

## reviews

### literature

MARK TWAIN AND THE LIMITS OF POWER: Emerson's God in Ruins. By James L. Johnson. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press. 1982. \$18.50.

The most useful parts of this study examine Mark Twain's obsession with figures of power authority, but much of this ground has been covered before. As for the main thesis suggested in the unwieldy title, Johnson hopes to establish links between Twain's "empowered" characters "and the imperious Self sketched so persistently in Emerson's work." The result is a strained effort to impose Emerson's concepts on Mark Twain's fiction, an exercise encumbered by vague abstractions and often irrelevant quotations from psychologists and literary critics. Oddly, in the process of sifting through Twain's life and canon for evidence of their "cultural" correspondences with Emerson's, Johnson chooses to ignore all indications of Twain's knowledge of Emerson's writings.

This is yet another explanation offered for the recurrent misanthropy that biographers and critics have long observed in Twain, a tendency that became increasingly prominent as Twain matured and experimented as a writer. But this interpretation—facilely concluding that "the sort of empowered Self that attracted Twain so strongly ended by repelling him as well," that "its powers were superhuman and constituted, ultimately, an encroachment on divine prerogatives"—functions only if we accept its initial premises about fundamental similarities in thought and response between these authors. *Mark Twain and the Limits of Power* appears to be a dispensable sidetrack in the ongoing discussion of Twain's philosophic outlook and artistic patterns.

University of Texas at Austin

Alan Gribben

WILLIAM FAULKNER: The Yoknapatawpha World and Black Being. By Erskine Peters. Darby, Pennsylvania: Norwood Editions. 1983. \$27.50.

This study treats the variety and range of William Faulkner's characterizations of African-Americans in the main body of his writings from the stereotyped portraits like Simon in *Flags in Dust* to memorable individuals like Dilsey in *Sound and Fury* and Lucas Beauchamps in *Intruder in the Dust*. The author presents valuable insights into Faulkner's attitudes toward the turbulent events of the Civil Rights struggles in the South. Faulkner is shown to be not only a southern nationalist and, at times, a racist, but a man struggling with his own conscience and against the prejudices of his neighbors. Above all, the book shows how central to Faulkner's larger meanings is his profound awareness of the part played in southern history by black people.

Brown University

Charles H. Nichols

CHARLES BROCKDEN BROWN: An American Tale. By Alan Axelrod. Austin: University of Texas Press. 1983. \$22.50.

Through careful, coherent readings of Brown's four major novels (*Wieland*, *Ormond*, *Arthur Mervyn* and *Edgar Huntly*) the author moves to a study of Brown's imagination as "American"; he finds it oriented to "wilderness," to the savage frontier, to isolation, to the perverse and the irrational and to great ambivalence of mind, consciousness and action. In *Edgar Huntly* this wilderness is both a physical place as well as a metaphor for mind and emotions; in the urban novel *Arthur Mervyn* it is metaphoric. Approaching the novels through text-analysis and myth (mainly Oedipus), Axelrod follows D. H. Lawrence on the wilderness-theme in American literature (but curiously does not mention Leo Marx's work in *The Machine in the Garden*). His analysis of the texts is complex and sensitive, and with copious research he situates Brown's novels among his other writings and within contemporary literature and thought. So coherent is Axelrod's reading of the fiction that it permits him to theorize on why Brown ceased writing novels in 1801: he could not face the absurd universe his imagination created and could not resolve through storytelling the tension between expressing his own insights and aiding the new American society. A very important book for Brown scholarship and a valuable contribution to American Studies. Saint Joseph's University Joseph J. Feeney, S.J.

EMILY DICKINSON: When a Writer is a Daughter. By Barbara Antonina Clarke Mossberg. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1982. \$19.95.

Though the author relies on the poetry to substantiate and illustrate her ideas, giving readings of neglected poems and fresh readings of familiar ones, this is not primarily a critical study. It is a cultural one, building significantly on the work of feminist scholars who have explored the function of sexual stereotypes and roles in nineteenth-century literature. Her account of the Dickinson biography provides a valuable middle road between views of the poet either as sporadically insane and venting her spinster's anguish in verse—or, on the other hand, as deliberately choosing a way of life which would give her plenty of writing time. Mossberg sees the family context as damaging to a daughter, but describes the poet learning to use in the poetry the roles of sacrifice, humility, dutifulness or childish rebellion which were enjoined upon her. Her discussion of Dickinson's need for masculine recognition is especially acute, as is her treatment of Dickinson's ambivalence concerning her "mentors," actual and poetic. She sees the poet's sense of autonomy as, paradoxically, dependent upon her sense of authority figures, and argues convincingly that Dickinson maintained a drama of deprivation and self-reliance because it constituted her *esthetic* strategy. The poetic voice to which the author of this study has listened is raised in parody, protest, self-parody; it changes identities at the drop of a pose, once in a while revealing the arrogant woman poet who may have been the real Dickinson. University of Kansas Sally Allen McNall

FICTION AS SURVIVAL STRATEGY: A Comparative Study of the Major Works of Ernest Hemingway and Saul Bellow. By Jan Bakker. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1983. Distributed by Humanities Press, Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey. \$21.00.

Bakker's thesis that the fiction of Hemingway and Bellow reflects "the compelling need to solve the problem of identity in a society that no longer provides ready-made answers" offers more fresh insights than one might expect. His approximately chronological examination of the evolution of the "Hemingway hero" and the "Bellow protagonist" in response to post-World War I and post-World War II socio-cultural conditions proves to be valid, perceptive and comprehensive; especially noteworthy are his discussions of *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea*. The book could be improved only by somewhat fuller analyses of Bellow, and by careful editing for punctuation. Rhode Island School of Design Alice Hall Petry

T. S. ELIOT. By Burton Raffel. New York: Frederick Ungar. 1982. \$11.95.

The work of a teacher/poet/translator graduate-trained when Possum was the hardly disputed monarch of contemporary English-language poetry, this nicely judgmental and mainly judicious revisionist account of Eliot's output—poetic, dramatic and critical

