

## reviews

### correction/apology

Due to a printer's error, Hamilton Cravens' review of *Clifford W. Beers: Advocate for the Insane* by Norman Dain was omitted from the Fall 1983 issue (xxiv, 2). In its place (121-122) was a portion of a review by Raven I. McDavid, Jr., of another book, transposed there by computer glitch or employee goof after your editors had proofread the copy. McDavid's review appeared in its entirety on 122-123. Professor Cravens and the editorial staff of *American Studies* apologize to Mr. Dain and readers for this error. The correct review follows.

CLIFFORD W. BEERS: *Advocate for the Insane*. By Norman Dain. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press. 1980. \$20.00.

Clifford W. Beers was a mental patient in the early twentieth century who wrote a famous book about his experiences, *A Mind That Found Itself*, and became the founder of a mental hygiene movement. Norman Dain is an experienced, capable historian of psychiatry in American civilization, and here he has given us an excellent, thorough account. There will be those who will note that Dain does not accept the current revisionism concerning mental illness, and that Dain's research and writing were supported by the American Foundation for Mental Hygiene and the Maurice Falk Medical Fund. Even those who do not accept Dain's point of view will find this a very useful, informative and thoroughly researched account of Beers' life, his mental illness, his considerable abilities, his successes and difficulties with the various mental hygiene organizations, and Beers' impact upon others. Those who accept Dain's assumptions will find it an outstanding scholarly achievement and good reading as well, and not a simplistic or hagiographic biography.

HC

### cross-cultural studies

DISTANT OBLIGATIONS: *Modern American Writers and Foreign Causes*. By David C. Duke. New York: Oxford University Press. 1983. \$27.50.

Not simply a study of expatriates, this book is about eleven twentieth-century American writers who involved themselves in the affairs of foreign countries. The writers are more than just poets and novelists; they include Ernest Fenellosa, Homer Lea, Edith Wharton, Alan Seeger, Malcolm Cowley, John Reed, Louis Fischer, Ernest Hemingway, John Dos Passos, Waldo Frank and Ezra Pound. Duke, a historian, finds in them a "blend of

idealism and disillusionment” and suggests that their “idealistic sense of commitment [was] tinged with feelings of guilt.” Each chapter is a mini-biography organized around the specifics of the writers’ commitment to activism in a foreign country, a commitment often made at the expense of their writing careers. Most of the stories are familiar, but Duke frequently works with fresh materials and does have some new things to say about a number of the authors, particularly Reed, Fischer and Pound. There is also a good chapter outlining the friendship of Hemingway and Dos Passos which broke apart during the filming of *The Spanish Earth*. A concluding chapter ties the work together with some generalizations, but Duke does little more than reiterate such phrases as “personal needs and ambitions,” “self-interest and disillusionment” and “idealism and guilt.” Overall, however, an instructive, well-written book.

University of California-Davis

Michael J. Hoffman

THE MISSIONARY MIND AND AMERICAN EAST ASIA POLICY, 1911-1915. By James Reed. Cambridge, Massachusetts and London: Harvard University Press. 1983. \$20.00.

“The diplomatic historian” (repeated euphemism for the author) is entitled to concoct the myth of the Missionary Mind from “the myth of Christian civilization.” It becomes meaningless, however, when it embraces the entire American public: editors and the “opinion elite” (129); Captain Robert Dollar (102), heretofore assigned to a different category of prominent business men; “the missionary head of the Far East Division” (195); “the missionary-minded President” (195); and the Secretary of State, “Ambassador of the ‘Prince of Peace’ on the Chatauqua circuit” (195).

Reed is entitled to deplore moralism in diplomacy, to condemn the Open Door and Non-Recognition policies, to defend “the legitimate ambitions of the Japanese Empire” (165), including “the Japanese province of Formosa” (185). He is not entitled, professionally, to dismiss all Americans—statesmen, educators, newsmen, Protestant churchgoers—who hoped and continue to hope for conscience and principle rather than complete self-interest in foreign policy as naive, sentimental, “essentially innocent,” “characteristically gullible” “amateurs,” suffering from “exuberant hopes” and “unwarranted euphoria.” He is not entitled, as a scholar sponsored by the Harvard Council on East Asian Studies and John King Fairbank, to speculate, surmise, intuit, assume, generalize, infer (words used literally dozens of times).

His valuable documentary sources are selected with the obvious bias and presented with the emotionalism and irresponsibility for which he denounces the Missionary Mind. His own epitaph: “(The historian who appreciates the full dimensions of the missionary movement begins to view that generation’s idealism and moralism, so despised by the realists of a later day, in a more favorable or more understanding light)” (105). James Reed never does.

Duke University

Creighton Lacy

THE DARK CONTINENT: Africa as Seen by Americans. By Michael McCarthy. (Contributions in African and Afro-American Studies, No. 75) Westport, Connecticut and London: Greenwood Press. 1983. \$27.95.

In his *The Lure of Africa* (1974), Edward H. McKinley examined American views of tropical Africa during the years between World Wars One and Two. McCarthy’s study deals with the earlier period—from the first decade of the nineteenth to the early twentieth century. Unfortunately, he has neither McKinley’s stylistic graces nor his analytical skills. The present work belongs to a familiar genre: the survey of travelers’ accounts. And while travelers’ accounts were an important contribution to the perceptions of the continent that the broader public would come to have, the treatment here tends toward a mechanical listing of the observations of different writers. Nor is the overall conclusion surprising: racist cultural stereotypes resulted in an “American image of Africa [that] was highly unfavorable.”

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

## native americans

CHEROKEES AND MISSIONARIES, 1789-1839. By William G. McLoughlin. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. 1984. \$32.50.

This significant volume on Cherokees and missionaries is a study in acculturation with emphasis, as the author states, on “. . . the specific, the contextual, the detailed progress of social change in an historical framework . . .” (6). The author adds: “This is essentially a study of Cherokee religious history and the role the missionaries played in it” (12). Fortunately, except for destruction by fire of some of the Methodist records, there are substantial archives for several religious groups, including the Moravians, Baptists and the Congregationalists and Presbyterians, the latter two sponsored by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. With limited attention to political and economic background, the author analyzes the interaction of missionaries with Cherokees in a variety of crises. The issues range from theology, social relations, education, Cherokee nationalism, treaties and court cases to the critical problems of removal and factionalism. Religion sometimes added to factionalism among the Cherokees, but a full examination of this important subject in historical perspective is still a need in Cherokee studies.

This is a welcomed addition to Native American history with its most original contribution delineating the role of the missionaries.

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THE INDIAN ARTS & CRAFTS BOARD: An Aspect of New Deal Indian Policy. By Robert Fay Schrader. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. 1983. \$19.95.

Utilizing the records of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board only recently released to the National Archives, the author describes the Board's achievements from 1935 to 1945 under the leadership of John Collier as the New Deal Commissioner of Indian Affairs and of René d'Harnoncourt as its General Manager. In efforts to promote “economic and cultural rehabilitation” of the Indian, the Board followed a philosophy expressed in one of its exhibition catalogues: “In appraising the Indian's past and present achievements, we realize not only that his heritage constitutes part of the artistic and spiritual wealth of this country, but also that the Indian people of today have a contribution to make toward the America of the future” (229). Harnoncourt was an able administrator, but his Austrian birth evoked criticism, part of which was politically motivated.

This is a competent and well documented study of the “Pinnacles and Pitfalls” of the Board. Emphasizing administrative and bureaucratic details, it provides only limited identification of individual Indian artists and little interpretation of Indian arts and crafts as a part of Indian culture.

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THE ASSAULT OF ASSIMILATION: John Collier and the Origins of Indian Policy Reform. By Lawrence C. Kelly. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. 1983. \$23.50.

