# reviews

## women

PAIN, PLEASURE, AND AMERICAN CHILDBIRTH: From the Twilight Sleep to the Read Method, 1914-1960. By Margarete Sandelowski. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1984. $27.95.

Margarete Sandelowski traces the history of childbirth in the United States through several major changes. She begins with Twilight Sleep, particularly showing how this method required the heavy use of pharmaceutical drugs, and then concludes with a discussion of Natural Childbirth. With both methods, she carefully describes their first introduction into the United States, treating both advocates and opponents of the methods. Throughout she emphasizes the advocacy role of childbearing women and the pressure which they exerted on physicians to accept these methods. She also deals with the role of the obstetrics nurse and the earlier role of midwives. This account is compact, informative and well written, with terminology that lay people can understand. The book should be particularly useful in family, women's and social history classes as well as comparable sociology courses.

Iowa State University Dorothy Schwieder

THE AMERICAN NARCISSUS: Individualism and Women in Nineteenth-Century American Fiction. By Joyce W. Warren. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press. 1984. $23.00.

Warren's deceptively simple thesis is that the nineteenth-century emphasis on individualism as a positive value, promulgated especially by the Transcendentalists, led to a "narcissism" on the part of most major male writers that precluded their regarding others (particularly women) as "persons" worthy of full characterization in fiction. As much a study of male socialization as a study of nineteenth-century fiction, *The American Narcissus* begins with a study of the "self" as given primacy by Emerson and Thoreau in both their writing and their personal lives, and goes on to demonstrate the effects of a preoccupation with self on the lives and works of Cooper, Melville and Twain. Warren uses letters, journals and other biographical sources to show that in their lives as well as their novels these writers regarded women more as shadowy ideals than as individual people. Only Hawthorne and James, treated in the final section of the book, escaped the narcissism of American individualism by being as much European as American in their acculturation, and therefore both were able to create strong, complex women characters. Though the book smacks of dissertationese, especially in its early sections, it makes an important statement. Unfortunately, Warren may subvert her own purpose by leaving the impression that the

traditional canon is correct in including only male writers; by excluding female authors, who may or may not have had a different response to individualism, she makes a negative rather than a positive statement about nineteenth-century American culture and fiction.
Stephens College — Nancy Walker

MOTHERS AND OTHERS: Myths of the Female in the Works of Melville, Twain, and Hemingway. By Wilma Garcia. New York and Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang. 1984. $23.00.

Garcia's title will mislead feminists and Americanists as her primary focus is the questing male hero in Western society. Despite illuminating discussions of women in such works as Melville's "The Encantadas" and Twain's *Joan of Arc*, Garcia's study of the fiction of three of America's classic male writers reveals that their largely stereotypical representation of women is ironic. Her work would have been enriched by acquaintance with the research of feminist literary critics and cultural historians, including Charles J. Haberstroh, Jr., Ann Douglas and Joyce W. Warren.
University of Kansas — Elizabeth Schultz

PRIVATE WOMAN, PUBLIC STAGE: Literary Domesticity in Nineteenth-Century America. By Mary Kelley. New York: Oxford University Press. 1984. $8.95.

Focusing upon the lives and works of a dozen nineteenth-century American women writers (including Harriet Beecher Stowe, Catharine Maria Sedgwick and Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth), Kelley examines their attempts to pursue "masculine" careers at a time when society perceived women as destined solely for (and, indeed, intellectually capable of nothing more than) marriage and motherhood. Although Kelley pays generous attention to the changing publishing practices which made professional authorship feasible in the United States early in the nineteenth century, she concentrates mostly on these women's psychological distress over pursuing literary careers: their desperate attempts to justify their writing on economic grounds and their pride at attaining success clashed with their insecurity, self-deprecation and guilt over abdicating or compromising their traditional roles in the domestic circle. Particularly engrossing is Kelley's analysis of how these women attempted to exorcise these emotional conflicts through the characters and situations in their novels. In sum, Kelley's is a sensitive, insightful, well-researched book, and an important contribution to both women's studies and American literary history.
Rhode Island School of Design — Alice Hall Petry

## politics

THE POLITICAL INTEGRATION OF WOMEN: Roles, Socialization, and Politics. By Virginia Sapiro. Champaign: University of Illinois Press. 1983. $16.95.

Virginia Sapiro's study is very comprehensive and most insightful. She concentrated upon political matters because of the overall importance of what Aristotle called the "architechtonic science." She argues convincingly that women's public role is damaged by the cultural perception of their private role, or by "privatism." She clearly relates recent research upon the subject to political philosophy. Sapiro's research is drawn from the University of Michigan Panel Socialization Study data based on 1965 interviews with women high school graduates and reinterviews in 1973.

She raises important issues. What could be more important than to point out the obvious but too little recognized fact that "those who control public policy are too divorced from a concern for children?" What could be less open to question than the assertion that there is a "vast difference between allowing the participation of women on the one hand and including participation and membership as a public value on the other?" Much more than feminist theory is involved here; these are fundamental issues of freedom. As Sapiro cogently puts it, "a policy of liberation requires placing positive value on membership."

Surely this is the case whether one is viewing the role of women, racial, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or less affluent social classes.

This, then, is the greatest value of Sapiro's study, as with the best of feminist studies in general. Although they often may appear to concentrate upon one set of issues, their insights are universal. Sapiro writes less to improve the lot of women than to improve society in general. In this regard, her work ranks with the best of the anti-slavery literature, and presents a similar message to a society no less in need of it than was antebellum America. She calls not merely for the integration of women into the public sphere, but also for the integration of men into the private sphere, and under conditions of mutual respect and dignity.

Sapiro has written a splendid book that should be recommended to all social and political thinkers, all policy makers and, of course, to all those in American Studies.

University of Missouri-Kansas City Max J. Skidmore

THE RADICAL POLITICS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON: A Revisionist View. By Richard K. Matthews. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas. 1984. $22.50.

Based on a reading of the Jeffersonian political texts heavily influenced by C. B. Macpherson, this study contributes to the debate between Neo-Whigs and Neo-Hartzians over the ideology of the American Revolution. Analyzing Jefferson's views on the nature of man, property, law and government and the role of public and private experience in human fulfillment, Matthews concludes that Jefferson was neither republican nor liberal-democrat in philosophy. Matthews conceives Jefferson as a third type, defined variously as radical democrat, communitarian-anarchist and progressive humanist. Jefferson meant more by happiness than the pursuit of property. Essentially social rather than economic beings, humans achieved fulfillment by political participation, not accumulation; thus Jefferson advocated a pyramid structure of government erected on the broad base of "ward-republics" (counties) that referred all decisions to universal manhood suffrage. While Madison mechanically contrived checks and balances to prevent hasty changes in the constitution, Jefferson advocated perpetual revolution. All laws would lapse every nineteen years; each generation would have its own chance to "make the world over." Thus laws would keep pace with progress in science and social organization.

Matthews rejects the Neo-Hartzian view of Jefferson as a market liberal. "Neither wealth nor capital ever constitutes the conceptual core of Jefferson" (14). He saw society as an organic whole, not a faction-ridden congeries of acquisitive individuals, and property as a social convention, not a natural right. An equal distribution would preserve liberty, forestall economic dependence and spread access to a provincial life-style, mingling productive labor with leisure for contemplation, the basis of virtue.

Thus Matthews separates Jefferson from the Jeffersonian tradition; he was pastoralist, not agrarian, as meant either by Beard-Parrington or Hofstadter; he should not be lumped with Madison, whose antidemocratic, market-oriented tendencies place his closer to Hamilton. Madison's pessimism and distrust of popular government contrast sharply with Jefferson's optimistic belief that an innate moral sense, reinforced by universal education and ample opportunity to exercise political judgment, would safeguard public virtue and ensure social progress. In Matthews' view, Jefferson's democratic humanism offered the revolutionary generation and contemporary Americans a genuine philosophical alternative to the market liberalism that consensus historians see as the only American political tradition.

