

reviews

THE PRESIDENCY OF WILLIAM MCKINLEY. By Lewis L. Gould. Lawrence, Kansas: Regents Press of Kansas. 1981. \$15.00.

This careful analysis of the McKinley presidency advances the thesis that McKinley was, in fact, the first of the *modern* presidents. Gould argues that McKinley laid the foundation of the modern presidency mainly by his use of the war powers clause of the Constitution. Ernest R. May (*The Ultimate Decision*) maintained that McKinley was a war leader *malgré lui* and leaves the impression that the great change was due to Alexander Graham Bell rather than William McKinley. “[McKinley’s] real enemy . . .,” wrote May, “was not the Spaniard but the Democrat. . . .” Gould puts McKinley the war leader ahead of McKinley the partisan leader. In fact, McKinley’s partisan activity was every bit as modernizing as his practice as commander-in-chief. He campaigned as no occupant of the White House had done before him. He used patronage without hesitation. He took “non-partisan” trips at a time when FDR was still in knee pants. Gould’s case would be stronger still if he had shed more light on McKinley’s quantum jump in the role of party leader.

Given the relative scarcity of secondary works on McKinley, Gould’s volume will take a deserved place on library shelves. An excellent bibliographical essay adds to the merits of the book.

University of Kansas

Francis H. Heller

THEODORE ROOSEVELT AND THE IDEA OF RACE. By Thomas G. Dyer. Baton Rouge and London: Louisiana State University Press. 1980. \$14.95.

By concentrating on the sources and development of Theodore Roosevelt’s thinking, Professor Dyer effectively reveals the increasing significance of racial theories on American life and thought during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

In his choice of Theodore Roosevelt as the focal point of this study, Dyer makes certain underlying assumptions: that this method would reveal how the idea of race functioned in that era, that these racial ideas would lend themselves to historical analysis in both their theoretical and non-theoretical aspects and that these ideas would have their impact on Roosevelt’s behavior. What follows is a convincing analysis of Roosevelt’s racial thinking that will enlighten students and scholars about developing racial attitudes of the early twentieth century. Dyer’s research has been commendably thorough, and the quality of his scholarship is matched by his impressive literary skill.

Iowa State University

Suzanne C. Lowitt

INDIAN NEW ENGLAND BEFORE THE MAYFLOWER. By Howard S. Russell. Hanover, New Hampshire: University Press of New England. 1980. \$17.50.

This book makes a solid, scholarly contribution to the knowledge of New England Indians’ agricultural techniques and land tenure. The notes and bibliography are profuse, providing good leads to historical sources. Russell covers other features of New England Indian life less thoroughly, going for breadth rather than depth with a literary style reminiscent of a fifty-year-old ethnography. Scholars may be irritated by

the author's cloying asides about how clever the Indians were; Indian sophistication comes through clearly enough in the more descriptive passages. Laymen will find the book generally informative, but specialists will want to use it selectively.
University of Connecticut

Robert L. Bee

BEEN IN THE STORM SO LONG: The Aftermath of Slavery. By Leon Litwack. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1979. \$20.00.

Litwack provides an encyclopedia of commentary by slaves and whites on each other, on the times and on slavery in eclipse, among other evolving patterns in race relations created by the Civil War. He describes the distortions between the races in their perception of a common—yet alien—human nature. Black assessments of the meaning of freedom revealed a desire for land and success, beyond subsistence; however blighted their hopes, their comments expressed the claim to a share of the nation's ethos. Through such insights and through discussion of the changing structure and function of community in the South, Litwack exposes issues of significance for American Studies.

Middlebury College

Thomas Cox

OIL, WAR, AND AMERICAN SECURITY: The Search for a National Policy on Foreign Oil, 1941-1947. By Michael B. Stoff. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1980. \$15.00

Based on thorough research in British and U.S. official records, this study analyzes the wartime effort to develop a "coherent" policy for the international control of petroleum via an Anglo-American agreement on Middle East oil. Stoff emphasizes the struggle between government officials and private interests over control of foreign petroleum and concludes that the victory, by default, of the major oil companies by 1947 led inexorably to the present energy crisis.

University of Kansas

Theodore A. Wilson

religion

THE NEWMAN MOVEMENT: Roman Catholics in American Higher Education, 1883-1971. By John Whitney Evans. Notre Dame and London: University of Notre Dame Press. 1980. \$14.95.