(literary/social)—ventures the thesis that Eliot started out as a social poet (*vide* the much underrated and still misunderstood “Preludes” and “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”), allowed Pound to cut away much of the contextualizing social poetry of the original version of “The Waste Land,” and, with “The Hollow Men” and “Ash Wednesday,” turned away from the social vein he had so brilliantly worked in his early poetry and toward philosophical and Christian abstraction, which vitiates a good deal of his poetry of the 1930s and ’40s—particularly “The Four Quartets”—as well as his plays, not only the stiffish late pieces, *The Confidential Clerk* and *The Elder Statesman*, but the best one, *Murder in the Cathedral*, too. Less impressive are the three flatter chapters on the poet as literary/social critic and on the poet’s reputation and influence that close out this book. Particularly refreshing throughout, however, is Raffel’s willingness to display his poet’s judgment: he leaves no doubt about what it is exactly that enables him to decide as to just which images, lines, verses and poems work best, aesthetically and poetically, and which simply do not, for various reasons, make it.

Brown University

George Monteiro

MARIANNE MOORE. By Elizabeth Phillips. New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing Company. 1982. \$14.50.

This is a useful introduction to Moore’s work, well-written and always interesting. After a good account of the poet’s personality and life, Phillips treats the multiplicity and appropriateness of the unusual forms Moore’s poetry takes, the ways in which her personal qualities are embodied in her art, the permeation of the work by her religious faith, and the concern in it with public issues. The book’s method is to work closely with the texts of individual poems within the larger organizational structure. The best chapter connects the poetry with the religious faith. The weakest is on Moore’s concern with public issues; occasionally Phillips links a poem with a public issue without providing any evidence for the linkage. The sometimes apparently wild interpretations that result weaken the book, especially for the beginning reader of the poetry. Happily, this weakness does not dominate even this chapter. A virtue of the book is the number and excellence of the explications of poems of the 1940s and later. There are also some fine additions to the body of explications of Moore’s other poems.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Melvin E. Lyon

THAT CUNNING ALPHABET: Melville’s Aesthetics of Nature. By Richard S. Moore. Amsterdam: Editions Rodopi. 1982. Distributed by Humanities Press, Inc., Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey. \$18.50.

Moore discovers in Melville’s “The Piazza” keys to interpreting mid-nineteenth-century American literary notions of the sublime, the picturesque and the place of nature in a national aesthetic. The book focuses on Melville’s writings in the years between 1846 and 1856, and while Moore might have traced his themes into *Clarel*, it is a meticulously researched exploration of the romantic response to nature that encompasses far more than Melville’s particular vision.

Harvard University

John R. Stilgoe

THE ANGER OF STEPHEN CRANE: Fiction and the Epic Tradition. By Chester L. Wolford. Lincoln: The University of Nebraska Press. 1983. \$15.95.

The subject of this short monograph, according to the author, “is twofold: first to see to what degree Crane was influenced by the formal epic tradition and how he set about repudiating it; second, to determine where and in what direction Crane broke new ground.” Concentrating most of his attention on *The Red Badge of Courage*, but discussing his other works as well, Wolford tries to demonstrate that Crane knew and used the epic conventions from Greek classics to the Christian mission of Milton. His evidence that Crane knew this literature well enough to use it consciously and, ultimately, reject it is mostly deductive rather than biographical, and I found it somewhat strained and

unconvincing. The book, however, is an interesting venture and the argument is sustained as well as interesting.  
Northern Illinois University

Robert W. Schneider

JOHN IRVING (Modern Literature Series). By Gabriel Miller. New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing Company. 1982. Cloth: \$10.95; paper: \$5.95.

Freely admitting “the possible preliminary nature” of his study of John Irving, the author offers a comprehensive—albeit rather superficial—consideration of Irving’s life and art. The book’s initial chapter provides fundamental biographical information about Irving, plus an overview of the main themes of his fiction, but no real insights into the man or his work. Each of the subsequent five chapters is devoted to an analysis of a single Irving novel, focusing on such basic fictional elements as themes, symbolism, characterization, motifs, atmosphere, sources and influences. The interesting final chapter is the transcription of Miller’s 1981 interview with Irving at Bread Loaf, Vermont. There follows a three-page bibliography of primary materials and interviews, plus an unfortunately incomplete index which must be used with caution. Although beginning students of Irving will appreciate Miller’s study, most advanced scholars of contemporary American fiction would find it to be a limited introductory text.  
Rhode Island School of Design

Alice Hall Petry

## other arts

MOTHER OF THE BLUES: A Study of Ma Rainey. By Sandra R. Lieb. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. 1981. \$17.50.

This is, somewhat surprisingly, the first book on the first of the classic blues singers. As Sterling Brown recalls, Ma Rainey enjoyed a command of her black audience that was virtually unique: “Ma really *knew* these people; she was a person of the folk.” Short and fat, with dark skin and irregular features, she would seem by white standards an unlikely culture-heroine, but Sandra Lieb demonstrates that for her audience “she was a reminder, a witness, an affirmation of Southern black culture as positive, resilient, and life-affirming.” Her music was rough-edged and vital, virtually the polar opposite of the slick vapidity of most white popular music.

Lieb had gathered what little is known about Ma Rainey’s life, added to it through interviews with surviving contemporaries, corrected much misinformation and set the life in the context of black vaudeville in the twenties. She has traced the evolution of Ma Rainey’s style as it can be heard in her recordings, demonstrating that as her sense of her self and of her audience grew more acute her style moved back toward its roots in Southern folk blues. She has established reliable texts for the lyrics of many of Ma Rainey’s blues, checking the low-fidelity acoustical recordings against lead sheets in the copyright files. Her analyses of the lyrics show that like the music they are virtual antitheses of white popular lyrics; they suggest that the differences between black and white popular culture have been much larger than is usually assumed.

*Mother of the Blues* should be of interest to many scholars in American Studies and Afro-American Studies. Because it shows us a culture-heroine very different from those we are accustomed to, it should be of interest to most scholars of Popular Culture and of Women’s Studies.

