneous and like-minded community. . . . Few class, ethnic, or ideological conflicts divided [Chelseans], and the turmoil so prevalent in the larger society had little impact on the placidity of rural life."

University of Nebraska- Lincoln

John Braeman

AS RARE AS RAIN: Federal Relief in the Great Southern Drought of 1930-31. By Nan Elizabeth Woodruff. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1985. \$18.95.

A penetrating study of the inability of the federal government, largely because of Herbert Hoover's ideological constrictions about local voluntarism, to provide more assistance to destitute people during the devastating drought than seed and grain loans. Hoover requested instead that the Red Cross and local relief committees provide assistance. By focusing primarily on relief efforts in Arkansas and Appalachia, Woodruff reveals the bankruptcy of these operations, where the Red Cross, in effect, functioned as a tool of the large planters and mine operators determined not to allow relief operations to undermine the existing class structure. Her study provides an incisive portrait of significant sectors of Southern society before the New Deal cast aside the ideological restrictions of President Hoover which had produced "a tragedy, not only for his presidency, but also for the millions who suffered because of his intransigence."

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BREAKING THE LAND: The Transformation of Cotton, Tobacco, and Rice Cultures Since 1880. By Pete Daniel. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1985. \$22.50.

A penetrating analysis of the life style of farm families involved in planting, cultivating, harvesting and marketing, within a crescent area extending from Virginia to Texas, three basic crops: cotton, flue-cured tobacco and prairie rice. Mechanization and government policies prompted significant changes that eroded traditional commodity cultures, bringing in their wake agribusiness and pressure groups voicing concerns about credit and government programs. The price paid for this transformation to a more rationalized and businesslike way of farming involved the displacement of millions of poverty-stricken farm families from severely eroded small farms. These commodity cultures, Daniel concludes, "represent not only the southern heritage of hard work and tradition but that of conflict, exploitation, and failure as well." Extensive footnotes and apt illustrative material help make this book worthy of the attention of readers beyond those interested either in agricultural history or the New South.

Iowa State University

Richard Lowitt

PLAINS COUNTRY TOWNS. By John C. Hudson. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. 1985. \$25.00 cloth, \$13.95 paper.

Grounded in a comprehensive inquiry into public and private manuscript and printed documents and a clear understanding of the complex geographical and financial framework in which townsite promoters and town builders thought and worked, the study analyzes the fitful career of "inland" towns (ones never reached by railroads), the role of boosters, the typical progress of town growth and the awesome power of grain-hauling railroad corporations. While focused chiefly on North Dakota, the illustrated volume illuminates the gestation and growth of a thousand Gopher Prairies across the High Plains.

JRS

foreign policy

AWKWARD DOMINION: American Political, Economic, and Cultural Relations with Europe, 1919-1933. By Frank Costigliola. Ithaca, New York and London: Cornell University Press. 1984. \$27.50.

Costigliola's study of United States-European relations during the 1920s combines wide and intelligent reading in the available large body of secondary accounts with extensive archival research. Like most recent work on the topic (e.g., Melvyn P. Leffler's *The Elusive Quest* [1979] and Michael J. Hogan's *Informal Entente* [1977]), he rebuts the myth of American isolationism, at least in the sense of aloofness from what happened across the

Atlantic. His most signal contribution is the breadth of his scope. He treats American relations with all of Europe, from Britain to the Soviet Union. He examines not only the political and economic aspects but the cultural—the area where the United States exercised its most powerful sway. His thesis is a more sophisticated variant of the New Left approach pioneered by William Appleman Williams: that the goal of American policymakers was to promote peaceful political change and European economic recovery by the way of forestalling the revolutionary threat represented by the Soviet Union. This effort was largely successful until the economic collapse at the decade's end fatally undercut American influence. And when faced with a choice of "revolutionary socialism or fascist order," Washington opted for the latter. But he has the intellectual honesty to admit that there is no guarantee that different American policies could have averted the catastrophe that resulted.

* * *

THE OTHER ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT: Making America's Middle East Policy, from Truman to Reagan. By Steven L. Spiegel. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press. 1985. \$24.95.