This study has a dual thrust: first, to present an account of the effort by the Roman Catholic Church to retain the loyalty of student communicants attending secular universities and colleges through the so-called Newman Movement; second, to refute the widely held view about the declining influence of religion among the college-educated. Evans is more successful in his first purpose than his second; his work, though marred by a eulogistic tone, contains valuable information upon the strains and tensions involved in the Americanization of the Church.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

CULT AND COUNTERCULT: A Study of a Spiritual Growth Group and a Witchcraft Order. By Gini Graham Scott. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1980. \$19.95.

This study of two very different and relatively unknown religious minority groups is especially useful in its provision of baseline data which will be useful to other scholars doing analytical work on contemporary religious movements. One of the groups, the Inner Peace Movement, is really not far from the American religious and cultural mainstream; the other, the "Aquarian Age Order" (the name is disguised), is a confederation of witches who reject many prevailing social values. The strength of

the study is its demonstration of how very different groups can appeal to similar needs in persons who do not find religious fulfillment in the established denominations.
University of Kansas Timothy Miller

the colonies

INSIDE THE GREAT HOUSE: Planter Family Life in Eighteenth-Century Chesapeake Society. By Daniel Blake Smith. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press. 1980. \$17.50.

Utilizing the now typical documents of family life—wills, correspondence, diaries and memoirs—and drawing on the theoretical insights of anthropology and psychology, Mr. Smith recreates family life among the planters of Virginia and Maryland. His book covers such important aspects of daily life as male and female roles, parents and their relationship with their children, the protective role of husbands and the submissive role of wives, the importance of heritability and the problems with accumulation that encouraged primogeniture and out-migration in this prolific society. He writes about the ceremonial lives, but integrates marriage, birth and death into daily existence. Hence, these ceremonies become not merely descriptive but sources of analysis. Marriage became more “romantic” during the period; children were valued, but primitive contraceptives were in use; death brought greater sorrow as individuals came to be more appreciated in the family. Ceremonies, daily life and values are all combined in such conclusions. Mr. Smith’s most interesting conclusion is that family attitudes changed. About 1750 the Chesapeake family began to move away from the authoritarian or patriarchal style and to move toward the “child-centered” style. Bonds of affection, give and take among family members, and greater concern with each child indicate the change. In this regard Mr. Smith’s book places family life among the Chesapeake planters on the same track that scholars have discovered among families in England during the same period.

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THE PROMISE OF POWER: The Emergence of the Legal Profession in Massachusetts, 1760-1840. Contributions in Legal Studies, No. 6. By Gerard W. Gawalt. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1979. \$19.95.

Gerard W. Gewalt’s book is a revised doctoral dissertation, but his revisions are substantial. He has enlarged his statistical interpretations, added further conclusions and refined his earlier work. His findings contradict established scholarship. During the period covered, the “fashionable” objection to lawyers became a complex social attitude that rested on class position rather than an antipathy to the law and its manipulation. Indeed, Gewalt finds that entrance into the profession in Massachusetts began to narrow early, about 1760, and from that time forward, especially in eastern Massachusetts, the profession tightened control over its members. General cultural and social patterns led the bar to emphasize education and led attorneys to think of themselves as “professionals” with the connotations that the term has for modern society. Hence, increased standards such as college education or its equivalent and social choices such as marriage patterns and self-selection among the children of other “professionals” led to a fairly uniform group of people whose interests were socially served by continuing and tightening their professional exclusiveness. Neither the American Revolution nor Jacksonian reforms succeeded in loosening this hold. Thus, although he does discover some “radicals” who tried to reform access, Gewalt describes a profession that followed an evolving business society in Massachusetts. Scholars who expected revolutionary upheaval or democratization will have to look outside Massachusetts for examples. As a consequence of roughly four generations during which control continued and tightened, by the 1830’s lawyers in Massachusetts were an educated elite, upper-middle class gentlemen who enjoyed a reputation for learning, intelligence and prudence. Yet in society at large they had a reputation as

manipulators who used the law for their own class interest and who favored the status quo. Gewalt finds both reputations deserved in some measure.

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THE WRITINGS OF THOMAS HOOKER: *Spiritual Adventure in Two Worlds*. By Sargent Bush, Jr. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press. 1980. \$19.50.

Mr. Bush has written a book that displays mature scholarship not only in Puritan literature but also in the early history of New England. He examines the theological influence of Hooker's writing as well as its historical importance. He also provides the first clear sorting of Hooker's intellectual influence in old and New England. Hooker promoted an early vision of religious psychology that was typical in England but unique among American authors and more influential than earlier scholars have thought. Where necessary Mr. Bush expands familiar themes in Puritan theology, but maintains throughout an emphasis on Hooker's voice. Hooker engaged in a search for the religious personality, and this search influenced his prose. His prose in turn influenced other New England authors, John Higginson and Nathaniel Hawthorne, for example, and provided a major source for such American themes as Emerson's ceaseless individual searching. In this regard Mr. Bush's scholarship fits recent trends in New England studies—a deemphasis of law and an emphasis on the heart. Mr. Bush carries this trend forward by suggesting that Hooker exemplifies a "Romantic" strain in Puritan writing, a strain that carries certain themes: individualism, search, allegorical journey and salvation or the promise of it.