University of Illinois at Chicago

Chadwick Hansen

PERFORMED LITERATURE: Words and Music by Bob Dylan. By Betsy Bowden. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. 1982. \$18.95.

Bowden’s book generally bears out her assertion that “performed literature can sustain analysis as precise and thorough as texts intended for silent reading.” Making assumptions familiar to reader-response critics, Bowden borrows terms from linguistics and musicology

to analyze twenty-three performances of eleven Dylan songs. Her close "readings" of these performances show how vocal inflections interact with words and music to shape a listener's perceptions of a song. Her book also contains an implicit commentary on pop culture aesthetics that becomes explicit in the final chapters. Bowden takes careful account of works about Dylan and about popular music generally published through 1979. Although she usually discusses his performances in their social contexts, she avoids the extensive psychoanalysis, biographical commentary and political or religious exhortation that have marked much previous discussion of Dylan's work. Occasionally, however, her detailed close readings fail to move beyond mere description of what any listener can readily perceive in the songs. Nevertheless, Bowden's analysis provides insights both into Dylan's art and into the nature of "performed literature" in general.

Metropolitan State University (St. Paul, Minnesota)

Robert Gremore

EDMUND THORNTON JENKINS: The Life and Times of an American Black Composer, 1914-1926. By Jeffrey P. Green. Contributions to the Study of Music and Dance, no. 2. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1982. \$25.00.

Jenkins, born in Charleston, studied at the Royal Academy of Music, London, 1914-21, but when efforts in establishing a career in the United States proved fruitless because of racism, he did so successfully in London and Paris. His classical training was manifest in a few serious compositions, but playing clarinet in dance and jazz bands allowed him to purchase an expensive car. A premature death at age 32 prevents us from comparing him to such figures as Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, George Gershwin. A well-researched and documented book.

University of Kansas

J. Bunker Clark

JOHN NOTMAN, ARCHITECT 1810-1865. By Constance M. Greiff. Philadelphia: The Athenaeum of Philadelphia. 1979. \$20.00.

Reconstructing the careers of early and mid-nineteenth century architects is difficult even in the best of situations, where a large body of records survive. Their buildings are vulnerable to demolition or radical alteration, and many early architects were thought of by their contemporaries as simply clever mechanics, capable of drawing up plans and specifications and supervising construction. The architects of buildings often were not acknowledged and only the owners or clients were given credit. Thus it is rewarding to discover, even if several years late, a publication that does a fine job of informing us of the achievement and impact of an architect who worked in America in the second third of the nineteenth century. Constance M. Greiff has written an excellent essay on the career of John Notman and has documented a considerable number of his buildings, including the Athenaeum in Philadelphia which mounted the exhibit this book documents. The value of this book for students of American culture is the insight it provides into the shaping of the physical environment and the factors involved in that process.

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ARTISTIC VOYAGERS: Europe and the American Imagination in the Works of Irving, Alston, Cole, Cooper, and Hawthorne. By Joy S. Kasson. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1982. \$29.95.

This book (which I feel is overpriced given its size) is concerned with examining the influence of Europe on five Americans (three writers and two painters) during the first half of the nineteenth century. While I cannot quarrel with the author's argument that the European influence was indeed important on the work done by the five, the evidence for this is presented as five quite independent essays. The brief "Conclusion" is, in my opinion, inadequate and fails to bring together the five essays other than by restating the obvious: European experience was influential. I was thus left curiously unsatisfied by the book *as a book*, despite my admiration for the individual essays, which are worth reading.

GE

## patronage of the arts

THE RELUCTANT PATRON: The United States Government and the Arts, 1943-1965. By Gary O. Larson. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 1983. Cloth: \$30.00; paper: \$12.95.

This is a very good book about an important topic. Larson is to be commended for his success in pulling together the data which forms the basis for his graceful account and analysis of the history of the efforts to get the United States government involved in the support of the arts and counterefforts to prevent such support, in the period between the WPA and the NEA—1943-1965. I found this history to be thought-provoking, and a reminder of how vulnerable we in the United States always seem to be to indiscriminate abuse of the arts—and artists—by those holding misguided or self-serving goals. We are also shown how difficult it was to bring the nation to its present, and by comparison enlightened, position of modest support. This should be a “must read” book for all who are interested in the history of American arts. And for those who were involved with the arts in some way within the period 1943-1965, as was I, it illustrates how little one really sees, and understands, when close to the changing panorama of events.

GE

NOBLESSE OBLIGE: Charity & Cultural Philanthropy in Chicago, 1849-1929. By Kathleen D. McCarthy. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1982. \$20.00.

In this short, highly readable and carefully researched book McCarthy offers the best available history of Chicago philanthropy. McCarthy understands that nineteenth-century charity, like so much else in the period, was divided between the sexes. She has properly dealt with “Benevolent Ladies” in one chapter and “Christian Gentlemen & Self-Made Magnates” in another. McCarthy, moreover, shows clearly how charity developed over the period. In the nineteenth century philanthropists gave their time, as well as their money, but by the twentieth century, individual activities had been superceded by more professionalized, and bureaucratized, charity drives.

McCarthy talks about “civic stewardship,” but fails to consider other possible motives for giving. There is little indication, for example, that the magnates and millionaires who gave so much away also caused so much of the misery they were trying to alleviate. Nor is there any analysis of those institutions, such as the Chicago Symphony or the Newberry Library, that the elite built as refuges from the masses of immigrants and workers in Gilded Age Chicago. Similarly, McCarthy might have been a bit more critical of her subjects. Some of the Chicago elite were indeed noble, but it is hard to think of Samuel Insull as a “civic steward.” Despite these caveats, this is an important contribution, rich in useful information and analysis. It should serve as a model for similar studies of philanthropy in other cities and in the nation as a whole.

University of Texas at Austin

Paul Finkelman

## shrinkage

PSYCHIATRIST OF AMERICA: The Life of Harry Stack Sullivan. By Helen Swick Perry. Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University. 1982. \$20.00.