This is the first of a two-volume biography of John Collier embracing his full career of experiences with a variety of social causes before he dedicated his major efforts to the reform of the nation's Indian policy and his service as the New Deal Commissioner of Indian Affairs from 1933 to 1945. Volume I carries the story to 1928 and has the extraordinary addition of a twelve-page personal commentary by John Collier, Jr., on his father. Well researched and thoroughly documented, with forty pages of Notes and a skillful historical background, the volume examines John Collier's early activities in community development work, particularly with immigrants in New York City, the People's Institute and the Community Center Movement. After other short-lived efforts as literary writer and a teacher of sociology, Collier discovered by the early 1920s the cause of the American Indian. He became the prime mover in the American Indian Defense Association and campaigned vigorously for a reform of Indian policy. He advocated cultural pluralism over

assimilation, more self-determination, preservation of reservations and religious freedom. Idealistic, aggressive and uncompromising, he often achieved his goals although frequently alienating both individuals and groups on the way to his most important position as New Deal Commissioner.  
University of Kansas

W. Stitt Robinson

## visual arts

TALES FROM THE HOLLYWOOD RAJ: The British, the Movies, and Tinseltown. By Sheridan Morley. New York: Viking Press. 1983. \$17.95.

Sheridan Morley—the son of Robert Morley and the grandson of Gladys Cooper—has written an amusing anecdotal history of the British clique within the so-called “film colony” of Hollywood. Drawing on a vast range of personal, journalistic and scholarly information, Morley has pieced together for the first time the jigsaw puzzle of British influence on the American cinema. Perhaps his most telling observation is that British actors—and later actresses—were strictly the status-conferring ornaments of the American movie industry. Middle-European moguls ran the show and bought the services of well-spoken but empty parodies of pukka and memsahibs just as the genuine article was surrendering dominion over palm and pine. The post-World War II birth of an independent British film industry—pioneered once again by Middle-European rogue entrepreneurs such as Alexander Korda and Gabriel Pascal—gives the acerbic drama critic of PUNCH a suitably chauvinistic note on which to end his engrossing, if often forced and episodic narrative.

Washington, D.C.

James Miller Lewis

HOW NEW YORK STOLE THE IDEA OF MODERN ART. By Serge Guilbaut. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1983. \$22.50.

This is a book that documents the pertinent events of the first half of this century in such a way as to weave an integrated, cause-and-effect story of artistic reactions to political events. Guilbaut follows the European approach now beginning to find adherents and a wider audience in the United States: the political story of art. Unlike many of his European colleagues, Guilbaut does not wield this approach like a political club, but uses it with scholarly detachment, in the main, and an absence of strong political bias. There may be unnecessary nationalism in the title, which is a promise of revealed scandal that never is fulfilled and that is more manufactured than real. Beneath the hyperbole of the title come-on lies a description of political events that led to the military surrender of Paris during World War II, the subsequent vacuum created by the dispersal of the School of Paris, and the passing of the torch of modern art to the new world center of intellectual and cultural avant-gardism in New York. New York “stole” nothing, but received in spite of herself the great gifts of foreign artists who came as refugees and stayed to make immense contributions to art and culture.

For the reader willing to follow the author through a labyrinth of exhaustive detail, there is much to gain in understanding of our own cultural history as it relates to political events within the lifetime of many of us. Guilbaut carries us along a carefully directed path of strong argument and gives us a long-range view often lacking in the critical literature surrounding modern movements in art.

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Nancy G. Troyer

THEORY OF THE AVANT-GARDE. By Peter Bürger. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. 1984. \$10.95 (paper).

Grounded in a dialectical tradition that runs from Hegel through Marx and on to contemporary Germans, Bürger’s work is laden with the ideology and terminology of that tradition. Although published in Minnesota’s “Theory and History of Literature” series,

this book is not especially concerned with literature, but with the “historical” avant-garde in general: Dada and early Surrealism. The author holds that the avant-garde tried to reintegrate art into the “praxis” of life, challenging art’s status as an autonomous institution. Though it failed—being essentially co-opted by the institution itself—Bürger argues that it provided the foundation for various critical categories of understanding which wouldn’t have been possible without it. Like other works in this philosophical style, the volume is not strong on argumentation, but the discussions of Lukacs, Adorno and Walter Benjamin are fairly lucid and offer pointed contrasts with the author’s own views.

University of Missouri–Kansas City

Susan Feagin

**THE SANTA FE AND TAOS COLONIES: Age of the Muses, 1900–1942.** By Arrell Morgan Gibson. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 1983. \$24.95.

Professor Gibson carefully notes that he is writing a history of the fine-arts colonies, and not an analytical commentary or evaluation of the several arts produced in Santa Fe and Taos during the period c. 1900 to 1942. But can one do the first without the second? Up to a point yes, but the effort achieves density without texture and nuance. We are introduced to a vast number of characters, and while their importance is stated, it is not really demonstrated. What we have then is a survey of the who, what and when associated with the art colonies. But I am not sure that anyone who does not have a reasonable amount of prior knowledge about the work actually done will know why such a survey is necessary or worth close reading. And that is unfortunate, because the author has assembled and presented to us considerable data. I only wish it had been more fully possessed—and processed—by the author. It would then be more readily digested by the reader.

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**THE ARCHITECTURE OF FINANCE: Early Wall Street.** By Lois Severini. Ann Arbor: University Microfilms International Research Press. 1983. \$39.95.

An architectural history of New York’s Wall Street which terminates with the Civil War might seem to be a rather bit too specialized for review here, but Lois Severini’s delineation of the physical evolution of Wall Street, from market place to financial market, is a fine example of interdisciplinary research. Severini’s method relates social and economic history with a history of the built environment. A revised doctoral thesis made available by UMI, this book is part of a series which makes scholarship more reader-convenient than the microfilm of original dissertations (or Xerox copies thereof). The approach seems attractive until one sees the price, the size of the book and the general quality of the illustrations (of which there are many). Thus we have a laudable idea, but not necessarily the best answer to how to bring together the results of research and reader.

GE

**ROMANTIC RE-VISION: Culture and Consciousness in Nineteenth-Century American Painting and Literature.** By Bryan Jay Wolf. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press. 1983. \$27.50

Wolf explores the “modernity” of nineteenth-century American painting by employing a critical approach derived primarily from contemporary literary and intellectual theory in an attempt to revise our understanding of Romantic painting of the American school and to redefine the process of criticism necessary to “recapture that visual heritage.” By and large the enterprise is successful in unlocking the cultural significance of the visual structure of the art and artists under discussion. Wolf’s revisionist thesis, persuasively, if often rather densely argued in this handsomely produced book, is that nineteenth-century American painting was not as much concerned with Nature as with the nature of consciousness itself and that American Romanticism is an instance of early modernism and reflects an interest in language and semiotics, the character of the identity of the artist and artistic self-referentiality, all of which characterize the modern world.

Iowa State University

Charles L. P. Silet

AMERICAN DESIGN ETHIC: A History of Industrial Design to 1940. By Arthur J. Pulos. Cambridge, Massachusetts, and London: MIT Press. 1983. \$50.00.

Physically, this book is a gem. The typography and page layout are among the few successful uses of the double-column format. The text is lavishly illustrated with strikingly evocative illustrations and photographs. The text itself, however, must receive a more mixed appraisal. The major problem comes from one of its virtues: its attempted comprehensiveness. Pulos covers from the colonial period to 1940, and he defines "industrial design" broadly to include not simply the utilitarian artifacts of daily living but the decorative arts and architecture. The result is, not surprisingly, often a thinness of treatment that tends to deal with the best rather than the average or typical.

But this weakness is counterbalanced by Pulos' avoidance of the tendency by students of design aesthetics to exalt the hand-made while downgrading the machine-made and mass-produced. He recognizes that "there was a unique cultural quality inherent in machine-made forms." Thus, he appreciates how "with the mass production that followed the industrial revolution, the Americans have been able to generate a unique cultural contribution. Products designed for industry and commerce, vehicles and vessels for transportation, and mechanical and electronic appliances for the home reveal an American passion for energy-conserving devices that are at times exquisitely suited to their purposes."