Spiegel argues that "the critical factors determining the content of American policy" toward the Arab-Israeli conflict have been "the basic assumptions of the president, the individuals on which he relies for advice, and the resulting decision-making system which converts ideas into policies." He even concludes that the "assumptions" of a given "president and his team" remain "remarkably resistant to the effects of outside forces—interest groups, events and crises in the area, the bureaucracy."

His own evidence, however, is at odds with this conclusion. He shows that most administrations from Truman's on lacked any consistent policy, but shifted back and forth in response to internal and external pressures. One reason for the difficulty that most administrations have experienced in formulating a coherent American policy toward the Middle East is the sheer intransigence of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But an even more important factor has been the way differences over the Middle East cut across the left/right lines of division typically found on foreign policy issues. Neither so-called liberals nor conservatives consistently favor one side or the other.

And though lack of consistency is normally regarded as a vice, a different appraisal emerges when the record of the two administrations that did maintain a consistent approach is examined—Eisenhower and Carter. If Carter's record appears less disastrously mistaken than Eisenhower's in the Suez crisis, the reason is that the folly of his quest to bring the Soviet Union into the Middle East peace process frightened Sadat into taking matters into his own hands.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

COLONEL HOUSE AND SIR EDWARD GREY: A Study in Anglo-American Diplomacy. By Joyce Grigsby Williams. Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America. 1984. \$10.75 paper.

The author examines Anglo-American diplomacy during and immediately after World War I by focusing on the relationship between Edward M. House, friend and confidant of President Woodrow Wilson, and Sir Edward Grey, British Foreign Secretary from 1905 to 1916 and ambassador to the United States in 1919. While there was genuine friendship on both sides, each man manipulated the other to achieve specific objectives. Grey was the better manipulator, the author contends, especially in his handling of House's mediation attempts and in signing the famous House-Grey memorandum of 1916 while subsequently delaying its implementation.

The book is based largely on research in important primary sources and makes some significant contributions to scholarship. No other work to my knowledge has explored the House-Grey relationship in depth. But the volume is marred by infelicities of expression and publishing errors that detract from its value. Apparently written originally as a thesis or dissertation at Indiana University, the work should have received additional editing and polishing before publication.

University of Texas-El Paso

Kenton J. Clymer

SEEING AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY WHOLE. By Brewster C. Denny. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press. 1985. \$19.95.

Brewster C. Denny's *Seeing American Foreign Policy Whole* falls within the old realist tradition of diplomatic analysis. Denny believes presidents should take charge, but he fears a fickle public won't let them. The author helped arrange the 1960-61 hearings on National Policy Machinery, and twenty-five years later he reaffirms judgments that foreign policy has grown too complex for any single official to control. *Seeing American Foreign Policy Whole* is hardly original, but its kindly criticisms are a good introduction to the organization of United States foreign affairs.

University of Colorado-Boulder

Robert D. Schulzinger

environment

WATER, EARTH, AND FIRE. By Jonathan Berger and John W. Sinton. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1985. \$25.00.

The New Jersey Pine Barrens and the California Redwoods rank together in ecological significance. John McPhee (*The Pine Barrens*, 1967) movingly introduced America to the Barrens, and R. T. T. Forman (*Pine Barrens/Ecosystem and Landscape*, 1979) summarized their unique ecology. Five years ago a novel protection plan involving limited land acquisition was initiated to protect this remarkable 1 1/2 million acre landscape from rampant development. Evaluation of this new model for planning in America is emerging. The present book confronts the major issue of who should primarily determine the destiny of such an area, and forcefully argues that local long-term residents should. The heart of the book beautifully portrays the residents' life (e.g., firefighting, blueberry picking, rail gunning) and thoughts (J-- fiercely wants the land to remain as he remembers it and resents a neighbor who sells to a developer, but J-- also wants to be able to get top dollar for his own land). This clearly written book pinpoints important concepts in action, including love of place, cultural point and counterpoint, linkage to seasonal changes and insiders versus outsiders ("preservationists" and developers are awkwardly lumped). Five guidelines for integrating flexibility and understanding into regional planning are presented.