Scholars and teachers in American Studies will find this book well worth attention for any one of several reasons. Apart from being a much-needed biography of a major figure in our intellectual life between the two world wars, *Psychiatrist of America* is an excellent example of imaginative but sensible ways of reconstructing a controversial and ambiguous career through the analysis of covert autobiographical references in clinical and theoretical papers and texts, an analysis the more difficult in this case because of careful efforts to conceal crucial experiences. The book is also notable for its account of ways in which Sullivan contributed, perhaps more than anyone else, to the fruitful rapprochement between psychiatry and American social science. This in part explains how and why Sullivan

pioneered in bringing psychiatry to bear on ways of coming to terms with racial and international tensions. Above all, Mrs. Perry, an associate of Sullivan in his last years, has used culture and personality theory, to which he was a major contributor, to explain how his upbringing in an Irish Catholic family in rural New York shaped his view that interpersonal relations are the crucial factor in mental illness and mental health. Ironically, despite the way in which this view modified psychiatry and psychoanalysis with optimistic overtones, Sullivan achieved satisfactory personal relationships neither in his fumbling adolescence nor his faulted maturity.

Readers will probably feel that what at times seems to verge on excessive detail was justified in view of the book's achievements. For good measure, where will one find a more illuminating picture of competition for esteem and success in the politics of professional life? And where else will one find a more dramatic account of a life torn by failures yet notable for a major contribution to an understanding of many aspects of twentieth-century America and to a deeper comprehension of human nature?

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Merle Curti

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGY SINCE WORLD WAR II: A Profile of the Discipline. By Albert R. Gilgen. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1982. \$29.95.

This is a very uneven book. The first chapters, describing the ways in which the war influenced the directions of psychological research in the next two decades, are soundly based on contemporary reports. For the remainder of the book, however, the selection for mention of significant research fields and the scientists contributing to them is based on retrospective surveys of doubtful validity made in the 1970s. The author is most at home with "hard" psychology—learning, perception, linguistics, cognition—and his accounts of the rise and fall of the various theories are lucid and accurate. In the "soft" areas, however—psychoanalysis, personality and social, clinical and developmental psychology—the book is not trustworthy. The former areas are covered by reference to many primary sources; coverage of the latter is based mainly on secondary sources of widely varying quality, ranging from mediocre to poor. Wide areas of research and theorizing which were important in the '40s and '50s are ignored, probably because the survey respondents of the '70s were too young and too poorly trained historically to know of them. This book will not improve their historical sophistication.

Stanford University

Robert R. Sears

CONSCIENCE AND CONVENIENCE: The Asylum and Its Alternatives in Progressive America. By David J. Rothman. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company. 1980. \$9.95.

This is one of the more controversial and highly-touted revisionist books published in recent years on progressivism as it related to the juvenile courts, probation, prisons and reformatories, psychiatry, mental health and mental hospitals. Rothman's thesis is that ultimately conscience gave way to convenience, as selfish motives of institutional functionaries won out. According to Rothman, progressive policy or therapy was anti-institutional and was based on the assumption that each offender or unfortunate should be treated individually, leading to the kinds of horrors which such a regimen could imply. Rothman's ideological affiliations should be obvious. He seems careless in depicting therapy and its assumptions, and, likely, has seriously misunderstood many aspects of context, policy and therapy. What is especially unfortunate is that despite Rothman's considerable talents and abilities, and some very penetrating insights here and there, we have a confusion between a morality play and a tragedy; the result is a very stimulating book marred by a preoccupation with presentist and "good guys" versus "bad guys" formulations. But then—and this is not a happy thought—too many of our scholars treat such issues with all seriousness, in this manner. There is no doubt, however, that this provocative and absorbingly written book will be widely discussed for a long time to come.

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

The Kernel of the book is mislabeled a "historical lexicon"; it is only a grab bag, almost

impossible to study. Better would have been a single alphabetical list, carefully keyed to specific groups, with verified dates, etyma and clear definitions, with succinct introductory apparatus; much of the latter is relegated to the appendices. There is no rational basis for the selection of “authorities” who provided the roster of names; at least four of them—Roback, Sagarin, Spears and Weseen—have been discredited by competent reviewers, and Partridge is notoriously sloppy. There is no use of primary sources, such as the linguistic atlases or citation files of major dictionaries—which would provide indications of frequency, definitions and citations to replace the evasive *obviously* and *probably*. Statistical interpretations of the material as it stands are meaningless.

Essentially, this work can be used effectively only by someone who knows enough to do without. Those interested in prejudicial names would do well to start with Mencken’s *American Language*—more entertaining, more scholarly, better written and a sounder introduction to American culture.

HC

## native americans

LET MY PEOPLE KNOW: American Indian Journalism, 1828-1978. By James E. and Sharon Murphy. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 1981. \$14.95.

This is an important book, but not a very good one, not because the authors have not accomplished their goal, but because they have defined it so narrowly. They intend to provide “a survey” of the “neglected history” of American Indian journalism which also “includes an overview of the thriving contemporary Indian media.” This they do. Their survey is certainly extensive and would be wholly commendable if its inclusiveness did not come at the expense of reader interest and involvement. Despite frequent mention of the “vitality” of the history of Indian journalism, the book seems little more than an extended, briefly annotated list of past and present publications; and it is deadly dull to read. We are usually given only the sketchiest detail for even the most significant publications, and thus we learn little about the quality of a given publication, its distinctive voice and vision.

University of Kansas

Bernard A. Hirsch

SHADOWS OF THE INDIAN: Stereotypes in American Culture. By Raymond William Stedman. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 1982. \$24.95.

This book is not about the real American Indian but about distorted images in American culture from earliest contacts with “Euramericans” to the present. Drawing upon literature, art, television, the cinema and other forms of popular culture, the author provides descriptions of the false images, ranging from Pocahontas to Tonto. The attention of the reader is directed to “Lust Between the Bookends,” *The Perils of Pauline*, Kickapoo Indian salve and an array of representations of Native Americans in movies which led to the well-known refusal by Marlon Brando of his Academy Award in 1973 and to the author’s conclusion that “Inaccuracies and distortions abound, whatever Hollywood’s message” (p. 260). The author succeeds in presenting excellent descriptions of these misrepresentations but does not accompany them with a satisfactory analysis of the culture out of which they emerge.