University of Florida

Eldon Turner

ideas and society

THE AMERICAN JEREMIAD. By Sacvan Bercovitch. Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press. 1978. \$15.00

This book has already established itself as a major contribution to the study of American culture. Bercovitch eloquently argues that the Puritan jeremiad or "political sermon" evolved into a "ritual" for a middle-class culture "based on faith in process" and on "anxiety" as "its end as well as its means." Out of this ritual emerged the American hero who is "not bourgeois but independent, not parvenu or nouveau riche but adaptable, self-educated, and self-reliant." He is a "self-made man" who embodies the "cultural metaphysics" of process and anxiety. Ritual and myth thus created "an ideological consensus . . . unmatched in any other modern culture" which was able to transcend cultural and racial diversity.

Only an extended application to cultural documents and artifacts will establish the validity of Bercovitch's thesis. In the meantime, its value rests in stimulating us to look at the middle-class ideal not so much as a materialistic ethic but as an approach to life which encourages individuals to see themselves as cultural voyagers exploring the ever new frontiers of the modern. William Dean Howells and Henry James would have approved.

University of Northern Iowa

TRH

CONSTANCE ROURKE AND AMERICAN CULTURE. By Joan Shelley Rubin. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1980. \$16.00.

This long-awaited biography of Constance Rourke tells us more than we need or care to know about Rourke's relationship with her mother, and less than we care or need to know about Rourke's development as writer, thinker, intellectual. Yet the material for such a study is readily available, in the hundred-odd articles and reviews and the six books Rourke completed before her death in 1941 (all conveniently listed in the bibliography), and in the several collections of correspondence and unpublished Rourkeana which Rubin diligently unearthed and carefully examined. Such a study

of Rourke's development is worth doing, moreover, for her work—particularly *Trumpets of Jubilee* (1927) and *American Humor* (1931)—if not seminal to the emerging quest for definition of American civilization in the 1920s and 30s, was at least symptomatic of that characteristic effort of the age just before our own.

Instead, Rubin seeks to “understand,” through an analysis of the relationship of Rourke with her mother (Mr. Rourke was out of the picture by the time baby Constance was a year old), the peculiarity of a career as free-lance and a decision to quit the perfectly good job she had at Vassar. This is at least an error in strategy, for it leads Rubin into a tangle of speculation concerning the psychodynamics of a mutual dependency evident only at second hand, through personal correspondence, or worse, at third hand, through third-party memoirs and fading memories. But it also ignores the real culture in which Rourke lived and wrote, which honored the free-lance as the archetype of the Emersonian American (and which redefined Emerson as free-lance, not incidentally); which viewed the economic viability of free-lancery as proof of America's real coming of age; and which—o tempora, o mores!—defined the academic as free-lance manqué. Instead also, Rubin seeks to locate Rourke in an intellectual dialogue on the “merits” of American civilization, as the speaker for the affirmative against Van Wyck Brooks' negative, and finds, as she must, that Rourke's defense is limited and ultimately less persuasive than Brooks' alleged attack. Too bad, both for the biographer and, if Rubin is right, for American civilization.

In fact, neither Rourke nor Brooks was a debater, and they appear as opponents only in the constrained and artificial arena of the course-syllabus. Both were writers with a keen sense of what would sell, critics impatient with the belles-lettristic and birdwatching traditions of the essay in America, intellectuals with a genuine interest in the viability of non-linear, non-hierarchical, non-evolutionary models of “civilization.” They were thus led by separate paths to confront a series of formal issues debated also by their entire generation of proto-pluralists, concerning the real relationship of high and low culture, the role of myth in patterns of public action as well as in literature, and the usefulness of center-periphery models in explaining the structure of an American culture characterized by diversity (did not Barnum provide a “downtown” for the nation's suburbs?).

Throughout, Rubin seeks to identify the “sources” of Rourke's central concerns, culture, myth, tradition, style and “criticism,” as if these were formulaic concepts which she sought to defend against all comers, rather than the tentative products of her own efforts to understand the nature of civilization and her (our) role in it. It is about this process that we need to know more if we are to understand Rourke herself, the self-conscious intellectual as culture-critic of whom she is conveniently emblematic, or ultimately ourselves. Rubin provides only a start.