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

## literature

REDISCOVERIES: Literature and Place in Illinois. By Robert C. Bray. Urbana, Chicago and London: University of Illinois Press. 1982. \$16.95.

This is a book about minor writers, some of them (Edward Eggleston, Carl Sandburg) familiar figures, others (Eliza Farnham, Francis Grierson) virtually forgotten. It is "structured to follow the cultural axis" from country to town to city, from "downstate agrarian to Chicago urban." It is also structured chronologically, beginning with Farnham's *Life in Prairie Land* (1846). On the ground that "the strain of the local novel with which we have been concerned, both rural and urban, seemed to peter out around the time of World War I" the coverage of fiction stops there, with nothing on all the fiction that followed, but there is a brief epilogue on Edgar Lee Masters and on contemporary downstate poets.

Leaving out of a book on literature and place in Illinois James T. Farrell's and Richard Wright's and Saul Bellow's Chicago (not to mention the Oak Park which Hemingway's Nick Adams carried on his back as cultural baggage) is taking a very large chance. But leaving out the important is basic to this book's strategy. It is not a survey of its apparent subject but an appeal, a graceful and witty if necessarily nostalgic one, on behalf of books which have gone out of fashion or have been forgotten, but which once helped both to make and to define a culture. In the author's felicitous phrase, it is "literary archaeology" (the title of his introduction). It will be of interest to anyone concerned with regionalism and to anyone with personal ties to Illinois.

The book, by the way, is dedicated to the memory of John Q. Reed, a member of the first editorial board of this journal. A memorial note on John appears in *American Studies* xix, 2 (Fall, 1978).

University of Illinois-Chicago

Chadwick Hansen

KATHERINE ANNE PORTER'S WOMEN. By Jane Krause DeMouy. Austin: University of Texas Press. 1983. \$19.95.

Applying the best techniques of feminist, mythic and Freudian criticism, DeMouy discovers a significant unity among Porter's work. Porter's feminine protagonists show both an urgency for independence and for freedom to pursue art, and an opposing desire for love

and security. Porter lived her own life in an endless search for balance between love and art. This feminist reading accords with the war of impulse between love and liberty described in Joan Givner's recent biography of Porter, *Katherine Anne Porter: A Life* (1982). This critical study is a new appreciation of Porter's brilliance and diversity, a critical concentration of the essence of an author.

University of Northern Iowa

Daniel J. Cahill

THE EXPERIMENTAL FICTIONS OF AMBROSE BIERCE: Structuring the Ineffable. By Cathy N. Davidson. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 1984. \$15.95.

Cathy Davidson's lively, readable account of Ambrose Bierce's fictional art is an important contribution to the study of the American short story. Her general analyses of Bierce's fictional vision focus upon his handling of the various modes of perception (or, more precisely, misperception), and it is, frankly, refreshing to find a critic who can draw upon semiotics, psychology and philosophy without getting bogged down in jargon, and without losing sight of the literary texts at issue. Davidson's analyses of individual stories are insightful and sensitive; of particular value are her discussions of "Chickamauga," "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," "The Eyes of the Panther," "The Man and the Snake," "The Moonlit Road" and "The Death of Halpin Frayser." Davidson also offers a provocative "Afterword" which traces the Biercean influence on Ryunosuke Akutagawa, Julio Cortázar and Jorge Luis Borges—an eloquent testimony to the enduring, world-wide importance of Bierce's fictional art. For lagniappe, Davidson's notes and Selected Bibliography (primary and secondary) are excellent.

Rhode Island School of Design

Alice Hall Petry

FAME BECAME OF HIM: Hemingway as Public Writer. By John Raeburn. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. 1984. \$17.50.

Starting with the undeniable truth that, during most of his life, Ernest Hemingway's fame rested less on his reputation as a novelist than on such celebrity roles as the sportsman, the war hero and the *bon vivant*, Raeburn traces the making of these various public images and Hemingway's own part in their creation through his self-aggrandizement in his non-fiction books and articles and his encouragement of public interest in his private life.

Perhaps the most valuable aspect of the book is the survey of articles about Hemingway which appeared in such popular magazines as *Time*, *Life* and *Look* from the 1940s into the early 1960s. Raeburn's summaries of those articles and accompanying pictures reveal that the public responded enthusiastically to the image of Hemingway as a man of action, scornful of the effete literary world. Raeburn succeeds, then, not only in outlining Hemingway's celebrity roles but also in analyzing why his popularity continued after his creativity had waned. For literary scholars, the last chapter, which discusses the impact of Hemingway's fame on his fiction, would be better if expanded and incorporated throughout the book, but Raeburn's study is still a fascinating one of a writer/celebrity whose public appeal was primarily non-literary.

California State University-Fresno

Chris Henson

RALPH ELLISON: The Genesis of an Artist. By Rudolph Dietze. Nürnberg: Hans Carl. 1982. 212 Swiss francs.

Dietze's work adds to previous studies of the sources of *Invisible Man* primarily because of his in-depth analyses of Ellison's use of works by such diverse authors as Dostoyevsky, H. G. Wells, T. S. Eliot, Malraux, Wright and the unnamed creators of the blues. It makes a sound argument for Ellison's having created a novel which has become a work of universal interest even as it remains fundamentally American and Afro-American.

University of Kansas

Elizabeth Schultz

FORBIDDEN BOOKS IN AMERICAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES, 1876-1939: A Study in Cultural Change. By Evelyn Geller. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1984. \$29.95.

Between 1876 and 1939 American public libraries moved from a position of avoiding controversial books to defending the freedom of the public to obtain materials on all sides of questions. This is the author's thesis drawn from professional journals, library manuals and conference proceedings of the American Library Association. The ALA, established in 1876, ratified its first bill of rights in 1939.

Geller found some public librarians, usually women, who spoke up for freedom to read long before 1939. The timidity of many public libraries in the early decades she attributes to male head librarians sympathetic to the predilections of the elite who made up library boards of the period. Librarians as neutral providers vs. librarians as advocates is another theme.

The documentation is done carefully, and the story reads well except for ponderous social science methodology prose in the introduction and conclusion. There is the tendency, not unique to this author, to force elitism vs. populism into too neat a dichotomy for the period covered. Unfortunately, possible censorship in public libraries is not an antiquarian subject.

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Kenneth J. LaBudde

BEYOND SPOON RIVER: The Legacy of Edgar Lee Masters. By Ronald Primeau. Austin: University of Texas Press. 1981. \$22.50.

Primeau focuses primarily on Masters' works after *Spoon River Anthology*, particularly Masters' poetry, and he is well-versed in Masters' canon, the canons of Masters' "precursors," and the works of Primeau's own scholarly precursors on the subjects of both Masters and literary influence. Primeau devotes one chapter to literary influence in general and subsequent chapters to the influence on Masters of the Greeks (especially significant) and Goethe, Emerson, Whitman, Shelley and Browning. Finally, in "Regionalism' Revisited," Primeau treats Masters' Midwestern heritage; this chapter is the most specific, focusing upon Masters' symbols, music and mysticism.