University of Kansas

W. Stitt Robinson

## language

THE LANGUAGE OF ETHNIC CONFLICT: Social Organization and Lexical Culture. By Irving Lewis Allen. New York: Columbia University Press. 1967. Cloth: \$20.00; paper: \$9.50.

Space and time prevent a full Virchovian dissection of this slim, overpriced and unattractive book. It offers an introductory discussion of name-calling, an inventory of

groups and their informal designations, and attempted statistical correlation between group size and the number of epithets it receives, concluding unsurprisingly that such names are misfortunate reflections of social ills.

A member of a folk culture and a tolerably experienced observer (Allen cites me frequently, sometimes inaccurately) I found in a casual examination more than a hundred errata, exceeding the “ninety-nine distinct damnations” Browning’s Spanish monk planned for Brother Lawrence. A few:

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Many observations show ignorance of American culture. *Colored* has an honorable history (witness the NAACP). *Peckerwood* and *redneck* simply show contempt for a white so poor he must bend over to chop his cotton. Designations related to individual states (largely ignored by Allen) provide some of the most passionate American identities; in fact, there are often strong cultural antagonisms within states: in Virginia between the *Cohees* west of the Blue Ridge and the *Tuckahoes* of the Tidewater and Piedmont; in South Carolina between the *mountaineers* and the *Geechees* (denoting not only blacks but Low-County whites and their speech). Southern textile centers had a *de facto* tri-racial system, of whites and blacks and *lintheads*, the last segregated from the other groups and hostile to both. Obfuscatory is jargon like *conflictual* and *nounal*, and undefined socialogese like *ethnocentrism*, *social distance*, *racism* and *racist*. The last two, with a dozen occurrences, seem smeared used by liberals for whites; objectively, my *Landsmann* Jesse Jackson and my mayor Harold Washington would seem to merit the label as justly as any Kluxer I have known.

Essentially, this work can be used effectively only by someone who knows enough to do without. Those interested in prejudicial names would do well to start with Mencken’s *American Language*—more entertaining, more scholarly, better written and a sounder introduction to American culture.

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A COMMON HERITAGE: Noah Webster’s Blue-Back Speller. By E. Jennifer Monaghan. Hamden, Connecticut: Archon Books. 1983. \$22.50.

At its bicentennial, with well over seventy million copies sold and two editions now in print, Webster’s *Speller* is the all-time American best seller. Monaghan skillfully interweaves the history of the book (including its promotion) with the best documented biography of the author.

The initial success of the *Speller* was due to three things:

- a) A successful use of spelling patterns, such as was used in the reading materials recently prepared by Bloomfield and Barnhart (*Let’s Read*, 1961)
- b) Relentless and imaginative publicity
- c) Identification with American nationalism.

Later, it drew on Webster’s reputation—as indeed the Merriam-Webster dictionaries still draw. The history is complex; but to its complexities Monaghan does full justice.

University of Chicago

Raven I. McDavid, Jr.

GRAMMAR AND GOOD TASTE: Reforming the American Language. By Dennis E. Baron. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1982. \$19.95.

Although Baron devotes most of his book to attempts at language planning and reform (generally futile) in America during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, he does mention such twentieth-century “gatekeepers” as William Safire, John Simon, Edwin Newman, and the “panel of 136 distinguished consultants on usage” which helped in the

preparation of the *Harper Dictionary of Contemporary Usage*, edited by William and Mary Morris. He cites evidence from usage conservatives and liberals, and he writes on his subject enthusiastically, entertainingly and sometimes felicitously.  
Brown University

Elmer M. Blistein

## higher education

AWAKENING AMERICAN EDUCATION TO THE WORLD: The Role of Archibald Cary Coolidge, 1866-1928. By Robert F. Byrnes. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press. 1982. \$20.00.

Although a Harvard faculty member from 1893 until his death in 1928, Archibald Cary Coolidge made his mark not so much as a scholar but rather as an academic entrepreneur who took advantage of his wealth and Boston Brahmin family position to reshape American higher education. In this admiring, even eulogistic, biography, Byrnes documents Coolidge's part in transforming Harvard from a small New England college into one of the world's great universities and in building its library into a major research depository. But the major focus is upon Coolidge's role in awakening the nation's elite to the outside world—as an informal recruiter for the emerging foreign service; as a pioneer in the establishment in the nation's universities and colleges of the study of Russia and, more broadly, of non-United States and Western European peoples and cultures and as one of the founders of the Council on Foreign Relations.  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

LAW SCHOOL: Legal Education in America from the 1950s to the 1980s. By Robert Stevens. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1983. \$19.95.

Except for the so-called Reed reports of the 1920s, the evolution of legal education has received no comprehensive treatment. Robert Stevens has now provided us with an eminently informative and readable history of legal education in the United States. (Although he indicates in the subtitle that his coverage begins in the 1950s, there is a brief opening chapter that describes legal education in the early national period.) In this fine blend of institutional and intellectual history Stevens properly acknowledges the leading role played by the Harvard Law School. But he also describes the contributions of marginal proprietary schools and struggling law departments in equally struggling state universities. Throughout there is the theme of conflicting professional aspirations: shall lawyers, in the words of the English lawyer-scholar William Twining, be like Pericles or like plumbers? "Legal education for what?" continues to be debated by bar leaders and by law professors (even with an occasional contribution from Chief Justice Burger). Stevens' book provides the historical perspective to enlighten this discussion while at the same time it places the American law school in focus among broader social and intellectual trends.  
University of Kansas

Francis H. Heller

FROM CRISIS TO CRISIS. American College Government, 1636-1819. By Jurgen Herbst. Cambridge, Massachusetts, and London, England: Harvard University Press. 1982. \$25.00.