This study reminds us forcefully that it is as dangerous to push nineteenth-century liberalism back too far as it is to bring classical republicanism too far forward. Matthews is right to deny that Jefferson can be accounted for as a bourgeois liberal whose politics were axiomatic to possessive individualism. But his political analysis is somewhat tendentious. Jefferson's gentry outlook, his hierarchical conception of society, make him less than convincing as a forefather of "mass participatory democracy."

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NEW ENGLAND AND FOREIGN RELATIONS, 1789-1850. By Paul A. Varg. Hanover, New Hampshire: University Press of New England. 1983. $20.00.

Using a wide variety of primary as well as secondary sources the author sets out to

analyze New England's impact on the conduct of American foreign policy. The first chapter suggests that the study will focus on economic as well as a variety of cultural considerations in attempting to explain New England's unique outlook. But the book does not succeed in accomplishing this difficult task particularly well primarily because Varg assumes rather than proves economic and cultural homogeneity. Nor does he always succeed in demonstrating how regional characteristics were translated into a distinctive approach to foreign policy. What remains however, is an engaging narrative of the role New Englanders played in shaping American foreign policy from the Constitution to the beginnings of the sectional controversy. And that, it seems to me, is quite sufficient to make this a worthwhile book, another of Professor Varg's many fine contributions to the field.

University of Missouri-Columbia Gerard H. Clarfield

THE FRACTURED ELECTORATE: Political Parties and Social Change in Southern New England. By John Kenneth White. Hanover, New Hampshire: University Press of New England. 1983. $7.95.

White's study of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island leads him to identify three great "tides" that swept through the politics of the region in this century. First, there was a sharp Catholic/Protestant cleavage; next came the New Deal, in which the two groups differed essentially on the government's role in the economy. Finally came the current situation de-emphasizing religious friction, substituting cleavage between college-educated professionals and blue-collar groups who disagree regarding the so-called social issues.

Despite similarities in the three states, there are clear distinctions. All, however, have experienced a sharp decline in the two-party structure. White notes that despite some major Republican victories, the party's potential in the region appears slim at best. His analysis stands the test of the 1984 elections, regardless of the strong Reagan victory, although it would have been interesting if the book had been delayed sufficiently to have included the 1984 results.

This is a good piece of work that enhances our understanding of current group conflict and of politics generally, not merely in Southern New England. There has been criticism that White's book is insufficiently based upon statistical data, and that he has not adequately analyzed the many data that he presents. Nevertheless, he has provided sound insights not available elsewhere, and his study should prove to be quite valuable, especially for students of American culture.

University of Missouri-Kansas City Max J. Skidmore

ENERGY POLICY IN AMERICA SINCE 1945: A Study of Business-Government Relations. By Richard H. K. Vietor. Studies in Economic History and Policy: The United States in the Twentieth Century. New York: Cambridge University Press. 1984. $29.95.

Vietor has two objectives: to present a history of United States fossil-fuel energy policy since World War II, and to re-examine the process of government-business relations. His story falls into three periods. The first (1945-1958), witnessed the American economy's shift from dependence upon solid to fluid fuels. The second was a time of "stasis" in energy policy, reflecting the stability in price and market shares for coal, natural gas and oil. The third period (1969-1980) "saw the painful process of national adjustment to a belated realization that cheap domestic reserves of petroleum and natural gas were depleted" (3).

He reaches two major conclusions. The first is that "the government's domestic policies for fossil fuels generally failed. They reduced economic efficiency in return for marginal gains in equity, temporary and misleading stabilization of markets, and little or no benefit to national security" (345). More controversial, but in this reviewer's opinion amply demonstrated by the evidence, is his refutation of the popular notion that big business dominates governmental policy making. "At least in domestic affairs," Vietor finds, "there were a score of situations where small busines interests or so-called consumerists exercised political power at the expense of the largest companies" (350). More broadly, he argues that the most important factor shaping government-business relations was shifts in "market conditions—changes in price or the parity of supply and demand" (1).

University of Nebraska-Lincoln John Braeman

FEARFUL WARRIORS: A Psychological Profile of U.S.-Soviet Relations. By Ralph K. White. New York: The Free Press. 1984. $20.00.

In its broadest sense, this powerful, persuasive work is a historical, sociological and psychological study of the causes of war and the problems connected with preventing it. More narrowly, the central theme of the book traces the primary cause of the arms race (between the super powers) to fear of the opponent and to the tensions resulting therefrom, not withstanding all the self-serving moral rhetoric about the "evil empire" on one side and "imperialist colonialism" on the other.

The author's approach toward the Soviet Union is one of refreshing empathy (attempt to understand their thoughts and feelings), although not one of sympathy (agreement with their views). If adopted on both sides, such empathy would go a long way towards humanizing the "enemy," diminishing exaggerated fears and correcting the excessive self-righteousness of each of the contenders.

In the last section, the author proposes a series of preventative measures. Without minimizing the problems connected with the actual acceptance and implementation of his proposals, he calls for minimal deterrance, arms reduction, a modified freeze and the eventual formation of a World Federation.

This is the kind of book that should be "must" reading for policy makers East and West, and for others seriously interested in a peaceful solution of world problems.

University of Kansas — Harry G. Shaffer

THAT EVERY MAN BE ARMED: The Evolution of a Constitutional Right. By Stephen H. Halbrook. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. 1984. $19.95.

The United States Supreme Court has never seen fit to interpret the second amendment of the Constitution and to rule on its true meaning. The author, an attorney, accomplishes this by tracing the roots of the right of a citizen to possess and bear arms. He concludes that the term "militia" means the citizens, not just the police, the national guard and the armed forces of the federal government. Further, he sees the amendment as a means of protecting the citizen against the power of a standing army. The United States has a patchwork of conflicting laws designed to control the possession and use of weapons, especially pistols. He feels that many laws are elitist-backed regulations aimed at disarming the economically deprived in order to preserve the status quo. The study is especially well documented by means of copious notes in which opinions and laws are quoted and commented upon. It is a scholarly work designed to acquaint people with the facts behind a controversial issue.

University of Kansas — Carlyle S. Smith

FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE: A Military History of the United States of America. By Allan R. Millett and Peter Maslowski. New York: The Free Press. 1984. $24.95.

This well written survey of the American military experience and its role in the development of the nation emphasizes policy formulation by the government and its implementation by the armed forces. Within this broad context the authors include civil-military relations, intraservice and interservice rivalry, social and economic factors, technology and science and the strategy and tactics of major campaigns. Comprehensive, analytical and scholarly, this book should be read by anyone interested in the national and international dimensions of America's past, present and future.

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SERGEANT YORK: An American Hero. By David D. Lee. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. 1985. $18.00.

This full scale biography of the acclaimed World War I citizen soldier is, in effect, an

analysis of the American character, of a nation struggling to find itself amidst the impact of rapid industrialization on an agricultural heritage. Alvin C. York, born and raised in rural Tennessee, experienced religious conversions, became a conscientious objector, then killed and captured a number of Germans under harrowing circumstances. The press found him "good copy," and the man and his feat caught the public imagination by possessing attributes extolled as native and traditional. His efforts to improve conditions in his mountain homeland were filled with frustration, and he continued to be exploited by the mythmaking communication media. This well written, carefully researched study reveals the man and the often puzzling values that made him a hero.

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EAGLE AGAINST THE SUN: The American War with Japan. By Ronald H. Spector. New York: The Free Press. 1985. $24.95.