University of Cincinnati

Henry D. Shapiro

THE RADICAL PERSUASION, 1890-1917: Aspects of the Intellectual History and the Historiography of Three American Radical Organizations. By Aileen S. Kraditor. Baton Rouge and London: Louisiana State University Press. 1981. \$37.50. Paper: \$12.95.

Candidly admitting that this critique of radical movements in the late 19th and early 20th centuries “is necessarily a critique of my own earlier work as well,” Aileen Kraditor in her perceptive but convoluted study reviews the history of the Socialist Labor Party, the Socialist Party of America and the Industrial Workers of the World not through the perceptions of the leaders or from the focus of sympathetic scholars, but rather through the eyes of John Q. Worker. She attempts to reconstruct this individual's cognizance of himself, his largely ethnic society and the radicals who wooed him at times with some success. She also examines the dilemma of the radicals, particularly those in the SP and the IWW torn between principles and practice, between abstraction and reality, who generally compromised in favor of popularity and hence lost their purpose in promoting a socialist alternative to capitalism. In the case of the SLP, which remained pristine in favor of principle, the party doomed itself to a diminishing status, enjoying no influence and making no impact on the American scene.

Iowa State University

RL

THE AMERICAN SELF: Myth, Ideology and Popular Culture. Edited by Sam B. Girgus. Albuquerque, New Mexico: University of New Mexico Press. 1981. \$20.00.

Seventeen papers growing out of a lecture series, thoughtful, interesting and useful essays among them. The authors represented are Shelley Armitage, George Arms, Houston A. Baker, Jr., James Barbour, Sacvan Bercovitch, Walter Blair, John Cawelti, William C. Downing, Joel Jones, Peter A. Lupsha, Lillian Schlissel, Robert Sklar, Henry Nash Smith, Ference Szasz, Alan Trachtenberg, Marta Weigle and Sam B. Girgus himself. The variety of approaches is refreshing, and the quality of many of these contributions gives sheering evidence of the vitality of our field. I learned from them. SGL

SUBURB: Neighborhood and Community in Forest Park, Ohio, 1935-1976. By Zane L. Miller. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press. 1981. \$18.50

Sociological studies of suburban life have tended to lack historical context. This excellent history of Forest Park, outside Cincinnati, from its beginnings as a New Deal "greenbelt town," is an important contribution toward filling the gap in our knowledge about the process of suburbanization. The work is the more valuable because Miller has attempted to deal with the Forest Park story as "symptomatic" of the ways in which Americans generally have defined their society and structured their communities during the middle third of the twentieth century. A question remains about how typical Forest Park was or is. As Miller acknowledges, Forest Park—unlike most American suburbs—began as a consciously planned "community." Thus the validity of his broader generalizations about the shifts in popular attitudes and values must await the further research which one hopes this provocative study will stimulate. University of Nebraska-Lincoln John Braeman

visual arts

OKLAHOMA HOMES PAST AND PRESENT. By Charles R. Goins and John W. Morris. Norman: University of Oklahoma. 1980. \$25.00.

This handsomely bound quarto provides a visual survey, in 400-plus photos, of a variety of residential structures. These range from tipis and sod huts to quite recent detached houses. We are told that the examples were selected because they are "good examples of a specific type of architecture at a specific time," or have historical significance, or are associated with someone well-known. However, the short introduction that provides some general observations, the brief, individual commentaries and the curiously inconsistent organization do not particularly enlighten us on these criteria or about the history of Oklahoma's architecture. Obviously the book is not intended as a serious historical or critical study; and it is too big and too expensive to serve as a handbook or guide. Thus we can recommend it only as a compilation of identified illustrations (though inexplicably architects are not noted, even when this was feasible) and nothing more.

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THE IMAGE OF THOMAS JEFFERSON IN THE PUBLIC EYE: Portraits for the People, 1800-1809. By Noble E. Cunningham, Jr. Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia. 1981. \$14.95.

This tastefully designed, quarto-size book is a narrative catalogue of the printed images of Thomas Jefferson that were produced or seen by Jefferson's contemporaries during his presidential years, and the preceding election year. In the process of learning what was produced, and by whom, we gain a useful insight into the procedures that were followed in the publication and distribution of portraits of illustrious Americans in the first several decades of the Republic. One consequence of this is that it is

easier to see why the large series of painted portraits made by Charles Willson Peale for display in his museum was an important attraction during this period.

The literature on Jefferson is large and venerable, and continues to grow. It is instructive to see that one can take a fresh point of view toward this material and produce a publication that will undoubtedly be of interest both to Jefferson students and to students of early nineteenth-century cultural history. GE

THE HOLLYWOOD SOCIAL PROBLEM FILM. By Peter Roffman and Jim Purdy. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. 1981. \$25.00; paper: \$12.95.