Primeau points out Masters' often-ignored optimism. He establishes connections between *Spoon River* and Masters' other works, citing Masters' recurring interests in the blending of mysticism and realism, the exploration of the universal in the local, and the attainment of the transcendental through sex. Primeau's writing style is straightforward and uncluttered with jargon, but there is slight repetition in the book. *Beyond Spoon River* is indispensable to anyone interested in Masters' literary roots. However, Primeau's comments on and quotations from Masters' works (except from some posthumously published poetry) fail to convince one that Masters wrote memorable literature "beyond" *Spoon River*.  
The College of Saint Rose  
April Selley

H. L. MENCKEN AND THE DEBUNKERS. By Edward A. Martin. Athens: University of Georgia Press. 1984. \$25.00.

The title of this work is somewhat misleading. Five chapters do focus upon Mencken; the others deal with such—at first glance—disparate writers as Sinclair Lewis, Don Marquis, Ring Lardner, Frank Sullivan, E. B. White, the *New Yorker* humorists and Nathanael West. Martin finds the unifying link their impulse toward what he interchangeably terms "debunking" and "satire." All shared the same immediate targets: "American provincialism, puritanism, and the traditional moral values of Americans" (3). But their deeper animus lay against "a more and more commercially and technologically oriented culture" (213); thus beneath the surface juxtaposition of urban sophistication and rural provincialism was an underlying nostalgia for the lost brave new world of republican simplicity. Even their individual development followed a similar trajectory: the shift "from the exposure of particular absurdities, fraudulent values, or false ideologies to ridicule of logic and order and of human attempts to create logic and order" (213). Their satire grew more exaggerated, even "fantastic" (213); their style more "hyperbolic, tending toward the extremity of nonsense and the hoax" (5). Although Martin at times strains to read more profound, even portentous, significance into their humor than the evidence appears to

warrant, his study is an important revisionist contribution to our understanding of American literary culture between roughly 1910 and 1930.  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln

John Braeman

THE NOVELS OF JACK LONDON: A Reappraisal. By Charles N. Watson, Jr. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press. 1983. \$19.95.

Jack London is generally regarded in the popular mind, the mind of the common reader, as a writer of adventure stories for young readers. Due, however, to the critical studies of Franklin Walker, Earle Labor and James I. McClintock, to name a few, London's position in American literature is receiving more serious and wide-spread attention. Watson extends this growing critical awareness, but with certain new assumptions: 1) that London was not merely a hack, "popular" writer of short stories for adolescents; 2) that he was an equally adept if not better novelist; 3) that nine of his twenty novels and novellas (including the more familiar narratives *The Call of the Wild*, *The Sea Wolf*, *White Fang*, *The Iron Heel* and *Martin Eden*) have special merit; and 4) that each novel deserves consideration in wider autobiographical and social contexts. Watson's method is to evaluate and interpret each narrative in terms of its respective artistry—avoiding invidious comparisons. In large measure this is accomplished by acknowledging and weighing London's own generic and formal assumptions about romance, realism and naturalism. In the process one central theme emerges: London's novels embody the ostensibly inherent conflict between his double roles as artist and adventurer. One can only wish that both London in his life and work and Watson in his reappraisal had recognized and accepted more fully the complementary rather than antagonistic nature of these impulses. In the absence of a full, definitive literary biography, but with the recent publication of London's selected works in the Library of America series, the evaluation which Watson so ably begins in *The Novels of Jack London* can be conveniently extended and applied to a solid core of London's shorter and longer work. Such accessibility might continue to undermine the mistaken notion that a "popularizer" is categorically a lesser author.

University of Northern Iowa

Robert Gish

## humor

COMIC RELIEF: The Life and Laughter of Artemus Ward, 1934–1867. By John J. Pullen. Hamden, Connecticut: Archon. 1983. \$22.50.

This is a biography of Charles Farrar Browne (Artemus Ward), the master "literary comedian" and the master comic lecturer of the nineteenth century. It is the best we could expect. Biographical records, documents and manuscripts of Browne are scarce, while mentions, usually not reliable, are numerous in memoirs and newspaper articles. Pullen has done a good job of digging up the former and in pulling together the latter. He is aware of his limitations. He draws on Don C. Seitz's *Artemus Ward* (1919), and E. P. Hingston's *The Genial Showman* (1870). He finds a lot of pertinent (and sometimes impertinent) scattered comments in William Dean Howells and Mark Twain. He spends most of two chapters, out of a total of fourteen, on Twain. But this fits the discursive style that he wants. The reader can expect interpretations of Browne's life that are subject to question, and little interpretation of his writing. Browne is considered a "pure" humorist, and his criticism of American society is hardly recognized. There remain lots of discussable questions about Artemus Ward, and that is as it should be. Included in Pullen's book are an itinerary of Browne's lecture "Artemus Ward among the Mormons," 1864–1867; a useful though economical battery of footnotes; and a selective and annotated bibliography.

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THURBER'S ANATOMY OF CONFUSION. By Catherine McGehee Kenney. Hamden, Connecticut: Archon. 1984. \$22.50.

The writer's thesis is expressed in her introductory chapter:

Thurber's work is the result of a systematic study of chaos, delineating the structure of disorder. His anatomy of confusion draws the chaotic human predicament in great detail,

focusing upon some confusions more than others: the war between men and women; the chaos of 'organized' society; the confusion in human systems, institutions, and machines. Thurber's specific subjects are, in fact, only elements of that large view of the chaotic human predicament that he characterizes as the anatomy of confusion. By considering the entirety of Thurber's work as his anatomy, we will be able to see the essential integration of all his subjects, forms, and themes. In the absence of a novel, Thurber's anatomy is his long work, providing through its organization a basic unity among diverse works.

This is unexceptionable. But Kenney's sole method of development is repetition—for 191 pages—with interspersed plot summaries (sometimes also repeated as many as three or four times apiece) by way of illustration. There are a few good insights, as in her woman's view of James Thurber's women, her connection of Thurber's attitude toward machines with Henri Bergson's theory of comedy, her relating of Thurber's attitude toward truth with that of Henry James. If the book were cut to twenty-five pages, it would make a well-balanced—though highly eulogistic—introduction to the overall themes of Thurber's works. And I think it is something like this that Kenney had in mind. Footnotes are good; bibliography consists of scattered items from Robert E. Morsberger's *James Thurber*, 1964, plus a few works published since.

Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

James C. Austin

## lore and lit

MAN AND BEAST IN AMERICAN COMIC LEGEND. By Richard M. Dorson. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. 1983. \$20.00.

This engaging and well-written book is divided into two sections. The first describes (and provides illustrations of) ten tall-tale animals, including the sidehill dodger, whose uphill legs are shorter than those on the downhill side; the antlered jackalope, a cross between a jackrabbit and an antelope; the hoopsnake and Bigfoot. The author points out that these creatures, unlike legendary beasts of other parts of the world, were invented to be laughed at rather than feared, because of the special conditions of American history. The second section, drawing mainly on studies by other folklorists, presents sketches of eight American "Munchausens," tall-tale tellers, and gives examples of some of their best lies. This last, posthumous work by Professor Dorson is introduced by folklorist Alan Dundes, who gives a short summation and evaluation of Dorson's scholarly accomplishments.

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SOURCES AND ANALOGUES OF THE UNCLE REMUS TALES. By Florence E. Baer. Folklore Fellows Communications No. 228. Helsinki: Academia Scientiarum Fennica. 1980. n.p.

In this excellent example of folklore scholarship, the author summarizes each of Joel Chandler Harris' tales, provides wherever possible Type and Motif numbers, a list of countries or cultures in which variants have been found, discussion of previous research on the tale, and conclusions as to the probable origin of the version. A table at the end summarizes the findings, and shows that indeed the great majority of the tales are from Africa. The study also includes a biography of Harris and an overview of scholarship on the Brer Rabbit tales.

University of Kansas

Robert Smith

## cities

CORPORATE CAPITAL: Wilmington in the Twentieth Century. By Carol E. Hoffecker. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1983. \$24.95.

The author of this well-researched book finds modern Wilmington's development impressive but wanting. Wilmington was the only nineteenth century mid-sized, heavy

manufacturing city in the Philadelphia region to attain large metropolitan scale in this century, thanks to the duPont Company's decision in 1906 to stay and build its administrative and research center there. But public and private leadership in this one-industry, one-family, one-party metropolis created new and reinforced existing cultural and physical differences between city and suburbs—the former increasingly lower income and poor, unskilled and black; the latter predominantly middle and upper income, highly educated technical and managerial, and white—reaching a nadir in April 1968 with the National Guard's ten-month "siege of Wilmington." This pattern of segmentation and deterioration in spite of a healthy chemical industry became apparent in the suburbs in the 1970s, suggesting a "purely arbitrary" dividing line between city and suburb. Hoffercker sees two major failures throughout: 1) of local public and private leaders to develop metropolitan government and planning to exert influence on their own future; and 2) of federal government to help solve local problems despite an influx of money and programs since the 1930s. Her well-illustrated account adds substantially to our knowledge of how modern change occurred in this nation's urban regions and what it means for the quality of life available there.