This is simply the best single volume on the Pacific conflict. Introductory chapters on the foreign and military policies of Japan and America provide background for the in-depth chronological account of the planning, strategy and campaigns of the major antagonists as the United States recovered from the Pearl Harbor disaster and waged a two front war. The struggle is viewed from every perspective, including deliberations of heads of state and battlefield decisions, the agonizing and bloody conquest and reconquest of territory and the portrayal of leaders and followers from admirals and generals to sailors and privates. The author, a history professor and reserve Marine Corps officer, describes the controversies that characterized many of the operations, and offers his opinion on the merits of the alternatives from intelligence and submarine tactics to the dropping of the atomic bomb. This readable, scholarly and fully documented narrative, based on primary and secondary sources, will appeal to the general reader and the professional.

Aptos, California — Raymond G. O'Connor

THE DAY THE SUN ROSE TWICE: The Story of the Trinity Site Nuclear Explosion, July 16, 1945. By Ferenc Morton Szasz. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. 1984. $15.95.

This book tells the story of the first nuclear explosion in great detail, using a wealth of published and unpublished materials, some only recently declassified. It is well written, and the event's enormous significance to American and world history holds the reader's attention. Szasz goes beyond the date of the Trinity test to discuss both the local and international legacy of nuclear testing. Plans to make Trinity Site a national monument open to visitors seem to have been shelved indefinitely; of far greater significance, the author raises issues that have been argued, but not resolved, by "establishment" and revisionist historians. These include whether the arms race might have been avoided had the United States made the Soviet Union more of a partner in nuclear research. Did the shock of Hiroshima and Nagasaki cause Japan to surrender? Was the bombing not the last act of World War II but the first of the Cold War? Szasz does not join this controversy. Instead, he provides a short analysis of the situation's inevitability: men were "caught in a set of circumstances over which [they had] some, but never complete, command." Except for the background survey where careless mistakes appear, such as crediting Eve Curie instead of her mother, Marie, with the discovery of radium, and the overuse of secondary sources throughout, the work seems to be an accurate and valuable work of scholarship.

University of California-Santa Barbara — Lawrence Badash

SUNSHINE PATRIOTS: Punishment and the Vietnam Offender. By G. David Curry. Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press. 1985. $14.95.

The offenders in this sociological study are those who illegally evaded the draft and those who deserted from the armed forces during the Vietnam conflict. Based primarily on data from the Presidential Clemency Board and surveys conducted by the Center for Civil Rights of the University of Notre Dame, this statistical analysis rejects the "media stereotype" of the offender. Social class, educational level, race and bureaucratic structure,

the author finds, were major factors in the avoidance of or escape from military service. Motives and methods of offenders are revealed, as is the nature of the punishment imposed. The author, who served in Vietnam as an Army officer, concludes with a number of "policy suggestions" on what the government should avoid doing in the event of similar American wars.

The sampling techniques and the methodology employed to assess the results may bother some readers. Further, the title is misleading, for many of those who deserted following honorable duty in Vietnam did not, in the words of Thomas Paine, "shrink from the service of . . . [their] country." Nonetheless, the information provided is helpful in trying to understand the complexities of what the author calls the Second Indochina War.

Aptos, California — Raymond G. O'Connor

LYNDON JOHNSON'S DUAL WAR: Vietnam and the Press. By Kathleen J. Turner. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1985. $25.00.

Lyndon Johnson directed two wars during his presidency, one in Vietnam against the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese, the other on the home front against American journalists who covered the Vietnam war for the American people. He failed to win either and retired from the presidency in 1968. The second war, President Johnson's media campaign for the hearts and minds of the American people, is the subject of this important new monograph.

Turner's well-written, thoroughly-researched study is the first to examine, in lengthy detail, the complex relationships among Johnson, the media and the war. She has drawn extensively upon the official documents housed in the Lyndon B. Johnson Library in Austin, Texas, particularly the White House files concerned with publicity and communication. They constitute the primary sources for her book.

Turner also poses a larger question about presidential leadership in time of limited war. She implies that it may be impossible for any leader, even one skilled in communication and use of television like Ronald Reagan, to find rhetorical formulations which justify sustained, large-scale, yet limited wars such as the Vietnam war. Given American understanding of war there may not be any explanations which work.

City College of San Francisco — George Moss

FROM H-BOMB TO STAR WARS: The Politics of Strategic Decision Making. By Jonathan B. Stein. Lexington, Massachusetts: Lexington Books. 1984. $20.00 cloth, $10.00 paper.

This slim substantive book contends that political considerations, not technology or military doctrine, are responsible for the nuclear arms race. The author presents a succinct account of the complexities of decision making at the highest level of government that slowed or accelerated the production of bombs and delivery systems. Among the multiple factors influencing responsible officials have been pressure groups, partisan feelings, civilian and military rivalry, ideology, strategic doctrine, domestic and world opinion, defense commitments and perceptions of Soviet capability and intentions. The author concludes with a plea for a reduction and stabilization of offensive weapons, a conclusion that seems to contradict his own thesis. Although an escalation of nuclear competition can heighten tensions, a deescalation of the "political" motives that create these tensions would provide a more solid base for peace.

Aptos, California — Raymond G. O'Connor

## the environment

EDWARD F. BEALE AND THE AMERICAN WEST. By Gerald Thompson. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. 1983. $24.95.

This biography narrates a fascinating life that touched upon many aspects of nineteenth-century history. Among other things, Beale served heroically in the war against

Mexico, carried evidence of California's gold to the East, implemented the first modern Indian reservation, opposed vigilantism in San Francisco, tested camels in the Southwest, acquired substantial land and mineral holdings in California and became a prominent Republican and confidant of President Grant. A "habitual officeholder"—California's superintendent of Indian affairs and surveyor general, Southwestern explorer and road surveyor and minister of Austria-Hungary—he regarded public appointments as opportunities to advance personal fortune and reputation, and consequently cut a controversial figure wherever he went. Thompson has researched Beale thoroughly but written uncritically and unimaginatively. The illustrated text, burdened with detail, seldom differentiates between the important and the unimportant and, following chronology strictly, does not develop a context for understanding either Beale's inner workings or his significance in the larger society. We learn more than we may want to know about a life, less than we could about what that life meant.

Pennsylvania State University — John M. Findlay

KIT CARSON: A Pattern for Heroes. By Thelma S. Guild and Harvey L. Carter. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 1984. $18.95.

More conventional than the 1968 study *Dear Old Kit* by Harvey L. Carter now out of print, this popular biography presents the previous volume's contributions to Carson scholarship to a larger audience. The authors narrate Kit Carson's life chronologically while describing both the physical environment and social milieu in which he lived. Each of his successive careers as one of America's greatest frontiersmen is carefully and lovingly described: beaver trapper and mountain man, scout and guide for government (chiefly military) expeditions, Indian agent and army officer. Starting as an illiterate runaway, he ended as a brigadier general, albeit still illiterate, and achieved the aura of a national hero in the process. Soundly researched and well written, this biography makes for a first-rate adventure story.

Iowa State University — Richard Lowitt

DESERT PASSAGES: Encounters with the American Deserts. By Patricia Nelson Limerick. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. 1985. $20.50 cloth, $12.95 paper.

Dr. Limerick undertakes to determine the attitude of Americans toward the natural, "unimproved" desert ecosystems. To do this, she goes through appropriate books by eight writers: John C. Fremont, William L. Manly, Mark Twain and William E. Smythe, all of whom see the desert environment as enemy or oppressor, and John Van Dyke, George W. James, Joseph W. Krutch and Edward Abbey, who appreciate desert. Why no Mary Austin? The author's pedestrian analysis of each writer's books is often paraphrase or summary. At most it is competent. Her preface, introduction and final chapter, "The Significance of Deserts in American History," serve as her major attempt to make a contribution. She sees her studies as amplifying what Roderick Nash writes about wilderness and Frederick J. Turner about the frontier.

California State University-Los Angeles — Richard G. Lillard

TAHOE: An Environmental History. By Douglas H. Strong. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 1984. $16.95.