The basic message of tying a plan's success to the interests of long-term residents is profound almost anywhere, but is fundamentally wrong here. The uniqueness of the Pine Barrens lies not with the presence of wood cutters, terrapinners and delightful dedicated people; these thrive in many regions. An extensive landscape of exceptional vegetation, rife with unusual plants and animals including endemic species found nowhere else in the world, is the uniqueness. A nibbling process, more dangerous than confrontation that forces us to take a stand, now eats at the plan. Cry out thou, vision! Without thee, Acadia National Park would be embroidered with "no trespassing" signs and summer cottages, and Yellowstone would be predator-controlled ranches and hot dogs at steam baths. The ethics of isolation demand that we view an area in its national and international perspective, in addition to its local characteristics, to determine its level of significance for the planning process. Otherwise, one fine spring we, insiders and outsiders alike, will take a walk in the Pine Barrens, and unexpectedly notice that they are covered by us.

Harvard University

Richard T. T. Forman

CONSERVATION POLITICS: The Senate Career of Clinton P. Anderson. By Richard Allan Baker. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. \$29.95 cloth, \$14.95 paper.

This is a study of Clinton Anderson's active involvement in guiding major bills in natural resources policy through the upper chamber. Exercising a splendid sense of timing, Anderson during the years 1949 to 1964 was responsible for significant legislation that benefited the cause of conservation not only in New Mexico, his home state, but throughout the nation as well. Implicit in this careful monograph is the basic premise that environmental issues, like most other public issues, will be resolved for better or for worse in the political arena. And during Anderson's tenure leadership on this issue came from the Senate and not from the White House.

Iowa State University

Richard Lowitt

CAMPUS: An American Planning Tradition. By Paul Venable Turner. New York: The Architectural History Foundation; Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press. 1984. \$35.00.

This first-rate scholarly study of the history of the college campus will inform and delight everyone interested in the American landscape. The author examines the major historical eras of the college campus, including the colonial campus, the age of the land-grant colleges, the early twentieth-century Beaux-Arts period and the modern period of rapid growth. The 309 illustrations include photographs, drawings, maps and architectural plans.

Since colonial times, American colleges have believed they should administer to the whole life of the student. Consequently the college campus has included not only classrooms and libraries, but also dormitories, dining halls, gymnasiums and chapels. The idea that colleges should be communities in themselves was borrowed from Oxford and Cambridge, but unlike in Europe, the American campus has emphasized separate buildings set down in a open space. Cloisters and enclosed quadrangles, which protected and isolated the European college from the outside world, have never been common here. With few exceptions, American college campuses have been open to the local community.

As a pioneering study, this book introduces us to the rich heritage of the American college campus. For teachers it will elucidate a landscape that is visible just outside the classroom door. For scholars it superbly illustrates the influence of changing ideals and architectural styles on a cultural landscape.

University of Hawaii-Hilo

James L. Kelly

medicine

AMERICAN MEDICINE AND STATISTICAL THINKING, 1800-1860. By James H. Cassedy. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. 1984. \$22.50.

Cassedy, a distinguished historian of medicine, has combed through virtually all extant medical literature of antebellum nineteenth-century America to trace the fascinating development of numerative thinking. Because of the central position of physicians in both science and social science, this is an important volume for intellectual historians; moreover, the narrative is set in a matrix of medical history that embodies refinements deriving from the completeness of the sample. Many kinds of cultural historians may want at least to check the table of contents and the index of this remarkable evocation of the past.

Ohio State University

John C. Burnham

CARING FOR THE RETARDED IN AMERICA: A History. By Peter L. Tyor and Leland V. Bell. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1984. \$29.95.

This brief account of the treatment of the mentally retarded in America focuses on three different eras in that specific history which, this reviewer hastens to add, were and are part and parcel of three eras in the history of American culture more generally. The authors' argument is that sheltered care was always the constant in the institutional care of the retarded, whether it was the experimental schools of the 1850s with their notion of the possibility of improvement of individual character through physical routine and other aspects of moral therapy, the totally segregated and independent colony of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with their conception of the retarded as degenerates and menaces to society, or the post-1960s swing back to individualism (of a different variety than that of the mid-nineteenth century) and its profoundly anti-professional notions which would place the retarded in the local community mainstream as much as possible. While the book is highly specialized (yet not particularly detailed), it nevertheless is based on deep research in primary sources, is intelligent in its interpretations and analyses and is far less presentist in intellectual and historical outlook than many books published in recent years on this and related "reform" topics.

HC

crime

LAW AND DISORDER: Criminal Justice in America. By Bruce Jackson. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1984. \$19.95.