University of Washington

John Hancock

**SILVER CITIES: The Photography of American Urbanization, 1839-1915.** By Peter B. Hales. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1984. \$47.95.

Hales' thesis is that the mass-produced and mass-disseminated urban photography between the introduction of the medium in 1839 and 1915 played a major role in shaping Americans' understanding of the process of urbanization. His underlying premise is that photography does not simply record an external objective reality. Photographers—then and now—have at their disposal techniques by which to control the images made. Thus photography simultaneously reflects the cultural values of its practitioners and shapes the perceptions of its viewers.

Hales sees American urban photography as falling into two major phases. Between 1839 and 1889, American city photographers developed what he calls "the urban 'grand style'": a celebratory view of the city as an orderly and harmonious entity. This vision was realized in the "White City" of Chicago's World Columbian Exposition in 1893. But the contrast between the ideal and the realities of poverty, social menace and uncontrolled growth spurred a new reform-oriented photography—pioneered by Jacob Riis—which combined an exploration of the underside of urban life with an implicit call for remedial action. Photography buffs will be delighted with the book's rich lode of reproductions; students of American culture will find in the text a sensitive and provocative re-examination of changing public values and attitudes.

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**POLICING A CLASS SOCIETY: The Experience of American Cities, 1865-1915.** By Sidney L. Harring. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press. 1983. \$30.00.

Harring has written an explicitly Marxist-inspired analysis of the development of the police in the cities of the Great Lakes-Ohio Valley region in the half-century after the Civil War. He is too sophisticated to accept what he calls "the 'crude instrumentalist' Marxist theory of the state." Capitalists could not do anything they wanted; nor was the police function limited to "active repression" of the working class. Still, his overall conclusions are predictable. The modern American police force emerged as "an instrument of the bourgeoisie in the class struggle. Moreover, the general evolution of capitalist institutions as a result of the class struggle fundamentally shaped the police institution through such processes as bureaucratization, centralization, division of labor, and rationalization."

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**EIGHT HOURS FOR WHAT WE WILL: Workers and Leisure in an Industrial City, 1870-1920.** By Roy Rosenzweig. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1983. \$29.00.

Historians have long been aware that achievement of the eight-hour day was a major goal of the late nineteenth- early twentieth-century labor movement. But few have

examined how workers utilized their leisure time. Although breaking with the narrow institutional focus of the Commons School, even most so-called new labor historians have concentrated their attention upon the workplace. This case study of Worcester, Massachusetts, is thus a pioneering exploration of working-class life outside the factory. At one level, the result is a detailed analysis of changing recreational patterns. In the process, however, Rosenzweig sheds important new light upon larger issues of American social history. In the first place, he documents the existence in the late nineteenth century of a working-class culture with its own set of values—finding institutional expression in the saloon—“separate and distinct from the dominant society” (223). Second, he shows how emergence of class consciousness in the Marxist sense was undercut by the strength of ethnic and religious differences. Last, and most important, he concludes that the long-term trend was toward working-class culture “losing its older separatist and inward-looking perspective and becoming more oriented toward the larger society” (227).

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

## colonies

WITCHCRAFT, MAGIC, AND RELIGION IN 17TH-CENTURY MASSACHUSETTS. By Richard Weisman. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. 1984. \$22.50.

This book is in the established tradition of Kai Ericson, Sigmund Diamond and Richard Leverenz. It brings social science methodology to the study of colonial history and the reinterpretation of an epoch—the witchcraft mania and the period of change which not only caused the mania but allowed a political and intellectual adjustment in the years after 1692. Weisman suggests that, unlike other “outbreaks” of magic and witchcraft, the episode of 1692 turned away from legal relief and toward a dependence on Puritan theology. Thus the infamous dependence on “spectral evidence” created legal errors which, if acknowledged, would have invited “political disaster” (167). Yet the errors, unacknowledged, would taint the covenant which had been officially reinvigorated by the trials themselves. Government and clergy staved off the crisis until 1696, when dissenters from the official interpretation attacked the principals of the drama. But by then, the crisis of legitimacy was past and the criticism centered on individuals, not the government. Indeed, within one generation, largely as a result of the whole experience, the government had ceased to regard the invisible world (including the world of Christian spirit) as a cause of action. Hence, the witchcraft mania helped put in place the structure and process of a modern state apparatus and modern concepts of legal relevance.

Weisman has produced an intriguing assessment of the local episodes which reveal dependence on the invisible world. His work is interdisciplinary, gracefully presented, well-documented and should interest colonialists, legal historians and students of early-American religion.

University of Florida

Eldon R. Turner

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF COTTON MATHER. By Kenneth Silverman. New York: Harper & Row. 1984. \$29.95.

For years historians have drawn a bloodless picture of Cotton Mather as the “arch-Puritan” or “principal ornament” of seventeenth century New England. Recent scholarship, including Kenneth Silverman’s comprehensive biography, is revising that portrait into one of a more complex figure.

Silverman presents an account of Cotton Mather as a third generation divine presiding over a period in which the very foundation of the Puritan commonwealth trembled. Clinging to a millennial vision, and convinced of his own prophetic powers and psychic awareness, Mather interpreted the cataclysmic occurrences of his time as portents of God’s gathering wrath over the Puritans’ failing sense of mission. Never totally convinced that he had overcome his own “deceitful heart,” Mather nevertheless set about to “countermine this whole plot of the devil against New England.” *The Life and Times of Cotton Mather* is a highly intelligent synthesis of history, theology, literature and psychology in the best tradition of biography. It is especially valuable when read in conjunction with James Jones’

*The Shattered Synthesis: New England Puritanism Before the Great Awakening* (1973). Silverman also edited *Select Letters of Cotton Mather* (1971).  
Creighton University

Bryan F. Le Beau

**THE DIVINE POLITICIAN: Samuel Cooper and the American Revolution in Boston.** By Charles W. Akers. Boston: Northeastern University Press. 1982. \$23.95.

This is not another “useful” biography of a minor figure caught up in major events. Rigorously researched—which involved hunting down obscure sources in France, and finding clues for Cooper’s authorship of revolutionary pamphlets he really intended to be anonymous—this remarkable book reveals an extraordinary view of the social and political life of the Boston upper classes. As bland and ingratiating as Benjamin Franklin, whom he greatly admired, Samuel Cooper (1725–1783) easily assumed the leadership which family connections, his Harvard education and his gifts for the ministry indicated. As minister of the celebrated Brattle Street Church, he blessed and uplifted the wealthy merchants and their families congregated there. In religion as well as in politics, he avoided personal conflicts and seemed to aim at charity and reconciliation. Yet he stood firm against the encroachments of the Hutchinson–Oliver faction, and helped precipitate the crisis of government that brought on the War for Independence. An early and committed advocate of the French Alliance, he cheerfully accepted a secret French salary; obviously the French were persuaded that the gracious Dr. Cooper was among the leaders in molding American opinion. This book should be on everyone’s list of required readings on the American Revolution.