A thoroughly researched study of the Lake Tahoe region focusing on postwar urban development and its threat to scenic environment. It is written in journalistic style. It has a useful review on the major political issues between Nevada and California, although the narrative of recent problems is weak. Contains some useful maps and period photos with fascinating insight on early logging and tourist industries.

Salve Regina College — Arthur J. Krim

FIRE IN THE HOLE: Miners and Managers in the American Coal Industry. By Curtis Seltzer. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. 1984. $28.00.

This well written, carefully researched study by an author who earns his livelihood as an

energy consultant devotes most attention to the years following the Second World War, when for over twenty years the major coal operators and the union worked together to control labor costs, limit competition and increase productivity. This partnership led to a rebellion by dissatisfied miners demanding reform in the industry as well as within the union, a stituation that presently prevails and which, characteristically, is marked by conflict and stress.

An excellent photographic insert vividly illustrates the human dimension involved in the broad clash of social forces dominating the history of the American coal industry.

Iowa State University — Richard Lowitt

THE GREENING OF THE SOUTH: The Recovery of Land and Forest. By Thomas D. Clark. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. 1984. $20.00.

Eloquent, informed and intelligent, Clark has written an essay rather than a treatise. He gives historical perspective, describing conditions and changes with sufficient data but with emphasis on the lives of people and the quality of the economic and natural environment. Chapters center on the destructiveness of pioneer settlers, turpentiners and lumbermen until the end of World War I; the important role of the Civilian Conservation Corps boys; the Tennessee Valley Authority; the rise of scientific forestry under leaders like Henry Hardtner and of the paper industry because of scientists like Charles Herty; and the arrival of gigantic, sophisticated, mechanized paper and pulp firms. With their tree farms and industrial developments the huge corporations have changed—replaced—the South of the early 1930s and before. The present issue is between those who want land for forest products and those who want land for the numerous non-forest uses. Clark properly sees forests, more than cotton ever was, as the basis for a stabilized Southern economy, though as a warm-hearted humanist he is poignantly aware of the obliteration of the good things of the past.

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FOREVER WILD: Environmental Aesthetics and the Adirondack Forest Preserve. By Philip G. Terrie. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1985. $24.95.

Terrie, a scholarly environmentalist and a friend of wilderness, uses the Forest Preserve to analyze how people have reacted to and thought about wilderness in the Adirondacks. He sums up the varied and changing historic attitudes of spokesmen and the electorate, including those who wanted to clear the forest for agriculture or lumber, the romantics who saw beauty and the sublime, the mystical pantheists, the sportsmen, elitist vacationers, scientists, ecologists and preservationists and those concerned with watershed. This intelligent book is a study of concepts, sometimes contradictory, that people have taken to (rather than from) the wilderness, including the recent, persuasive idea: study and enjoy the wild for its own sake. Legal history establishes the reluctance of New York voters to turn their huge wilderness area over to lumber barons, state bureaucrats or scientific foresters. Terrie provides a localized and expanded, sometimes corrective, supplement to Roderick Nash's classic *Wilderness and the American Mind.*

California State University-Los Angeles — Richard G. Lillard

## industrialization and urbanization

CHICAGO AND THE AMERICAN LITERARY IMAGINATION: 1880-1920. By Carl S. Smith. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1984. $26.00 cloth, $14.00 paper.

Having evolved from a frontier outpost to a metropolis in only eighty years (1830-1920), Chicago may be seen as the embodiment—even the caricature—of the American experience in those years. Smith draws upon novels, poems, popular histories, exposés, autobiographies, guidebooks and architectural documents to show how Chicago, both as a city and as a symbol, was depicted in literature between 1880 and 1920. Smith first discusses how various writers explored the conflict between life in an impersonal,

industrialized city and the practice and appreciation of traditional art forms, a nation-wide phenomenon which was particularly dramatic in Chicago. As Smith reveals, that conflict came to be resolved in literature through the imaginative notion of the businessman-as-artist, and it was of special relevance to women, who could look to careers in art as a means of establishing identity in the male-dominated world of industry and commerce. Smith's second approach is more semiotic: focusing on the three most salient features in the Chicago cityscape (railroads, large buildings, stockyards), he shows how these were used metaphorically to express the beauty, power and ugliness of this representative American city. Throughout the book, Smith's analyses of major Chicago authors, including Frank Norris and Upton Sinclair, are sensitive and insightful, as are his commentaries on such less-known writers as Will Payne and Robert Herrick. The "Notes" and the final bibliographical essay are both thorough and usable.

Rhode Island School of Design Alice Hall Petry

INDUSTRIALIZATION AND SOUTHERN SOCIETY, 1877-1984. By James C. Cobb. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. 1984. $19.00.

This volume in the University of Kentucky's "New Perspectives on the South" focuses upon the challenges in the New South of industrialization. Two themes are evident. First, examination of "the social, political, and institutional impact of the development of industry" that goes beyond the mere identification of the origins and expansion of a variety of industries in the eleven states of the Confederacy plus Kentucky and Oklahoma. Part of this analysis, contrary to earlier interpretations, asserts that industrialization and progressivism or liberalism in the South were not always synonymous with the greater emphasis upon state-sponsored activity and with the assurance of no serious threat to the social status and economic interests of established groups. A second theme emphasizes the contrast between levels of economic advancement in the North and South in the twentieth century with statistical examples of the failures of equal progress in the South, a point that is pursued to such an extent that it masks the actual economic improvements that industrialization did, indeed, bring to the New South. Noting the limits of social and political change stimulated by industrialization, the author concludes that the "historical circumstances that shaped the destiny of the agrarian South also played a major role in forging the character of an industrial South" (164).

University of Kansas W. Stitt Robinson

TECHNOLOGICAL UTOPIANISM IN AMERICAN CULTURE. By Howard P. Segal. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1985. $30.00 cloth, $14.95 paper.

In this flawed but interesting little book, Howard P. Segal examines "technological utopianism" in Western social thought, with an emphasis on post-1880 America. Beginning with the European antecedents of the genre and its emergence in antebellum America, he turns to the late nineteenth/early twentieth century period. Bypassing Bellamy's much-studied *Looking Backward,* he focuses on twenty-five forgotten "technological utopian" novels published between 1883 and 1933. While most of the authors were obscure, a few—like King Camp Gillette, the safety-razor king—were prominent businessmen or engineers. In constructing their utopias, says Segal, these visionaries largely ignored politics or other sources of potential conflict, implicitly assuming that the smoothly functioning technological systems they invented would inevitably produce smoothly functioning societies. After exploring the sometimes tenuous links between this genre of social thought and such movements as scientific management, the city-government reform, the rise of professional societies and the short-lived "Technocracy" fad led by the enigmatic and vaguely sinister Howard W. Scott, Segal turns to the more chastened vision of the post-World War II period. In the book's most interesting part, he examines the technological futures imagined by a wide range of speculative writers, including Simone Weil, Lewis Mumford, Daniel Bell and the heavy thinkers of the Club of Rome. He clearly favors those who neither denounce nor embrace technology uncritically, but who advocate some form of "technological plateau" beyond which further technological advances are viewed with extreme caution and concern for their social and cultural ramifications. Among the works that measure up to this standard, he suggests, is the "undeservedly neglected" *Life in a Technocracy: What It Might Be Like* (1933) by Howard Scott's rival Harold Loeb. (A fascinating figure, Loeb is

caricatured as "Robert Cohn" in Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises.*) The book ends with a persuasive defense of the utopian mode of thinking as a means of maintaining critical perspective on the conventional wisdom and dominant ideologies of one's era.