Bruce Jackson charges that justice is not a basic concern of very many police officers, lawyers, judges or prison officials. Jackson's provocative critique of the criminal justice system, however, is tempered by his recognition that these inadequacies are magnified by the inherently reactive nature of the system's agencies. Other bureaucratic agencies are "deeded to *doing* something," he observes, while criminal justice agencies are "deeded to getting *rid* of something." His conclusion that criminal justice agencies are ineffective in dealing with the *causes* of crime is consistent with this observation, but certainly not a revelation. As "managers" of our crime problem, Jackson concedes, the agencies perform this expected function adequately. Thus, his detailed criticism of the criminal justice agencies appears misdirected. While Jackson's book provides an interesting account of the flaws in the criminal justice system, it does not propose reforms or offer solutions.

University of Kansas
Emil A. Tonkovich

OUR GANG: Jewish Crime and the New York Jewish Community, 1900-1940. By Jenna Weissman Joselit. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. 1985. \$19.95 cloth, \$9.95 paper.

Diaspora insecurities and pride in Jewish exceptionalism have caused Jews traditionally to avoid acknowledging those in their midst who did not adhere to accepted standards. The community either encouraged such Jews to leave, in which case they were lost to Jewish history, or denied their activities.

Joselit's thoroughly documented and highly readable account reveals that prostitution, extortion, arson, labor racketeering, petty thievery and juvenile delinquency existed on the Lower East Side to a lesser degree than in most immigrant communities but were, nevertheless, widespread. Her study sheds new light on the immigrant experience and the influence of Americanization—European-born Jewish mobsters thrived on opportunities inherent in Lower East Side life but their American-born successors, fewer in number, shed their particularities and preferred instead opportunities available in the American underworld.

Joselit's examination of Jewish responses to Jewish crime tells much about American Jewry's self-perceptions in the decades prior to World War II. More importantly, her work is evidence of a trend during the last decade to recognize Jewish normalcy.

University of Kansas
Sharon R. Lowenstein

VIGILANTES IN GOLD RUSH SAN FRANCISCO. By Robert M. Senkewicz, S. J. Stanford: Stanford University Press. 1985. \$24.95.

This is not only by far the best study of San Francisco's famous 1850s vigilantes, but the most thoughtful book about any incident of American collective violence. Senkewicz benefitted from the extensive previous research on his topic and from the able recent quantitative-cultural history done on early San Francisco, but he transcends those by his inquiring sensitivity, causal complexity and crisp graciousness of judgment.

In terms of mob history, Senkewicz thoroughly destroys the old argument that vigilantes were righteous men rising up to oppose crime and political corruption, an argument that informed historical accounts well into this century, and goes far beyond what other historians have done to structure an alternative explanation. This explanation centers on a moving portrait of the contrast between great expectations and grudging rewards that characterized San Francisco, and that created a harassed insecurity even among those who did comparatively well. His vigilantes were both the business elite and men fending off failure, both of big dreams and modest success, desperately relieved when they could blame government, politics, crooks, foreigners, scum, Catholics or anything else that deflected attention from the business realities that they had almost uniformly misjudged. Around this core are woven the rich interplay of political, class, ethnic, religious and personal contributions to the action. All that is omitted is the ties of these local events to the sectional-

slavery issues that were transforming Californian as well as national politics around 1856.

The appended historiographical essay is excellent, and the quiet five pages on Protestant-Catholic realities extraordinary: lots of tension and pretension on both sides with everyone seeking some security in a partly isolating mass or Mass.
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

David Grimsted

the economy

THE ECONOMY OF BRITISH AMERICA, 1607-1789. By John J. McCusker and Russell R. Menard. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1985. \$35.00.

This is a major, valuable summary and synthesis of the state of knowledge about British Colonial America. It is aimed primarily at economic historians, focusing on economic growth and development and stressing the staple export explanation. The material divides into two broad categories: first, discussion of regional differences, including a chapter on the West Indies, and second, analysis of topics such as population, labor force, agriculture, wealth and welfare and government.

The syntheses of material are generally successful, but vary in quality, in part due to differences in the nature of the topic. The effort is more successful in the case of narrower topics covering relatively short time periods, such as the economic effects of the Revolution, than for those which span 200 years, and where the facts and historical explanations varied noticeably across geographical areas.