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Robert McColley

## the south

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

Cowdrey, an Army medical historian, provides an informed, astute comprehensive account of the South from pre-Columbian days to the present, with attention to wildlife, rivers, forests, row crops, oil and other resources at one stage or another during the centuries. He gives steady, proper attention to diseases, yellow fever and pellagra, for instance, which often limit cultural as well as individual life. He calls his volume an essay on how “man and land have shaped each other,” as in public works on the lower Mississippi River. “The nature and location of resources, including climate and landform, shape the possibilities of production at every step.” He makes much of the vast, relatively sudden changes in the varied Southern ecosystems since the beginning of the Great Depression and later the movement of population into the Sunbelt. The book is a remarkably fresh synthesis, scholarly at base, as notes and bibliography attest, and delightfully literary in a style that accommodates wit and irony. In one of the richest traditions of American studies, Cowdrey tells “the story of the encounter between a particular subculture and a particular environment.”

California State University–Los Angeles

Richard G. Lillard

**BLACK SOUTHERNERS 1619–1869.** By John B. Boles. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. 1983. \$24.00.

Synthesizing much recent scholarship, this interpretive volume of 244 pages—including a bibliographic essay arranged by chapters and an index—offers an easy-to-read preliminary text on slaves, free blacks and the South itself. The clear and often lively discussion of the diversity and major trends and developments in black labor and life is aimed primarily at undergraduates or advanced high school students, not for persons familiar with the literature. Historiographic controversies are muted and explanations on points that have produced much quibbling are often presented as simple summaries.

Howard University

Thomas J. Davis

## conservative thought

COHERENT VARIETY: The Idea of Diversity in British and American Conservative Thought. By Michael D. Clark. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1983. \$28.50.

This book is full of detail but conceptually vague. Conservatism is reduced to diversity, an argument which is supported by Clark's emphasis on hierarchical religion. He deplors the results of the enlightenment in moral relativism, as he cites Henry Adams: The dynamo has replaced the Virgin and science can lead only to the chaos of atoms in entropy. In politics, writes Clark, rationalism led to the executions of the French Revolution, and in the U. S. to increasing regimentation and the tyranny of majority public opinion. Socially, Clark also sees bad consequences. The leveled uniformity of America, Clark says, comes from a lack of individual moral power. The average man is homogenized by television, fast foods and sex.

Clark's answer lies in a religion of hierarchy which generously accepts the human inequalities as part of a divine order more efficacious for his purpose than one based on the equality of sinners before God in Calvinism or dissent. For him, the best critics of the U. S. are status-minded Europeans like Edmund Burke, Tocqueville, Lord Acton and especially G. K. Chesterton, who is most often cited. American ideas not based on the same hierarchy receive short shrift. Democracy is played down and Emerson gets less space than Orestes Brownson, who joined the proper religious group.

Clark, no conventional conservative in politics, has no easy answers. He can approve only parts of Henry and William James. So he turns to mystery since he omits mention of the traditional ethical duties of privilege in *noblesse oblige*.

University of Iowa

Alexander C. Kern

JOHN DICKINSON: Conservative Revolutionary. By Milton E. Flower. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia. 1983. \$27.50.

The "penman" of the American Revolution is presented once again as the moderate defender of the rights of British Americans and the victim of vacillating popular political tendencies. Dickinson is both the "toast of the American colonies" for his *Farmer's letters* and a man of suspect loyalties for his abstention from signing the Declaration of Independence. This major biography incorporates recently released personal papers, but it offers little interpretive material not already presented in Bernard Bailyn's study of revolutionary pamphleteers or in the numerous articles on Dickinson of the past thirty years. Dickinson remains a liberal of the Whig tradition committed to opposition through petition and repulsed by mass violence—a man greatly dependent on the lessons of history yet blind to the factors determining America's future.

Creighton University

Bryan F. Le Beau

## education

THE UNCERTAIN TRIUMPH: Federal Education Policy in the Kennedy and Johnson Years. By Hugh Davis Graham. Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press. 1984. \$22.00.

This thoroughly researched and lucidly written account of the formulation, enactment and implementation of the federal aid-to-education programs of the 1960s makes two major contributions. In the first place, Graham shows President Lyndon B. Johnson's extraordinarily successful utilization of the secret task-force technique to bypass the obstacles presented by bureaucratic inertia to the development of new policy initiatives. Second, he documents Johnson's "camel's nose" legislative strategy of "minimally funding a program to get its foot in the door" (180) in the expectation that ever larger appropriations would follow as a result of the "iron-triangle" process of alliance-formation "whereby clientele groups forged enduring bonds of mutual interest with congressional subcommittees who authorized programs affecting their interests, and with agency officials who ran them" (191). In that regard at least, Johnson was brilliantly prescient. Despite a growing body of evidence raising doubts about the effectiveness of the programs in

accomplishing even their professed objectives, federal spending on education grew exponentially. The problem was that the same forces were at work for all the Great Society programs, producing the “out-of-control entitlement programs that led to the Reagan counterrevolution of 1980” (213).

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INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND ACADEMIC ENTERPRISE: A Chapter in the Enclosure of American Learning. By Robert A. McCaughey. New York: Columbia University Press. 1984. \$28.00.

In this provocative and important study, McCaughey traces the historical development in the United States of “international studies”—that is, the study of “those parts of the world Americans have traditionally regarded as having histories, cultures, and social arrangements distinctly different from their own.” The first part of the book examines the organizational beginnings of American international studies in the early nineteenth century, its acquiring a “peripheral” foothold in the late nineteenth-century university and its becoming an established part of the academic scene during 1900–1940. Although there were individual exceptions, those drawn to non-Western studies tended to be persons of occupational marginality and/or cultural alienation. The second part details the tremendous growth of international studies since World War II. This country’s larger role in world affairs gave international studies a practical relevance that not only attracted large numbers of students but brought generous financial support—most importantly from the Ford Foundation and its International Training and Research Program. The focus is not upon the ideas propounded by Americans involved in international studies, but rather upon the social context shaping academic institutionalization of the subject matter. In short, McCaughey has written a case study of “a specific and belated instance of the more general process by which the primary responsibility for the pursuit of learning in America has been transferred from the American intellectual community at large to the universities.” And like most recent students of that process, he is aware of not simply the gains, but the losses resulting.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

## the presidency

THE PRESIDENCY OF MARTIN VAN BUREN. By Major L. Wilson. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas. 1984. \$17.95.

Martin Van Buren has not fared too well with the historians. Treated, more often than not, as little more than an epilogue to the Jackson administration, his administration has received scant attention. In John Nevins’ 1983 biography—actually the first full-length life of Van Buren since 1935—the presidential years occupy a minor place, principal emphasis being given to Van Buren’s role as a political leader. Indeed, Van Buren is most commonly remembered for his skill as party builder and party leader.

Wilson’s study follows the format of the other volumes in the prestigious American Presidency series. There is a brief but entirely adequate chapter covering the pre-presidential years and the volume ends with a comprehensive bibliographical essay. The bulk, however, is taken up with a careful study of Martin Van Buren as president. The picture that emerges from these pages is that of a hard-working president, totally dedicated to the preservation of the Union, but a man whose personal amiability lead the public to see him as lacking the kind of forcefulness that his predecessor had so consistently displayed.

This is a useful volume both for an understanding of the period and for an appreciation of the presidential office.

University of Kansas

Francis H. Heller

THE PRESIDENCY OF LYNDON B. JOHNSON. By Vaughn Davis Bernet. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas. 1983. \$25.00; \$14.95 (paper).

This new volume in the University Press of Kansas American Presidency Series provides a balanced account of the tumultuous White House years of Lyndon B. Johnson.