Although sometimes overly-detailed in its institutional analysis of American institutions of higher learning between the founding of Harvard and the Dartmouth College Case, Herbst's work is the best study yet of the gradual emergence of a distinctly American private liberal arts college and is the only available single source of uniform information on the founding of the forty schools that survived in 1819. Contains a valuable appendix with a chronological listing of those foundings.  
University of Texas at Austin

Howard Miller

## congressional geography

CONGRESSIONAL REALIGNMENT, 1926-1978. By Barbara Sinclair. Austin: University of Texas Press. 1982. \$25.00.

Professor Sinclair seeks, with substantial success, to fill in many of the theoretical and empirical gaps left by Walter Dean Burnham and others who have studied the nature of partisan realignment in the United States. Using five policy dimensions based on House roll call data, Sinclair sets out and tests a theory that relates change in the political agenda to subsequent policy changes. The author draws her evidence from the legislative arena, but this book could be read profitably by all who are interested in the shape of policy change in a democratic state. Although statistical sophistication would help in understanding some technical aspects of her argument, Professor Sinclair provides lucid chapter summaries and a good concluding chapter, which require no such expertise.

University of Kansas

Burdett A. Loomis

THE HISTORICAL ATLAS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS, 1789-1983. By Kenneth C. Martis. New York: The Free Press. 1982. \$150.00.

This atlas provides for the first time a complete reference to congressional districts for the First through Ninety-Seventh Congresses, represented both in maps and legal description (primarily counties). The material is divided into three parts. Part one provides a historical geography of congressional districts, including basic constitutional provisions, apportionment of each state at all censuses 1790 through 1980, a summary of relevant statutes and a tabular key to boundary changes in each Congress. Part two provides a geography of each Congress, with 28 half-page and 69 full-page maps. Each map is accompanied by a membership roster keyed to states and districts. Part three provides the detailed legal descriptions of all districts for all Congresses. Martis has produced an impressive piece of scholarship as well as an attractive example of cartography. The atlas will be an indispensable research tool; it allows the geography of any roll call vote to be determined. Quite apart from its infinite research application, instructors in several fields will find the atlas extremely useful as an instructional resource.

Oklahoma State University

Keith D. Harries

## religion

FATHER DIVINE AND THE STRUGGLE FOR RACIAL EQUALITY. By Robert Weisbrot. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1983. \$17.50.

Interest in Father Divine and his Peace Mission Movement has not faded away since the death of this self-proclaimed deity in 1965. This book is the best monograph yet to appear on the subject. Weisbrot rejects the too-frequent analysis that Father Divine and many other latter-day prophets have run "escapist cults" through which they have fleeced the urban poor; instead, his meticulous research shows that Divine provided his followers with very real material and spiritual uplift and contributed importantly to the quest for racial equality and integration. Although some attention is given to the whole scope of Divine's life, from his murky origins to his declining years, as well as to the overall history of the Peace Mission Movement, the focus is on the political and social projects of the movement during its heyday in Harlem during the Depression. While conventional churches became more and more otherworldly, Father Divine fed the poor. In a segregated era, the Peace Mission Movement was just about the only truly integrated church around. The premise underlying it all, Weisbrot maintains, was "that an oppressed people could not productively separate religion from the struggle for social justice." The book has a nice balance: an appreciation of the real strengths and appeal of the movement, along with a critical eye toward its weaknesses. Would that much of the contemporary hysterical literature on religious movements take a few leaves from Weisbrot's notebook.

TM

THE DIVIDED MIND OF PROTESTANT AMERICA, 1880-1930. By Ferenc Morton Szasz. University, Alabama: University of Alabama Press. 1982. \$19.95.

Szasz's thesis is that the fifty years between 1880 and 1930 saw the blurring—at least for the mainline Protestant churches—of traditional denominational distinctions. The more important line of demarcation within the major denominations became that between “conservatives” and “liberals.” And the major issue from which this split developed was not so much evolution or the comparative study of religion—both of which Szasz finds were relatively easily absorbed—as the higher criticism of the scriptures. He goes on to argue that the shock of World War I was the crucial factor in exacerbating the divisions resulting from the challenge of the higher criticism; that the prominence accorded the evolution issue in the Fundamentalist-Modernist controversy of the 1920s was due largely to William Jennings Bryan; and that its result was to move the nation “farther down the roads of secularization and pluralism.” In certain regards, Szasz follows a well-trod path (e.g., the roles of World War I and Bryan); but, over-all, the work presents a new and provocative perspective upon the intramural conflict that wracked late-nineteenth and early twentieth-century American Protestantism.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

## military

HOW THE NORTH WON: A Military History of the Civil War. By Herman Hattaway and Archer Jones. Champaign: University of Illinois Press. 1983. \$24.95.

A brief review cannot do justice to the sophisticated analysis in this book, which will become a controversial landmark in Civil War historiography. Considering battles relatively insignificant, the authors emphasize strategy formulation and execution, logistics and military administration. Stressing that most commanders understood the tactical power of the defensive and the impossibility of annihilating an army, they believe that raids played a central role in the war, that turning movements rather than frontal assaults were the norm, that the North followed a strategy of exhaustion and that the West, not Virginia, was the decisive theater. Lee, whom many historians have portrayed as offensive-minded, followed a “Fabian strategy of avoiding combat” and had the protection of territory as his paramount goal. Four men were crucial in the Union's conquest of the Confederacy, which was an *enormously difficult* task. Lincoln intelligently mastered the art of war as correctly understood by professional soldiers. Stanton and Halleck were excellent military managers, and the latter was a superb strategist. Grant's innovation of sending army-sized raids to ravage enemy logistics doomed the South. Whether or not one agrees with all the interpretations, no one can hope to understand how the North won without reading this monograph.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Peter Maslowski

SAILOR-DIPLOMAT: A Biography of Commodore James Biddle, 1783-1848. By David F. Long. Boston: Northeastern University Press. 1983. \$22.95.

This authoritative and readable study illuminates a period when the Navy was often the sole representative of the government abroad and opened vast areas of the non-European world to American trade and other interests. James Biddle, member of an illustrious Philadelphia family, displayed remarkable talents in war and diplomacy while serving his country in chartered and uncharted seas as the Navy changed from sail to steam. Thoroughly documented and illustrated, this definitive biography illuminates many dimensions of the nation's early past.