Unfortunately, *Technological Utopianism in American Culture* adds up to somewhat less than the sum of its parts. Segal has already published thirteen articles on this subject (at least four of which form the basis of chapters in the present book), and the work at times seems more a disjointed collection of essays than an integrated whole. The 163 pages of text are followed by a nine-page biographical appendix, eighty-two pages of closely printed notes and a thirty-three-page unannotated bibliography. Many of the notes are themselves mini-essays—interesting enough, but frustrating to the reader seeking to grasp the work as a whole. But although the book is less satisfactory than one might have hoped, Segal's topic is manifestly an important one, and he has thoughtful and provocative things to say about it.

University of Wisconsin-Madison Paul Boyer

THE EVOLUTION OF AN AMERICAN TOWN: Newton, New York, 1642-1775. By Jessica Kross. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1983. $25.00.

A carefully documented social history of the colonial farming economy in the colonial New York City area. The continual comparisons between New England towns and the Long Island community is insightful but the narrative is confusing. It contains valuable data on Dutch-English interaction as well as references to Quaker and Black slave communities.

Salve Regina College Arthur J. Krim

THE FIRST SUBURBS: Residential Communities on the Boston Periphery, 1815-1860. By Henry C. Binford. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1985. $25.00.

In painstakingly analyzing the economic and demographic change in two Boston towns, Cambridge and Somerville, in the years before the appearance of the electric streetcar, Binford documents the process of community reorientation generated by carriage, railroad, omnibus and horsecar commuting. Particularly strong are the analyses of the relation of the towns to Boston, the rise in land values and conflict over land use, the occupations of the newcomers and the immense political power of the newly arrived commuters. The author might have dealt more completely with the physical reflection of the transformations he so precisely recounts, however, and compared his two study areas with those elsewhere in antebellum East.

JS

BUSINESS ARCHITECTURAL IMAGERY IN AMERICA, 1870-1930. By Kenneth Turney Gibbs. Ann Arbor, Michigan: UMI Research Press. 1984. $39.95.

The high-rise office building became symbolic of the American city starting in the late nineteenth century. Ever since, there has been an ever growing number of people investigating the significance of this symbolism, and assessing the aesthetic, technological and social factors associated with the design and construction of tall buildings. In his study, Gibbs has particularized the issue of symbolism. He is concerned with the business imagery implicit in the tall office buildings built in the United States for large corporations with national markets. This requires an interdisciplinary approach, and thus Biggs' book illustrates the use of "architecture as data" in a non-conventional sociological study of the behavior of businessmen. It is also a history of a particular genre of American architecture of the period 1870-1930. That combination in itself makes the book worth reading, though the generalizations Gibbs makes (which he is quick to point out are just that, and drawn in order to focus our attention on motivations, trends and differences between cities and periods), seem a bit too intuitive at times for this reviewer's comfort. The generalizations, however, can be stimulating, encouraging the reader to reach back to specific cases, to those cited (largely from Chicago and New York) or to others locally known.

The book is a recently revised version of a Cornell University thesis, published as part of a series on Architecture and Urban Design. Given the theme of the book and its interdisciplinary approach, it merits the attention of students of American culture. It does,

however, presuppose some familiarity with the history of American architecture. Finally, for those who are interested in architecture, the rather small and muddy illustrations will be frustrating. Also, a more detailed index would be appreciated.
University of Missouri-Kansas City George Ehrlich

J. EDGAR THOMSON: Master of the Pennsylvania. By James A. Ward. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1980. $29.95.

Ward's biography of Thomson, a railroad magnate associated with the Pennsylvania line between 1847-73, is perhaps as lively a portrait as possible of a man who left no revealing letters and who had no conversation, personality nor commitments, so far as one learns, to anything save "proffits," which he made in quantity sufficient to justify his consistent misspelling. Ward's interpretation is always generous, including a rather forced insistence that Thomson's character stemmed from Quaker ancestry instead of the Episcopalianism he embraced as part of his upward pursuits. Ward tends to look away from Thomson's more manipulative, speculative and callous dealings in this well-written success story.

DG

THE CORN BELT ROUTE: A History of the Chicago Great Western Railroad Company. By H. Roger Grant. DeKalb, Illinois: Northern Illinois University Press. 1984. $29.00.

Meticulously researched, crisply written (and effectively illustrated with period and contemporary photographs and maps), *The Corn Belt Route* traces not only the technological and corporate innovation that characterized the company (the inventor of truck-trailer "piggybacking") but details the intimate relation of the mid-size railroad to the "granger country" it served. Ranging from municipal support of pioneering lines to the renaming of towns in the Great War to the impact of the 1936 drought on farms abutting the right-of-way, the book analyzes the complexity of midwestern railroading in the century after 1885, successfully placing the history of the railroad company in a larger historical context. A welcome relief from so many corporate histories, and a useful model for scholars and graduate students.

JS

## immigrants and minorities

LA FAMILIA: Chicano Families in the Urban Southwest, 1848 to the Present. By Richard Griswold del Castillo. Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press. 1984. $18.95 cloth, $7.95 paper.

Focusing on the nineteenth century urban experience of Mexican American families in four towns of the American Southwest, Los Angeles, Tucson, Santa Fe and San Antonio, Richard Griswold del Castillo develops his thesis, utilizing an extensive data base, that there has been a conflict between the beliefs and values held by these families regarding the proper and desirable way to live and the ever changing pressures of urban America. The Mexican American culture and economy has experienced already a century and a half of "contact, conflict and coresidence" with the dynamic and changing American capitalist system so that today the traditions of the Mexican American family, including Spanish, are threatened with assimilation. Thirty-two tables, three appendices and several photographs help enrich the author's detailed historical analysis.
Iowa State University Richard Lowitt

AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS, 1826-1924. By Daniel F. Littlefield, Jr. and James W. Parins. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1984. $45.00.

This is an excellent guide to the more than two hundred newspapers and periodicals by

American Indians and Alaska Natives and other periodicals focusing on their contemporary affairs from 1826 to 1924. The alphabetical list of these publications includes a history of the newspaper or periodical, its editors, tribal affiliation, locations and index sources and a publication chronology with volume and issue data. The value of this research tool is enhanced by the information in the narratives about Native American history. Appendices list titles by chronology, location and tribal affiliation. This volume could serve as a model for subsequent bibliographies that would include the more than fifteen hundred similar newspapers and periodicals when coverage is extended to the present.

* * *

TRIBAL DISPOSSESSION AND THE OTTAWA INDIAN UNIVERSITY FRAUD. By William E. Unrau and H. Craig Miner. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 1985. $17.95.

Although the theme of dispossession of American Indian lands is a familiar one in Indian-white relations, this study presents an unusual twist with land frauds under the guise of establishing an Indian University in Kansas for Ottawa Indians. Originally involving three groups of Ottawas in northwestern Ohio who signed the treaty of 1862 with tribal funding for a university, the scheme extended to Indians who moved to Kansas and on to Oklahoma. The idealistic missionary goals of Isaac McCoy and Jotham Meeker were later tarnished by land frauds perpetrated by individuals such as Clinton C. Hutchinson and the Reverend Isaac Kalloch of the American Baptist Church. The authors vividly present this "dark era of Indian-white relations" (xi) with judicious objectivity yet with a suspense that hastens the reader from chapter to chapter. The clues to this untold story emerged from a file identified as "Ottawa University" in the National Archives during research on the more general topic of Indian removal from Kansas. By use of more recent records of the Indian Claims Commission, the authors conclude the study with the "Legal atonement, if not absolute restitution" (175) by the decision of the Commission in 1960 for the award of approximately a half million dollars paid five years later to 630 Ottawas in Oklahoma. Ottawa University in Kansas has also established an Indian scholarship program which, however, remains little used.

University of Kansas W. Stitt Robinson

REFUGEE SCHOLARS IN AMERICA: Their Impact and Their Experiences. By Lewis A. Coser. New Haven, Connecticut and London: Yale University Press. 1984. $25.00.