While not glossing over the more unlovable aspects of Johnson's personality, Bernet credits him with a "seriousness of purpose," even a "loftiness" of goals, which combined with his skills at persuasion "made him an effective force for massive changes in the status quo." Not that the author thinks those changes on balance were for the better. He acknowledges the contribution of the Great Society crusade in reminding Americans "that government need not stand by indefinitely without at least trying to strike effective blows against injustice." But he sees the benefits outweighed by the negative results: over-regulation, the distortion of the balance of national, state and local responsibilities, a disastrous inflationary spiral fueled by increased federal spending, and what was perhaps worst, the "overpromising of utopia." And while sympathizing with Johnson's dilemma in Vietnam, he concludes that the president trapped himself into the worst of possibilities: "choosing to wage an open-ended [war] . . . without having the goal of quick military victory." Bernet has done extensive archival research at the Johnson Library but he acknowledges that his study is not the definitive final word. On the contrary, he concludes in his bibliographical essay with a damning indictment of the continued arbitrary restrictions upon researcher access to materials.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

## sciences

A GENEROUS CONFIDENCE: Thomas Story Kirkbride and the Art of Asylum-Keeping, 1840-1883. By Nancy Tomes. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1984. \$39.50.

In recent years Michel Foucault, Thomas Szasz and David J. Rothman (among others) have attacked both the theory of mental illness and the modern response of western society to the phenomenon, the mental hospital. In this carefully researched interdisciplinary monograph Nancy Tomes has broken new ground by examining one of the best mental asylums of the nineteenth century in a judicious, penetrating way. According to Professor Tomes, the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane functioned as a nineteenth century response to nineteenth century problems, neither quite the ideally benevolent institution Kirkbride and other superintendants wished it to be nor the monstrously oppressive institution which disaffected patients (and twentieth century critics) have said it was. The asylum eventually broke down because as an institution it could not fulfill all of its responsibilities and please its many constituencies. Interestingly enough, about the same proportion of patients were "cured" in this private asylum, without all the assistance of modern science and research, as are "cured" in the best institutions today. Tomes points out that what made Kirkbride's system of "moral therapy" work at the Pennsylvania Hospital was his deep commitment to his patients. The march of science, and the development of progressive reforms, she implies, may not have solved the problems which their champions said they did. An important, well-written and highly sophisticated book well worth its unfortunately astronomical price.

HC

LOREN EISELEY. By Leslie E. Gerber and Margaret McFadden. New York: Frederick Ungar. 1983. \$11.95.

This is an introductory book, part of Ungar's Literature and Life series, and as such competes with Andrew J. Angyal's *Loren Eiseley* published by Twayne earlier in the same year. While the latter provides a more satisfying critical overview of Eiseley's life and work, Gerber and McFadden do a more thorough job of explaining his scientific ideas, which they categorize into six major motifs and discuss in the six central chapters of their ten-chapter book. At the same time they acknowledge that Eiseley was primarily an essayist and point out that for him "evolution was not merely a plausible hypothesis" but "a sensibility, a specific way of feeling and seeing" (37). They list some articles about Eiseley that are not contained in Angyal's generally more helpful bibliography.

Ohio University

Peter Heidtmann

AT THE SIGN OF THE COMPASS AND QUADRANT: The Life and Times of

Anthony Lamb. Philadelphia: Silvio A. Bedini. Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, Vol. 74, Part I. 1984. \$12.00.

The scant record of the "first professionally trained maker of scientific instruments in the American colonies" is here skillfully embellished with material about life in and around New York City between 1730 and 1784. There is some general discussion of eighteenth-century navigation and surveying instruments and seven of the eight surviving instruments made by Lamb are illustrated, but the major thrust of this work is a picture of the life of a colonial craftsman-merchant. Engravings, copies of ledgers, passenger lists, advertisements, handbills, etc., accompany a text tracing Lamb's career from apprenticeship in London, conviction for felony, transportation to Annapolis in 1724 at age 21, establishment of an instrument shop in New York, to his death, a respected merchant-craftsman and American patriot in 1784.

Iowa State University

Robert E. Schofield

FLIGHT PATTERNS: Trends of Aeronautical Development in the United States, 1918-1929. By Roger E. Bilstein. Athens: University of Georgia Press. 1983. \$18.50.

During the 1920s American aviation set the patterns clearly evident in future decades. By 1929, at the end of its pioneering era, aviation's impact on national security, commerce and industry, communication, geography, travel and international relations, activities reflected through succeeding decades, was responsible for transforming society from a two dimensional to a three dimensional world. Bilstein examines the cultural, economic and political ramifications of this new technology—along with the infra-structure necessary before aviation could establish itself as a valid transportation system.

Bilstein starts with the military and scheduled commercial operations, then examines the evolution of general aviation—such things as crop dusting, conducting photographic surveys and carrying executive personnel to distant appointments. The impact of Lindbergh's flight in launching a period of great and general acceptance of aviation is carefully noted, along with the role of government in providing a financial underpinning for an airline network as well as a regulatory and institutional framework.

RL

THOMAS ALVA EDISON: An American Myth. By Wyn Wachhorst. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press. 1981. \$8.95 (paper).

This pioneering study traces the evolution of Edison's image as an American culture hero from his earliest fame in the 1870s to his death in 1931—and beyond. Using both conventional and quantitative methods of analysis, Dr. Wachhorst arrives at some provocative conclusions about the underlying factors behind the shifting mirage of Edison's stupendous fame. The evolution of Edison's image from Promethean and even faintly satanic wizard to kindly homespun sage was part and parcel, Wachhorst argues, of a terrible leveling that substituted mass mediocrity for innovative striving as America moved away from the productive inner-directed values of the paleotechnic age into the consumption-obsessed inanity of neotechnic mass society with its mindless mass media. There is, of course, pregnant irony in the fact that these electronic media were so very largely Edison's handiwork and the source of his own sad cheapening and corruption as a would-be Barnum and over-exposed mega-celebrity. Wachhorst has produced an admirable and exhaustively researched work of scholarship, which is only occasionally marred by lapses into opaque, jargon-laden academic prose. His Edison book should be compulsory reading for all serious students of American Studies, even though it leaves the mystery of the genius behind the gargantuan myth as dauntingly elusive as ever.

Washington, D.C.

James Miller Lewis

WAR IN THE MODERN GREAT POWER SYSTEM, 1495-1975. By Jack S. Levy. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. 1983. \$24.00.

Although historians may be uncomfortable with statistical models based upon five centuries of warfare, this book contains much valuable information about the concept of

Great Power status and the nature of conflicts involving Great Powers. Unlike earlier quantitative students of warfare, the author ignores wars between minor powers in order to better understand how Great Powers behave. After analyzing quantitative data from 119 wars involving Great Powers since 1495, he concludes that the frequency of such wars has declined but their severity has greatly increased over time. The findings presented in this book are admittedly preliminary, and Levy plans to use the data base he has developed for further analysis of the causes and nature of Great Power wars.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Gregory W. Pedlow

**THEY CALLED THEM GREASERS: Anglo Attitudes towards Mexicans in Texas, 1821-1900.** By Arnolde De Leon. Austin: University of Texas Press. 1983. \$19.95.

This well-written, comprehensive account of Anglo-American stereotypes of Mexicans in nineteenth-century Texas makes for interesting reading. Anglo-Americans consistently represented Tejanos as a racially and culturally inferior people, and these attitudes determined the nature of ethnic conflict in the Lone Star state. As the author notes, the heritage of the past still persists. Mexican Americans in Texas are no longer lynched, but they continue to be "victims of psychological violence in the more subtle form of discrimination" (106).

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

William L. Sherman

**THE NINTH STATE: New Hampshire's Formative Years.** By Lynn Warren Turner. Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press. 1983. \$24.95.

Posthumously published, this work is a thoroughly researched, exceedingly detailed (and, unfortunately, stylistically pedestrian) history, focusing upon political developments of New Hampshire from the revolutionary period into the misnamed Era of Good Feelings. Perhaps Turner's most significant contribution is his qualification of the accepted wisdom that sees the Federalist Party as the spokesman of the mercantile interest. In New Hampshire at least, merchants and shippers leaned to the Republican side; the backbone of the Federalist Party lay among the freehold farmers.

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**TO THE LESSER HEIGHTS OF MORNINGSIDE: A Memoir.** By Rexford G. Tugwell. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 1982. \$25.00.