University of Miami

Raymond G. O'Connor

“BENEVOLENT ASSIMILATION”: The American Conquest of the Philippines, 1899-1903. By Stuart Creighton Miller. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. 1982. \$25.00.

There exists an abundant scholarly literature on the background of the Spanish-American War and the resulting debate over the acquisition of the Philippines. Less

attention has been paid to the follow-up struggle to subjugate the Filipino insurgents against American rule. The major exception, Richard E. Welch, Jr.'s *Response to Imperialism: The United States and the Philippine-American War, 1899-1902* (1979), focuses primarily upon reactions within the United States to the conflict. Accordingly, Miller's detailed treatment of the military side makes a substantive new contribution. Unfortunately, that contribution is marred by the heavy dose of indignant moralizing that runs through the work. Typical is how Miller transforms a valid point about how American tactics and behavior were shaped by the Army's experience in Indian warfare into a perjorative judgment by terming that experience "terrorizing Apaches, Comanches, Kiowas, and the Sioux." Similarly polemical is his equating the Filipino conflict with Vietnam war as "counterinsurgencies intended to deny a racially different people the right of self-determination, fought by American soldiers who expressed a racist contempt for the enemy."

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

## **cities**

**THE HEALTHIEST CITY: Milwaukee and the Politics of Health Reform.** By Judith Walzer Leavitt. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1982. \$22.50.

In a sense, the urbanization process may be regarded as a race between rapid population growth and the capacity of municipal institutions to deal with the accompanying health hazards. The problem was partly a matter of technology and medical knowledge, but was equally—if not more so—a question of attitudes, values and politics in the broadest sense of that word. Milwaukee provides an excellent case study of a successful response to that challenge—so successful that the city gained the reputation of the nation's healthiest city. In this thoroughly researched and lucidly written study, Leavitt traces how Milwaukeeans came to reject free enterprise in favor of communal responsibility for health protection; examines in depth the activities of the Milwaukee health department in the three critical areas of infectious diseases, sanitation and control of food production and sale; and analyzes the formation of the alliance of health professionals, women's groups, middle-class business reformers, Populists and Socialist trade unionists that succeeded in bringing the city "out of its nineteenth-century disease-ridden morass to its impressive twentieth-century health achievement" (p. 6).

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

**TUCSON: The Life and Times of An American City.** By C. L. Sonnichsen. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 1982. \$29.95.

Once so popular at the end of the nineteenth century, the urban chronicle written by a local resident seems to be staging a comeback. In this case, the author, Tucsonan by adoption and an emeritus professor of English, has produced the first comprehensive history of this desert metropolis. Like other profusely illustrated examples of this genre, the book traces its subject from its founding (this time 1775) to the present, employing a chronological framework to contain the usual run of anecdotes, great events and capsule biographies of colorful figures and city builders. And as is true with authors of similar books on a variety of sunbelt cities, Sonnichsen too often settles for description rather than analysis, boosterism rather than probing objectivity, and in tone and allocation of space, demonstrates a preference for "the good old days." Yet Sonnichsen writes well, knows his city (or at least its elite side) and can be critical and perceptive, as in his introductory and the concluding chapter on the city's serious water problem where he has something worthwhile to say about the relationship between nature and civilization in the American West.

University of New Mexico

Howard N. Rabinowitz

**CITIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH: Two Centuries of Urban Life in Kentucky.** By Allen J. Share. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky. 1982. \$6.95.

This small, hardbound book consists of a series of essays that basically provide us with a comparative history of Louisville and Lexington, the two largest cities of Kentucky. As such

it both informs and instructs us. We not only learn far more about urban development in Kentucky than at first we might expect, we also are introduced to an interesting method by which one can cope with the problem of writing about the history of a city. The method focuses on themes that are organized more or less chronologically. And though much is left unsaid, Share gives us a most readable introduction to a complex subject, one that should stimulate further study. The "Bibliographical Note" charts a path to just that. There are also a few illustrations, but really not enough for this visually oriented student of the city.

GE

## other topics

**GAY AND GREY: The Older Homosexual Man.** By Raymond H. Berger. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1982. \$14.95.

Responding to the "double invisibility" of older gay men in our society—as homosexuals in a society dominated by heterosexual models and as older people in a youth-oriented culture—in *Gay and Grey* Raymond Berger studies, through questionnaires and interviews, 112 older American gay men in an unidentified four-county area encompassing urban, suburban and semi-rural settings. Though Berger's sample is admittedly small and representative only of whites (he was unsuccessful in recruiting older black or Latin gay men), his book is the most focused yet published about this group. The most pertinent earlier parallel study, Weinberg and Williams' *Male Homosexuals: Their Problems and Adaptations* (1974), covers all ages; older gay men make up less than a quarter of its sample, and it contains no interviews (Berger publishes revealing and moving interviews with six of his questionnaire correspondents). Even more so than Weinberg and Williams' study, whose findings Berger uses as a point of reference, Berger's consistently refutes prevailing stereotypes about "the aging homosexual." Rather than finding, for instance, lonely and unwanted individuals obsessed with fear of aging and unable to form relationships, Berger's results show older gay men whose "life satisfaction scores" are as high as or higher than those of older men and women in the general population. One reason for this, Berger interestingly suggests, is the greater independence required of homosexuals than of heterosexuals at an earlier age—i.e., lacking general social approval and a family of procreation to depend on, gay people are forced at an earlier age to be more self-reliant and to develop alternative friendship networks, both of which may prepare them better to face the challenges of aging. Refreshingly unburdened by jargon, Berger's book ends with a plea for better social services for this group (he estimates that there are nearly a million gay men over 65 in American today) and with a mention of some of the successful pertinent programs recently developed within the gay community, such as New York City's SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment).

New York, New York

Joseph Cady

**FATHERS AND SONS: The Bingham Family and the American Mission.** By Char Miller. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1982. \$22.50.