During recent years there has been an upsurge of interest in the contributions to American intellectual and cultural life by the European refugees from Hitler. And high hopes were entertained that the planned study by Coser, himself one of their number who went on to become one of the leading figures in American sociology, would provide a definitive summing up. That this hope has been only partially realized is due to the approach that Coser chose to take. He has broken the refugees down by field—Psychology and Psychoanalysis; Sociology and Social Thought; Economics and Economic History; Political Science and Political Theory; Writers; The Humanities; and Philosophy and Religion. For each there is a brief introductory overview followed by biographical sketches of the more significant figures.

Coser's major interest is the factors explaining successful adaptation—or lack thereof—to the American environment. He acknowledges that individual personality traits played a part, as did sheer luck. But he finds the most important determinant the refugees' "field of knowledge":

> The refugees seem to have been most influential in areas of study where they filled a perceived need not previously met, or in fields in which they encountered an already established tradition to which they felt affinity so that they could build on already established scholarly traditions. Matters became difficult in areas where there was little fit between the newcomers' skills and native American intellectual traditions and requirements (9).

Thus, for example, adherents of the Austrian school of economics were more successful in finding high-level positions than followers of the German historical school because they

worked in the same neo-classical tradition and "spoke the same mathematical language as their American colleagues" (137).

One can only admire Coser's grasp of the differences in receptivity to European influence exhibited by the different areas of American scholarship and intellectual life. And his individual biographical sketches make for invariably fascinating reading. But still the reader will be disappointed at his failure even to attempt an overall assessment.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln John Braeman

EXILED IN PARADISE: German Refugee Artists and Intellectuals in America from the 1930s to the Present. By Anthony Heilbut. Boston: Beacon Press. 1984. $12.95.

Either banished or voluntarily departing from their homeland in the 1930s, thousands of German exiles, most of whom were professional men and women and Jewish, well versed in European high culture and far more knowledgeable about the United States than any previous group of exiles, optimistically envisioned an America open and receptive to their talents. Given to skepticism based on their European experience, they soon realized that their initial romanticism about the American scene was unrealistic. Over the ensuing decades disillusionment became their lot as their loving schemes and early estimates evaporated. They soon found themselves ill at ease in their adopted country and, for those who returned after Hitler's defeat to Germany, in their homeland as well. Anthony Heilbut, a child of refugee parents, carefully develops this theme by examining the careers of artists, scientists, scholars, movie directors and others, all of whom helped enrich American life through their impressive achievements, in this insightful and stimulating volume. No footnotes are given, but an extended bibliography is provided for each of the nineteen chapters and epilogue which comprise this important volume dedicated to "those who didn't escape."

Iowa State University Richard Lowitt

THE GERMANS IN MISSOURI, 1900-1918. By David W. Detjen. Columbia: University of Missouri Press. 1985. $23.00.

In this narrowly focused but prodigiously researched work on the Germans in Missouri from 1900 to the end of World War I, the author describes the fate of an ethnic community in its most tragic and difficult period, when political loyalty to the new country conflicted with the sentimental love for the culture of the old country.

Its focal point is the National German-American Alliance, a loosely organized federation of local groups whose aim it was to nurture and defend German culture against Sabbatarianism and the prohibitionists. The leaders of the Alliance were a small but vocal elite of "hyphenated Americans" whose pronouncements had little noticeable effect on public opinion and, further, failed often to reflect the sentiments of the general membership.

While the Alliance in its fight against the drys held its ground and gained support from other ethnic groups and even some natives, their decision to switch from battling the prohibitionists to agitating actively for United States neutrality after the war had started in Europe could only bode ill for the future. With Teutonic obstinacy and an astonishing lack of common sense—political or otherwise—they steered a course that led inevitably to the arrest of the Alliance's president under the Espionage Act of 1917, his indictment and trial and the overnight disappearance of the Alliance.

St. Louis, Missouri Ernst A. Stadler

## literature and the arts

SAMUEL R. DELANY. By Seth McEvoy. New York: Frederick Ungar. 1984. $12.95 cloth, $6.95 paper.

In this study of the innovative science fiction writer Samuel R. Delany, McEvoy, himself a science fiction writer, traces Delany's writing concerns to his dyslexia, his

blackness and his homosexuality. But this critical contribution to Ungar's series edited by one-time science fiction editor Sharon Jarvis shows only what such a study might reveal. In this inadequately revised, edited and proofread book, McEvoy is too much the admirer and not sufficiently the critic to place Delany's work in insightful perspective.

University of Kansas James Gunn

RECOLLECTION AND DISCOVERY: The Rhetoric of Character in William Faulkner's Novels. By Cathy Waegner. New York and Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang. 1983. $27.90 paper.

The author attempts to analyze a number of Faulkner's novels by developing specific rhetorical categories for different narrative structures. Because she does not fully explain her rhetorical theory and its application, Ms. Waegner's rhetorical categories remain labels rather than models for critical analysis. To her credit, she cites traditional and very recent Faulkner criticism; unfortunately her work does not add significantly to Faulkner criticism.

University of Kansas Jean Yonke

HAWTHORNE'S SECRET: An Un-Told Tale. By Philip Young. Boston: David R. Godine. 1984. $15.95.

This contains a clever bit of literary detective work which reveals that two of Hawthorne's distant relatives, on his mother's side, were publicly disgraced for having committed incest, thereby providing the author with ghosts on both sides of his family. Young makes two observations based on the incontrovertible discovery: First that Hawthorne's work needs to be reappraised in light of its sexual content, an approach strangely absent in Hawthorne scholarship, and second that there was at least a latent incestuous relationship between Hawthorne and his older sister, Elizabeth. The first point is well-taken and needs redressing in any future work on Hawthorne. His second point about Hawthrone's incest is more problematic, although ingeniously made, and pushes, perhaps, a little too hard on both the work and the life.

Iowa State University Charles L. P. Silet

EMILY DICKINSON AND HER CULTURE: The Soul's Society. By Barton Levi St. Armand. New York: Cambridge University Press. 1984. $29.95.

EMILY DICKINSON: A Voice of War. By Shira Wolosky. New Haven, Connecticut and London: Yale University Press. 1984. $16.50.

These two studies are part of a distinct trend in Dickinson studies to move away from treating her poetry as the personal record of a "self-enclosed and eccentric sensibility," to use Shira Wolosky's words, toward the view that it registers contemporary issues, events and popular cultural forms. In short we are being presented these days with a new Dickinson, a kind of representative American rather than the odd recluse of Amherst.

St. Armand does the very useful service of relating Dickinson's poetic subject matter and style to three levels of culture: folk, popular and elitist. This approach is particularly productive when the poetry is compared to such folk and popular forms as women's handiwork, contemporary giftbooks and Watt's hymns. At the same time, he always keeps in view the fact that the poems almost always involve "a process of personalization, individualization, exaggeration, and inversions" (23) of these forms. One of the real benefits of this interesting study is the insight it brings to the culture of the period and the variations Dickinson was able to work on its cultural artifacts.

Wolosky uses the interesting fact that over half of Dickinson's poetry was written between 1861-1865, the Civil War years, to argue that the poetry not only reflects the impact of the war on Dickinson, but that the war provided metaphors for her own intellectual and emotional battles. This is an ingenious idea. More specifically, Wolosky asserts that Dickinson was caught on the "threshold of modernity," unable to regain a traditional religious and philosophical stance, but also unable to "construct a new framework based upon premises altogether different from traditional ones" (xx).

While both of these books are valuable contributions to a broader understanding of one

of the most enigmatic figures in world literature, they are not major contributions to an understanding of the poetry. Many of St. Armand's readings of the individual poems—for example "Ample Make This Bed"—are excessively prosaic while others drive the poems into the colorless fabric of popular culture. No one who regularly teaches Dickinson to undergraduates will find such readings a service. Wolosky has a few provocative readings, most notably of "My Life had stood—a Loaded Gun," but she tackles hardly any of the other famous and difficult poems. Instead she does rather matter of fact summaries of a large number of poems that seldom appear in anthologies. Thus as with St. Armand, Wolosky does not add much to our understanding or appreciation of the greatest poems.