The authors make clear that there is much work to be done. While some greater selectivity might have been exercised, they have identified a long agenda of fruitful research topics. There are an extensive bibliography (80 pp), abundant footnotes and references and valuable discussions of the availability and pitfalls of the pertinent data sources. Research on the colonial economy will begin with this book.

University of Kansas

Thomas Weiss

DRASTIC MEASURES: A History of Wage and Price Controls in the United States. By Hugh Rockoff. New York: Cambridge University Press. 1984. \$29.95.

Inflation has been a recurring problem in American history. Apart from forgotten experiments during the colonial and Revolutionary War periods, attempts to deal with inflationary pressures by the imposition of direct controls over wages and prices has been a twentieth-century phenomenon beginning with the First World War and retried in all subsequent conflicts in which the United States was involved. Rockoff's is the first attempt at a comprehensive treatment that describes the techniques adopted, appraises the degree of success in fighting inflation and weighs the benefits against the costs, direct (such as governmental administrative costs, burdens resulting from private compliance and black markets) and indirect (misallocation of resources resulting from suppression of the normal operations of the price system).

Rockoff is to be congratulated upon avoiding ideological special pleading. He himself concludes that temporary controls can work in certain emergency situations to "substantially reduce inflation at a reasonable cost." But he adds such significant qualifications that many readers will conclude that controls will not work except in wartime. In the first place, he points out that controls will work only if aggregate demand is kept down by accompanying "monetary and fiscal restraints." Second, there must be no "exemptions for favored constituents." Third, controls must be "terminated at the right time." Even during wartime when there were patriotic incentives to compliance absent in peacetime, "controls were a wasting asset. The costs grew heavier while the benefits shrank and eventually became problematic."

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

ALL THE WORLD'S A FAIR: Visions of Empire at American Expositions, 1876-1916. By Robert W. Rydell. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press. 1984. \$27.50.

Rydell adds a new topic to the growing list of those available for cultural analysis, and

creates unity in his handling of twelve expositions (1876-1916) by concentrating on what he sees as those events' inculcation of elitist racist-imperialist perspectives among Americans generally. The prose is crisp, the illustrations apt and the research rich in local and federal manuscripts of those involved with organization and exhibits, and in the literature of publicity and response surrounding the events.

Rydell's argument is clear. "Threatened by class conflict at every turn," community elites (with much help from Smithsonian scientists) distracted people with a vision of racist imperialism to assure their "hegemony: Largely as a result of these expositions, nationalism and racism became parts of the legitimizing ideology offered to a nation." The central problem with the book lies in this cause and effect relationship. If one presumes—as all evidence indicates—that intense racism, nationalism and parochialism predated the fairs, Rydell's evidence suggests in fact a different pattern: leaders in the commercial and anthropological communities encouraged more public tolerance of racial variety and interest in differing cultures largely to promote business success at and outside the fairs. That this was encased in a naively complacent ideology of progress (with the U.S. at the head) and often involved exploitative hokum does not undercut that these theories stressed cultural more than racial variation. And public response involved fascination and respect more than simple disparagement. The substantial virtues of Rydell's book make one regret the way Gramsci's theory of hegemony is being used. Conspiracy theory by another name remains as flat.

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

David Grimsted

THE SHOSHONI FRONTIER AND THE BEAR RIVER MASSACRE. By Brigham D. Madsen. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press. 1985. \$19.95.

Madsen's objective is to demonstrate that the most significant aspect of Indian-White relations in the Great Basin is the conflict in an arc from east to north to west of the Great Salt Lake, as opposed to affairs south of the Lake which dominate the traditional interpretation. Focusing on the tragic massacre on the banks of Bear River accomplished by Colonel Patrick E. Connor and his California volunteers against the Shoshonis in 1863, Madsen, with careful research and excellent scholarship, has achieved his objective. The result is a major historiographical revision of Utah-Idaho history.

Wichita State University

William E. Unrau

SONS OF LIBERTY: The Masculine Mind in Nineteenth-Century America. By David G. Pugh. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1983. \$27.95.