Rexford G. Tugwell was one of the most interesting, and controversial, of the circle of advisers that surrounded F.D.R. as he launched the New Deal. Bernard Sternsher's *Rexford Tugwell and the New Deal* (1964) is a workmanlike biography, but its major focus is upon the post-1932 years. Tugwell published his reminiscences of his boyhood (up to 1910) under the title *The Light of Other Days* (1962), and has written extensively about his association with the New Deal. This posthumously published memoir covers the years between, focusing upon his undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania and his teaching at Columbia University. An appreciative introduction by his former student Leon M. Keyserling and a perceptive afterword by historian Otis L. Graham, Jr. help place Tugwell's career in historical context. But the primary value—and charm—of the volume is Tugwell's account of his intellectual development. His vivid portrait of the seminally important though still relatively neglected Simon N. Patten alone makes the book worth reading. The vision of big government as the counterweight to private aggregations of power that Tugwell imbibed from Patten was reinforced and deepened by his association with John Dewey, Wesley C. Mitchell and sociologist William F. Ogburn. By 1933—thanks to *The Industrial Discipline and the Governmental Arts*—he was recognized as a leading theorist of a socially managed economy. And he had begun his productive—if up and down—relationship with F.D.R.

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THE OLD CHRISTIAN RIGHT: The Protestant Far Right From the Great Depression to the Cold War. By Leo P. Ribuffo. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1983. \$29.95.

This study of politically right-wing Fundamentalist Protestantism during the 1930s and World War II focuses upon three “villains”: William Dudley Pelley, Gerald B. Winrod and Gerald L. K. Smith. Although lacking access to the personal papers or organizational records of these three central figures in his story, Ribuffo has mined their published writings and materials in available manuscript collections to trace their views and document their activities. The three—along with lesser known kindred spirits—have generally been lumped together as “fascist” extremists outside of the American mainstream. Ribuffo shows how they “possessed conflicting temperaments, traveled different paths to neighboring positions on the political spectrum, and disagreed about economics, foreign policy, and what they called the ‘Jewish question.’” And he illuminates how they reflected, and were shaped by, concerns and fears that antedated (though were exacerbated by) the Depression and that were shared by many “normal” Americans. Most relevant to the present is his analysis of how the 1930s liberal-radical counterattack—what Ribuffo aptly calls the “Brown Scare”—informs the contemporary attacks upon and misrepresentations of the New Christian Right.

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WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN: Missionary Isolationist. By Kendrick A. Clements. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press. 1982. \$19.95.

There are a number of biographies, partial or full, of William Jennings Bryan—the best being Lawrence W. Levine’s masterly study of the last decade of his life in *Defender of the Faith* (1965). Rather than looking at Bryan whole, Clements opts for a topical approach that focuses upon Bryan’s foreign policy views, including a detailed treatment of his 1913–1915 tenure as Secretary of State. He sees Bryan as epitomizing a “missionary isolationism” that was “precariously” balanced between traditional dislike and distrust of foreign involvements and “a deep conviction that Christianity required service to others.” Though acknowledging that Bryan’s approach to foreign policy issues was “intuitive” rather than the product of extensive knowledge and reasoned analysis, Clements is sympathetic rather than debunking. More doubtful—given the lack of the requisite supporting data—is his argument that Bryan’s third way between “Republican imperialism” and “Wilsonian internationalism” reflected the attitudes of “millions of Americans” who, faced with an increasingly unstable and dangerous world, “remained torn between a fearful desire to escape and an idealistic wish to help.”

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TWO SISTERS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE: A Biography of Grace and Edith Abbott. By Lela B. Costin. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press. 1983. \$18.50.

Based upon thorough research in published and manuscript sources, this fine dual biography traces the careers of Grace and Edith Abbott from their childhood in a Nebraska small town to places of leadership in the American social welfare movement. Grace was best known for her service as head of the U. S. Children’s Bureau from 1917 to 1934; Edith was a key figure in the founding and development of the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. Costin shows the shaping influence of their Quaker background, the drought that seared the Great Plains in the early 1890s and their association with Hull House; she documents their championship of social justice for the immigrant, the child and the nation’s forgotten men and women from the progressive era through the battle for federal relief during the crisis of the Great Depression. The sisters differed in their personalities: Edith was the scholar; Grace “took the initiative in translating knowledge into action.” But they shared a common set of values. In their different ways, each aspired to “the role of social engineer . . . who sought an understanding of the entire social system and a specialized competence to deal with it.”

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SHADES OF GRAY: Old Age, American Values, and Federal Policies Since 1920. By W. Andrew Achenbaum. Boston and Toronto: Little, Brown. 1983. \$13.95; \$7.95 (paper).

Achenbaum's purpose is to correct what he sees as popular misconceptions about "why current programs for the aged and aging evolved in the ways that they did" (ix). In what is admittedly a synthesis of existing scholarship rather than the product of extensive research in primary sources, he opts for what he calls "a modernization model" (182) for his overall interpretive framework—with his major focus the impact of the "normative dimensions of modernization" (185) upon federal old-age policies. Accordingly, he identifies as the key influences upon policy outcomes seven "complementary" pairs of values: "(1) self-reliance/dependency, (2) struggle/achievement, (3) work/leisure, (4) individual/family, (5) equity/adequacy, (6) private/public and (7) religious/secular" (187). Achenbaum makes some highly suggestive points but the work deals primarily with the changing ideological context of old-age policy making rather than with the nuts-and-bolts of the actual decisional process.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

THE AGE OF CHARISMA. By Arthur Schweitzer. Chicago: Nelson-Hall. 1984. \$30.95.

The dust jacket of this volume informs us that it is "an examination of more than a dozen charismatic giants of the last 80 years with a reevaluation of Max Weber's original theories of charisma as a force in political history." In fact, the reevaluation of Weber's theories predominates throughout—as might be expected from a distinguished sociologist. This can be seen at its extreme in a glossary appended to the text in which 101 of 105 listed terms include the words "charisma" or "charismatic," ranging from "aristocratic charisma" to "value charisma." The reader who is not well versed in Weberian terminology may find this somewhat difficult sledding.

For the non-sociologist, however, the book offers a good deal in its assessment of various charismatic personalities of the recent past. In particular, Schweitzer provides interesting and valuable insights into the methods and attitudes of Hitler and Franklin Roosevelt who, in effect, represent the extremes of the range of personalities he examines. Ann Ruth Willner's *The Spellbinders: Charismatic Political Leadership*, published at about the same time, offers a somewhat broader spectrum of charismatic leaders and is less burdened by conceptual discussions. The two books could usefully be read in conjunction.

University of Kansas

Francis H. Heller

THE 'LIBERATED' WOMAN OF 1914: Prominent Women in the Progressive Era. By Barbara Kuhn Campbell. Ann Arbor: University Microfilms International Research Press. 1979. \$44.95.

Combining a quantitative analysis of a random sample of 879 entries in the 1914 *Woman's Who's Who* (slightly less than ten percent of the total) with historical material, Campbell describes the ways in which the prominent women she studied exemplified the most advanced segment of America's women at that time.

Some of the differences among the women are more or less predictable: that women in the arts were less interested in reform and humanitarian activities than women in the professions; that non-career women were less educated than career women; and that husbands usually played a supportive role for most prominent women. Providing documentation for these generalizations, however, is a worthy contribution to the field.

Northeastern Illinois University

June Sochen

DRINK AND DISORDER: Temperance Reform in Cincinnati from the Washington Revival to the WCTU. By Jed Dannenbaum. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1984. \$22.50.

Based on alcohol reform in Cincinnati, Ohio, from 1830 to 1870, Dannenbaum's study provides a wealth of general insights into and distinctions among attitudes, classes and

interest groups surrounding temperance in the nineteenth century. A social history, the book views alcohol reform with sympathy. It also aids our understanding of the mass movement of women into the WCTU in the 1870s and 1880s.  
Emporia State University

June O. Underwood

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