University of Northern Iowa Theodore R. Hovet

EMERSON'S ROMANTIC STYLE. By Julie Ellison. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press. 1984. $25.00.

Ellison creatively follows Harold Bloom to explain Emerson's disjointed style as his defense against the pressure of past literary greatness. Emerson used the higher criticism to reduce the authority of the Bible to a level he could equal because he decided God was also in him. And he used the theory of the romantic sublime to explain why his first awed fear of greatness changed to surprised exaltation. Though he could not maintain the high level, the upward sequence recurred each time he read again. So his repetition compulsion came from the pleasure principle.

Emerson's style and organization show his strategy. The fragmentation of quotation negates the threat of any single source. The use of parallel examples from his *Journals* to reduce the pressure of any one, and his use of metaphor to make all experiences equal, produced the non-consecutive style of his maturity.

Ellison's book is impressive, though not perfect. She is especially good at close reading and critical theory, and more interested in Emerson's style than his ideas. Because Ellison employs Emerson's romantic repetition and his elliptical style, she is often obscure. She omits mention of Whitman's prose as having Emerson's detached sentences and claims—wrongly, I think—that E. P. Peabody translated Herder. But these details are minor. *Emerson's Romantic Style* is a major contribution with marvelous detail and significant new insights.

University of Iowa Alexander Kern

THOMAS EAKINS: The Heroism of Modern Life. By Elizabeth Johns. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press. 1983. $42.50.

Professor Johns has done a fine piece of work, whose careful execution was undoubtedly influenced by her subject: the artist Thomas Eakins. She has concentated on five of his portraits with the intent of showing how the public and private dimensions of portraiture mix. Each painting is invested with an elaborate context which Johns has drawn from Eakins' life and production, the significance of the subject depicted and the influence of the place and period in which Eakins worked. It is what in art history is called an iconological study, and it is done so thoroughly that at times we are taken rather far afield (in my opinion) and certainly into some unexpected nooks and crannies of Philadelphia's history and of nineteenth century culture. The result, however, is an admirable demonstration of how multi-disciplinary study can enlighten all of us regardless of discipline.

Johns states in the conclusion of her text, "Eakins' portraits mark investigations and decisions about the shared nature of man rather than about individual character. . . . Eakins made the portrait the vehicle for his study of man . . . striving to be heroic and striving to live as an authority, all the while waging an Armageddon against external forces." The book has certainly modified how I look at the paintings of Thomas Eakins.

University of Missouri-Kansas City George Ehrlich

SONGSTERS AND SAINTS: Vocal Traditions on Race Records. By Paul Oliver. New York: Cambridge University Press. 1984. $24.95 cloth, $9.95 paper.

The extensive literature on the blues which has developed in the last thirty years has tended to draw attention away from other rich vocal traditions in black culture of the United

States. The author, who is known for his excellent writing on the blues, is beginning to correct this neglect with the present volume. Using as his primary source Race records produced for black consumption in the 1920s and early '30s, Oliver discusses such categories as songs of Southern rural dances, songs and ballads of travelling road shows, songs of fantasy and parody and various aspects of black gospel music. The book is clearly written and well documented; it will be a welcome addition to the library of anyone interested in the development of musical traditions among blacks in the United States.
University of Kansas — Michael Maher

LOWELL MASON: His Life and Work. By Carol A. Pemberton. Studies in Musicology, No. 86. Ann Arbor, Michigan: UMI Research Press. 1985. $44.95.

Originally a dissertation, this book thoroughly documents the career of Mason (1792-1872), known in musical circles as the father of public school music. Also an entrepreneur who became wealthy editing choral collections and selling them to singers and music teachers, Mason advocated "better" (i.e., European) music, some of which he adapted as hymn tunes. He also composed such tunes as "Olivet" ("My faith looks up to thee"), still popular today, yet plagiarized widely. A modern charge that Mason may not have composed an original note in his life is not represented in this perhaps biased, yet otherwise fine, book. Mason was certainly the most influential American musician of the nineteenth century. (He, incidentally, bought the collection, now at Yale, that includes 33 organ chorale preludes, determined in 1984 to be unknown works by J. S. Bach.)
University of Kansas — J. Bunker Clark

## religion

HORACE BUSHNELL: On the Vitality of Biblical Language. By James O. Duke. Chico, California: Scholars Press. 1984. $13.50.

HORACE BUSHNELL: Selected Writings on Language, Religion, and American Culture. Edited by David L. Smith. Chico, California: Scholars Press. 1984. $9.75.

Horace Bushnell, a Congregational minister at Hartford for most of his career, wrote at least two enduring works—*Views of Christian Nurture* (1847), a witty attack on revivalism and a stimulating argument for "organic" Christianity, and *God in Christ* (1849) which contained his remarkable introduction, "A Preliminary Essay on Language." As the books by Duke and Smith indicate, there is currently a Bushnell revival going on as current literary theory, particularly post-structural ideas about the figurative nature of all discourse, make his ideas on language look more and more contemporary. It was Bushnell, after all, who argued that the Bible must be read as a "poem" and who anticipated Ahab's famous speech on the white whale when he wrote that there is "some agency of Life or Living Thought, hid under the forms of words and institutions, and historical events."

The books by James O. Duke and David L. Smith, along with Philip Gura's chapter on Bushnell in *The Wisdom of Words,* are a valuable addition to Bushnell scholarship. Duke provides a brief but comprehensive overview of Bushnell's major ideas and he is blessedly sensitive to how often Bushnell's linguistic and religious ideas anticipate current ideas about language and literature. Smith has done the valuable work of excerpting Bushnell's most significant writing. Thus any student of American culture who needs a fast and reliable briefing on Bushnell can't do better than these two books. They are also paperback volumes beautifully edited and printed.
University of Northern Iowa — Theodore R. Hovet

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE JEWS. By Calvin Goldscheider and Alan S. Zuckerman. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1984. $24.95.

The two authors show sociological sophistication and provide a good review of the literature on the selected historical periods they investigate. The major thesis challenges the idea that modernity stimulates both assimilation and the dissolution of ethnic cohesion

through a review of changing levels of such cohesion in the Jewish past and present. The study of both the American community and the Israeli situation are of interest, and there are good summaries of current research (although the latest work by Charles Liebman and Eliezer Don-Yehiya is not mentioned), but the initial idea remains underdeveloped. The bibliography provides a good point of departure for further work.

University of Kansas S. Daniel Breslauer

CHURCHMEN AND PHILOSOPHERS: From Jonathan Edwards to John Dewey. By Bruce Kuklick. New Haven, Connecticut and London: Yale University Press. 1985. $27.50.

In this companion volume to his earlier *The Rise of American Philosophy,* Bruce Kuklick displays an impressive grasp of what may seem to many to be arcane and elusive theological and philosophical debates. Kuklick is dogged in his determination to place the figure of Jonathan Edwards center stage in American intellectual life; Edwardsean questions and answers in theology and philosophy are traced through a history of Trinitarian Congregationalism and then shown to have shaped the crucible out of which John Dewey's early philosophy arose. Kuklick has resurrected an important and all too long forgotten intellectual and theological mode of discourse. In place of the familiar names of American intellectual history such as Franklin, Jefferson and William James, to name only a few, one will find in Kuklick's volume the less familiar figures of Nathaniel W. Taylor, Horace Bushnell, Nathaniel Emmons and Henry Boynton Smith.