This work is billed as "an effort to define and to understand a cultural phenomenon: the masculinity cult in American life." But the author does not see himself as a mere historical analyst; he is, oh so portentously, a "cultural critic." His target is "the he-man personality and lifestyle"—with the first defined as a "predatory temperament"; the second described as characterized by "brutality, pathological hatred and its opposite, self-assertion." The source of this affliction is traced back to the Jacksonian period, when Americans (or rather American males), having defeated the "oppressive Father" in the Revolution, still "felt constrained by such European residues as restrictive voting laws, aristocratic privilege, limited access to public office, and authoritarian institutions such as the United States Bank." Thereupon, "the restless sons projected their anxieties onto the only parent left—the Mother—and displaced them by seeing in their enemies such female qualities as smothering maternalism and effeminate inaction. . . ." The rest goes on in the same vein or worse—and, unless one has acquired a taste for psychohistory run wild, can be left unread without loss.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

THE CUBAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: Culture, Images and Perspectives. By Thomas D. Boswell and James R. Curtis. Totowa, New Jersey: Rowman and Allanheld. 1984. \$34.50. THE CHICANO EXPERIENCE: An Alternative Perspective. By Alfredo Mirandé. Notre Dame, Indiana: Notre Dame Press. 1985. \$19.95 cloth, \$9.95 paper.

Boswell and Curtis have written a straightforward narrative about the dramatic

emergence of a Cuban-American population in the United States, providing a brief history of Cuba and the recent migration. The book includes a demographic analysis of Cuban-Americans with a major focus on Miami, and descriptive chapters on patterns in religious, artistic, political and social life, structured around an assimilationist model. The authors assume that it is normal for the first generation of immigrants to retain much of the language and culture of their former homeland, and for the second generation to embrace the language and culture of the country their parents chose as their new home. They point to particulars such as the concentration of the Cuban-American population in two major urban areas as factors which might delay but not stop the Cuban-Americans from experiencing the same kind of Americanization as did the many immigrants from Europe who arrived at the beginning of the twentieth century.

In contrast to their stance as social scientists who achieve objectivity by standing outside what they observe is the stance of Alfredo Mirandé. He rejects the possibility of value-free social science. For him, Boswell and Curtis would be representatives of a dominant Anglo-American culture whose theory of universal patterns expresses the particular values of that culture. Mirandé writes extensively about the models used to describe and explain the patterns of American society. The three most important, for him, are the assimilationist, the internal-colony and the Marxist. The assimilationist model, he feels, does not accurately describe or explain the experience of blacks, American Indians and Chicanos. For Mirandé, the internal-colony model best explains their experience because as peoples they have been forced within the boundaries of the dominant Anglo-American culture. While also rejecting the Marxist model, he nevertheless finds something of value in its ability to analyze patterns of imperialism.

He sees his book, therefore, as an expression of Chicano, rather than an unattainable universal, social science. He is engaged in a debate with the assimilationist or Anglo-American view of the "abnormal" or "unnatural" aspects of Chicano life, including criminality, family life, machismo and religious life. His sophisticated discussion of the interrelationship of scholarly models and cultural pluralism will be of value to all students of American culture.

DWN

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE JOSEPH STORY: Statesman of the Old Republic. By R. Kent Newmyer. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1985. \$33.00.

Joseph Story served as a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1811 until his death in 1845. After 1829 he was also professor of law at Harvard and is often regarded as the real founder of that distinguished law school. He was prolific and influential as a legal writer, vastly learned in the law and appropriately respected by his contemporaries. But for all except the last nine years of his judicial tenure he was overshadowed by the great chief justice, John Marshall, and after Marshall's death and his replacement by Roger Taney, Story was often a lone dissenter on the Court. Yet his stature has been such that the present volume is the third biography of him to have appeared in the last twenty years.

Newmyer places Story in the historic context of his time, a period which the author describes as centering on the struggle for the meaning of "republicanism" or, differently expressed, the heritage of the American Revolution. That event, so Newmyer maintains, was at bottom the projection of a vision, a concept of a free society. Inherent in the belief in this vision was the assumption that the new nation was destined to be the banner carrier for this vision—a notion akin to what later would come to be denominated "manifest destiny." Story, as Newmyer presents him to us, not only believed firmly in this national mission, he brought to it his exceptional understanding of the potential of the law as a tool for national development.