The author explores five generations of the Bingham Family. From Hiram Bingham, the founder of the Protestant Mission Church in Honolulu in 1819, to Stephen Bingham who has been accused of smuggling a gun to George Jackson in San Quentin in 1971 and who has remained underground since the shootout, Miller argues that the connecting theme has been a sense of "Mission in American Life." Despite generational conflict and the secularization of the Mission (first in a conservative form by Hiram Bingham III and then in a radical form by his son, Alfred), the belief in the Mission of the United States to transform the world connected fathers and sons. Only Stephen Bingham lost faith in the Mission of the United States and even he sought a social perfection central to the theme of Mission. Ably supported by scholarship into the Bingham family papers, the thesis is persuasive. But I wish the author had discussed more fully whether or not this kind of generational heritage was typical of the families of early nineteenth-century missionaries. Although always interesting—even fascinating—the book does leave unanswered the question of its broader significance for the study of nineteenth and twentieth century social and intellectual history.

Queens College, City University of New York

Frank A. Warren

FROM ITALY TO SAN FRANCISCO: The Immigrant Experience. By Dino Cinel. Stanford: Stanford University Press. 1982. \$25.00.

The reawakened sense of, and sensitivity to, ethnicity in the United States have stimulated a resurgence of scholarly interest in immigration history. Cinel's study of Italian immigrants in San Francisco is a distinguished contribution to the field. Based upon examination of the histories of almost 2,000 families over three generations, the second of which was the generation who moved from Italy to San Francisco, the work focuses upon the much debated question of whether change or continuity predominated in the transition immigrants made from the Old World to the New. Looking first at the local socio-economic conditions in Italy that gave rise to mass migration in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and then at the migrants' experience in San Francisco, Cinel opts for the continuity side of the debate. "Immigrants," he concludes, "adjusted with only minimum disruption. To be sure, resettling in America was a major break with the past, but Italian settlements in San Francisco were essentially miniatures of settlements in Italy. . . . Immigrants accepted change, but only those changes least disruptive of their traditions or those that allowed them to recreate the old way of life in the New World."

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

SAWDUST EMPIRE: The Texas Lumber Industry, 1830-1940. By Robert S. Maxwell and Robert D. Baker. College Station: Texas A&M University Press. 1983. \$24.95.

*Sawdust Empire* is more than a specialized regional study, for it is a volume of general interest to students of American industry, labor, economics, technology and conservation. It is excellent for accounts of timber kings and for descriptions of lumbering jobs in forest and mill and of what went on in company towns and stores during the pre-automobile era. It is unduly discreet on the exploitation or segregation of black and other workers. The authors provide a model of authority and clarity and of organizing a historical account around topics arranged to flow in chronological order.

California State University, Los Angeles

Richard G. Lillard

NEW MASTERS: Northern Planters During the Civil War and Reconstruction. By Lawrence N. Powell. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1982. Cloth: \$22.50; paper: \$7.95.

From 1862 and 1868, Powell estimates, something between 20,000 and 50,000 northerners tried their hand at cotton planting in the South. The new masters expected to transform the South in a northern image, to demonstrate the superiority of free labor, to assist in the emancipation of blacks and to make money. They failed on all counts. The South remained distinct, the freedmen had agenda of their own, many Yankee planters acquired the racial attitudes of ex-slaveowners, and most went broke. Although one wishes for a firmer quantitative basis for the story, Powell tells his depressing tale effectively, providing useful detail on a large but little studied portion of the cast in the Reconstruction drama.

University of Minnesota

Russell R. Menard

GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER IN NEW YORK: The Apex of Pragmatic Liberalism in the United States. By James E. Underwood and William J. Daniels. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. Contributions in Political Science, Number 75. 1982. \$35.00.

The present work is the third major account of Nelson Rockefeller as governor of New York State. While acknowledging that Rockefeller tried to do too much too fast, Robert A. Connery and Gerald A. Benjamin's *Rockefeller of New York: Executive Power in the State House* (1979) is a generally favorable assessment. Peter D. McClelland and Alan L. Magdowitz's *Crisis in the Making: The Political Economy of New York State Since 1945* (1981) indicts Rockefeller's fiscal irresponsibility for bringing the state to the edge of bankruptcy. Underwood and Daniels fall between these two views. They give Rockefeller high marks for formulating and carrying out a wide range of "notable" and "innovative" programs aimed at "the more significant problems facing not only New York State but the nation"

(p. 246). And in their estimation, the successes outnumber the failures. On the other side, they admit that Rockefeller's financial management was "little short of disastrous" (p. 245). More fundamentally, they see Rockefeller as exemplifying—in magnified form because of his personality—the excessive confidence of the "pragmatic liberalism" dominant among the nation's political elite since 1945 "in the capacity of government to solve societal problems" (p. 250).

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

TOWARD INCREASED JUDICIAL ACTIVISM: The Political Role of the Supreme Court. By Arthur Selwyn Miller. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1982. \$29.95.

Like many judicial scholars, Miller is bored by the interminable debate between legal realists and formalists. Unlike most of his peers, Miller has the temerity to reject both threads of contemporary thought and propose a revolutionary new synthesis.

Traditional formalism is rejected because its basic assumptions—e.g., judicial neutrality—are contrary to observed fact and because the constraints imposed by these fictitious assumptions render the law impotent in the face of contemporary economic and ecological realities. We cannot, argues Miller, survive as a society—indeed as a species—guided by a constitution that fails to recognize the reality of Lester Thurow's "Zero-Sum Society." Realism is rejected because it, like its philosophical parent, pragmatism, is "indifferent to the 'ought' dimension of law; it concentrates on the 'is' and assumes that that is enough." For Miller, 'is' is not enough, and he offers a synthesis that defines the Supreme Court as our "first faculty of political theory," espouses an unabashedly normative judicial activism and rejects the fiction that we are ruled by laws, not men.

As with any work of this scope and ambition, *Toward Increased Judicial Activism* promises more than it delivers. Miller's synthesis is less revolutionary than he would have us believe. Nonetheless, it delivers an innovative, entertaining critique of the Supreme Court, the Constitution and American legal theory. Miller has written a book that should be read and opened a dialogue that should be expanded.

University of Kansas

C. K. Rowland