Kuklick's strength in analyzing and narrating the twists and turns of Trinitarian Congregationalist theology and its related strains of thought is beyond dispute. One only wishes that he might be less internalist in his analysis. As in his earlier volume on the evolution of philosophy at Harvard, while paying an occasional obeisance to institutional and social factors, in this work Kuklick is once again reticent to consider fully the nexus between theology and society. Kuklick may well be correct in contending that social history only "illuminates" rather than "explains" thought, yet a little more light in this area when combined with his sustained and traditional explication of theological debate would have elevated this work from a good, solid piece of scholarship into one of greater significance and wider interest.

California Polytechnic State University George Cotkin

WITHOUT GOD, WITHOUT CREED: The Origins of Unbelief in America. By James Turner. Baltimore, Maryland and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1985. $26.50.

Though the reader will have encountered various of the ingredients of this book, the orchestration and the conclusions have a novel and arresting quality. The author does not rest content to itemize and describe the various things that happened to belief in God from the sixteenth to the late nineteenth century, things such as *Origin of Species.* Rather, he has his eye on things within religious belief, things involving conscious choice and things begetting, through miscalculation, the elevation of unbelief in post-Civil War America to the position of practicable option to belief. "If anyone is to be arraigned for deicide," he argues, "it is not Charles Darwin but his adversary Bishop Samuel Wilberforce, not the godless Robert Ingersoll but the godly Beecher family" (xiii). As one item in this intricate and well-told story, one can adduce the re-defining whereby God came to be seen in the trappings of loving and humane solicitude, a solicitude which simply could not square with ongoing realities such as factories, slums and Civil War. "God," Turner observes, "became the victim of those who insisted on His human tenderness" (207). Turner offers much more of the thought-provoking in this powerful, vigorously written and well-documented study.

University of Washington Lewis O. Saum

THE ORIENTAL RELIGIONS AND AMERICAN THOUGHT: Nineteenth-Century Explorations. By Carl T. Jackson. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1981. $27.50.

The author argues that American interest in the thought of India, China and Japan

dates back earlier than the transcendentalists. Though marred occasionally by a lack of analysis of the levels of Asian traditions with which he deals, this is a significant, absorbing study which skillfully uses a great variety of primary sources to trace the interest in Asian thought from Cotton Mather through the Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893, including the rise of the American Oriental scholar out of missionary beginnings.

University of Kansas Robert N. Minor

## ideas

TRANSCENDENT REASON: James Marsh and the Forms of Romantic Thought. By Peter Carafiol. Tallahassee: University Presses of Florida. 1982. $23.00.

THE WISDOM OF WORDS: Language, Theology, and Literature in the New England Renaissance. By Philip F. Gura. Middletown, Connecticut: Wesleyan University Press. 1981. $19.50.

These two excellent studies are valuable to cultural historians for the way they alter the perception of the relationship of the great figures of the New England Renaissance to American culture in general. Gura demonstrates how the widespread study of language by prominent Unitarian thinkers and by influential religious figures like James Marsh and Horace Bushnell created a kind of climate of symbolism that made possible the great literary achievements of Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne and Melville.

Peter Carafiol's study of James Marsh, the man who introduced American readers to Coleridge's *Aids to Reflection* (1829), convincingly argues that Marsh consistently "misread" Coleridge in an effort to revitalize orthodox Protestantism and in the process created "an ambiguous new philosophy" that undermined the very orthodoxy he was trying to defend. To compound the irony, Carafiol continues, Emerson misread Marsh in order to formulate the famous statement, "Nature is the symbol of spirit." In short, by employing some of the leading ideas in current literary theory, Carafiol outlines a kind of rhetoric of misreading to show how intellectual history often takes a particular direction because of ignorance or willful misunderstanding on the part of leading thinkers and artists. Carafiol's book also serves as a premonition of how current literary theory will eventually affect American Studies research.

University of Northern Iowa Theodore R. Hovet

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

This nicely balanced biography provides a reassessment of Bourne's ideas as well as life and extends our understanding of his place in American intellectual life beyond the position accorded him by recent revisionist historians. Clayton says Bourne was neither an irrelevant romantic trapped in his own time nor a political idealogue to be used to support any liberal cuase; he was rather a true visionary, one who perceived the end of one era and understood the intellectual requirements of the next. Although overwritten in places, this study is the most widely researched volume on Bourne to date and a handsomely produced academic press book.

Iowa State University Charles L. P. Silet

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" (xvi). But the author does not see himself as a mere historical analyst; he is, oh so portentously, a "cultural critic" (xxi). His target is "the he-man personality and lifestyle" (151)—with the first defined as a "predatory temperament" (131); the second described as characterized by "brutality, pathological hatred and its opposite, self-assertion" (153). 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. . . ." (xvii). 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

INTELLECTUAL LIFE IN AMERICA: A History. By Lewis Perry. New York: Franklin Watts. 1984. $19.95.

Perry, editor of the *Journal of American History,* has written a readable, if cursory, history of intellectuals in America. The study is divided into chronological periods, each focusing on changing social perceptions of the intellectual. The underlying assumption is that "the history of intellectual endeavor has been critical to the history of the people," a point only recently resurrected from the ashes of "non-elitist" histories (see John Higham and Paul Conkin, editors, *New Directors in Intellectual History* [1979]). Perry has abbreviated his text "so that other kinds of reading might be carried out at the same time." Further, he has excluded any documentation save textual refrences and suggestions for further reading. What remains is suitable for an undergraduate text but contains little original information, not even the oft-cited "obituary for intellectual life" with which he closes.

Creighton University Bryan F. Le Beau

BREAD AND CIRCUSES: Theories of Mass Culture as Social Decay. By Patrick Brantlinger. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press. 1983. $24.50.

Brantlinger ably describes theories of mass culture from the classical period to the present with special emphasis on the strands of "negative classicism" running from Marx, Nietzsche, Freud and Spengler into the conservative views of Ortega and Eliot and the radical-liberal position of the Frankfort school. His goal is to suggest some middle ground between the notion that mass culture heralds the End or McLuhan's Eden (though he fails to see what a Garden of Irony that is).

The book is more effective at dealing with the excess in others' thought than at clarifying the desired middle ground, in part because it neither defines nor considers mass culture. Brantlinger ends by arguing that TV is an unprecedented threat-challenge, thus imitating the theories he decries. His jeremaid concludes that we must act quickly to save "our declining civilization": "We must learn to change it and ourselves in ways that are radical, even utopian, and that, to many, will at first look decadent, or barbaric, or both. The mass media must help to teach us that these changes can and should be made." Wow, what a good idea: we'll meld Nietzsche and Clark Kent, and all be saved by *Superman IV.*

DG

THOREAU'S SEASONS. By Richard Lebeaux. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. 1984. $28.50.

In this valuable book, Lebeaux uses Erik Erikson's parallel of the life cycle to the yearly seasons to bring together a detailed knowledge of Thoreau's life by implementing a close reading of his works which results in a deeper understanding of familiar themes found in his activities. Lebeaux focuses on a number of activities such as Thoreau's own attack on his identity crises through the escape from the painful world of domesticiity to the world of Nature and Art; his achievement of a moratorium and seed time at Walden; Thoreau's tension with his father, brother and Greeley; his tension and eventual break with Emerson; his psychological control over the failure of *A Week* through the therapeutic completion of *Walden* (despite Oedipal fears of success); and his victory over his fear of death and arrival at final serenity through the generative suport of John Brown. Lebeaux does at times become monotonous because he overuses Freudian concepts of the effect of the unconscious in motivation. In this context, Thoreau's personal texts do not mean what they say and the

cause of his civil disobedience is Oedipal resentment; his death is the result of psychosomatic factors. Lebeaux's real value comes from using Erikson's ages of man. Accepting Thoreau's neuroses, Lebeaux writes with sympathy rather than censure, and with Thoreauvian wit and word-play. And while the density of detail will put off the popular reader, it will prove a mine for the expert.

University of Iowa Alexander Kern