As it was, the force of the Jacksonian Revolution moved the nation in other directions, a circumstance that Story in his later years particularly deplored. But his pronouncements in support of his concept of "the Old Republic," most notably his dissenting opinion in *Charles River Bridge v. Warren Bridge* (1837), remain among the great state papers of the nation.

The thread of Professor Newmyer's argument is at times shrouded by a somewhat arcane style, but he has given us not only a competent biography of a major figure of American law but also a useful overview of the issues that divided the nation in his hero's days.

University of Kansas

Francis H. Heller

ORGANIZED FOR PROHIBITION: A New History of the Anti-Saloon League. By K. Austin Kerr. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press. 1985. \$25.00.

Utilizing the previously unavailable archives of the Anti-Saloon League of America, the author identifies a fundamental division of purpose within the organization that became increasingly debilitating after 1919 when the prohibition amendment went into effect. One group of leaders stressed law enforcement methods while others championed the educational approach. Kerr argues persuasively that the tension between the coercive and assimilative approaches, and the organization's failure to resolve the conflict with a unified strategy, contributed importantly to the eventual repeal of the amendment. The author has made a significant contribution to the growing scholarly literature that treats the national prohibition movement as a serious reform.

University of Kansas

Robert S. Bader

WEST VIRGINIA: A History. By Otis K. Rice. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. 1985. \$25.00.

A succinct narrative account providing a basic factual survey with a minimum of analysis and interpretation that, nevertheless, takes into account original sources and scholarly writing pertaining to the history of the Mountain State from prehistoric times on into the 1980s. Rice's history is an up-to-date ready reference guide to West Virginia, the first comprehensive history of the state in more than fifty years.

Iowa State University

Richard Lowitt

AMERICAN RODEO: From Buffalo Bill to Big Business. By Kristine Frederiksson. College Station: Texas A & M University Press. 1985. \$18.95.

Here is a well-written and thoroughly documented scholarly narrative of the rodeo's evolution from its amateur origins to its present status as a professional sport. To combat boredom and earn money, nineteenth-century cowboys displayed their riding, roping and bronco-busting skills before small audiences. As the sport became increasingly popular after 1920, organizations such as the Rodeo Cowboys Association were formed to protect and promote the interests of rodeo participants. Since World War II, the sport has drawn large audiences, and is now dominated by professional athletes who often risk strained ligaments, broken bones, shoulder separations and other injuries in dangerous events like steer roping. With corporations clamoring to sponsor today's rodeos, some athletes earn over one hundred thousand dollars in prizes a year.

Texas Christian University

Joseph B. Herring

THE SOUTHERN RAILWAY: Road of the Innovators. By Burke Davis. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1985. \$19.95.

This history of a precedent-setting railroad from a layman's perspective shows how a company can achieve success despite a succession of presidents with widely different managerial styles and philosophies. The best example: D. W. Brosnan's dictatorial style (1962-67) differed radically from Graham Claytor's team approach (1967-76), yet both officers were responsible for *Dun*'s selecting Southern one of the five best-managed U.S. companies in 1974. Southern's management is one reason success is predicted for Norfolk Southern. Although the text occasionally reads as if Southern's public relations department provided the reference materials, a more critical analysis would have limited the book's appeal. U.S. historians of many tastes will enjoy Davis' effort.

University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Edwin P. Patton

THE PRACTICE OF SOLIDARITY: American Hat Finishers in the Nineteenth Century. By David Bensman. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press. 1985. \$22.50.

This is a first-rate contribution to American labor history. Bensman, like notable labor

historians David Montgomery and David Brody, departs from the traditional study of nineteenth century American labor known as the Common School. The Common School assumes, incorrectly Bensman argues, that craft traditions were destroyed by the economic forces of the transportation revolution. But workers didn't lose their cultural identity inside the factory, Bensman contends. They preserved it for the most part, adapting to the changing economic landscape rather than being obliterated by it. Bensman uses this dispute as a springboard for a rich and fascinating account of the hat finishers' cultural and economic history. He relies on trade journals, letters, union minutes and newspaper articles to build his case. Indeed, his bibliography is an excellent reference for scholars of any nineteenth century American labor history. Without question, the author presents his subject in a fresh and revealing light. In addition, he strengthens the case being made by Montgomery, Brody and other contemporary labor historians for this method of study.

1199, National Hospital and Health Care Employees Union

Ashley Adams