HOLLYWOOD GENRES: Formulas, Filmmaking, & the Studio System. By Thomas Schatz. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1981. \$19.95.

The Roffman-Purdy book is particularly well suited to an American Studies audience, for while it unearths no new materials or presents no fresh insights that will challenge current interpretations, it does a workmanlike job of recalling and explaining the many social problems that Hollywood studios ventured to make between 1930 and the 1950s, as the industry began to develop an often controversial social conscience. A valuable text for the many social science courses that now deal largely with films.

Schatz's book also covers familiar ground. The genres considered are the western, the gangster film, the hardboiled detective film, the screwball comedy, the musical and the family melodrama à la Douglas Sirk. It cannot, however, be recommended as an ultimate reference because of its superficial coverage. The discussion of screwball comedy, for example, oversimplifies its origins and motivations and overlooks such important early examples as *Theodora Goes Wild* (1936) and *Woman Chases Man* (1937). Musicals not mentioned include the archetypal *Gold Diggers of Broadway* and *Show Boat* (both 1929). WF

literature

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE IN HIS TIMES. By James R. Mellow. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. 1980. \$19.95.

Handsomely illustrated and lucidly composed, this volume is an excellent introduction to Hawthorne and his contemporaries. It is old-fashioned, written in the tradition of Van Wyck Brooks's *The Flowering of New England*; it offers no new hypotheses about its subject; and its criticism of Hawthorne's fiction is rudimentary. But the book is full of accurate, thoroughly documented information, and in an age of tortured critical theorizing, Mr. Mellow's work provides welcome relief.

University of Oklahoma

Roy R. Male

STEPHEN CRANE AND LITERARY IMPRESSIONISM. By James Nagel. University Park and London: Pennsylvania State University. 1980. \$16.50.

This book rather determinedly attempts to locate the principal virtue of Crane's fiction in his aesthetic and thematic commitment to the tenets and techniques of Impressionism. Deriving from Conrad's early (and easy) assertion that Crane was "only an impressionist," drawing sustenance from Marston La France's relentless campaign against viewing Crane as a philosophical determinist and for seeing him as primarily an ironist, and complementing in a more systematized way the insights into the effects of Crane's style laid out by Frank Bergon, James Nagel's thesis is presented in no uncertain terms: "Crane's fiction derives from a narrator's projection in language of the thoughts and sensory experiences of a principal character. These are 'impressions' in a fundamental sense, and they reveal the limitations of the center of intelligence and the psychological 'reality' of his experience. As a result, these images evoke a sense of 'realism' in the reader, who is able to experience visual, auditory, tactile, olfactory and kinaesthetic sensations on the same level as the experiential character" (145). Not

everyone will accept this shy at the figure in Stevie Crane's carpet, but it cannot be ignored.

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ROBERT FROST AND SIDNEY COX: Forty Years of Friendship. By William R. Evans. Hanover, New Hampshire and London: University Press of New England. 1981. \$17.50.

This book traces Frost's relationship to the younger Sidney Cox. Documented through their correspondence as well as attendant relevant letters to and from others, Evans' study adds to our understanding of the maze that was Frost's life and personality. Intimacy there was between Frost the cynosure and Cox the worshipful Boswell-from-a-distance, but theirs was a closeness controlled from the very beginning by the older, sterner, more calculating of the two. Here is further evidence that Frost, whose main business was the humanities, was a not-always-humane engineer of other human beings.

Brown University

George Monteiro

THE OTHER JOHN UPDIKE: Poems, Short Stories, Prose, Play. By Donald J. Greiner. Athens: Ohio University Press. 1981. \$18.95; paper: \$7.95.

This appreciation of works-other-than novels by our best author is intelligent and conscientious, though sometimes dull; Greiner wastes too much time in telling us why he's doing what he's doing and in plot summary. The book is useful, though, because it covers so much and because of its careful index. There is still at least one "other" Updike, by the way—someone should look at JHU the cartoonist. SGL

THE LITERARY CRITICISM OF HENRY JAMES. By Sarah B. Daugherty. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press. 1981. \$15.95.

Daugherty's attempt to place James within his historical context is disappointingly superficial; moreover, her writing style is unusually dry, and there are far too many quotations. On the other hand, the specific information she provides is invaluable to anyone wishing to investigate aspects of James' literary criticism, theory and practice. Rhode Island School of Design Alice Hall Petry

AMERICAN DIARY LITERATURE, 1620-1799. By Steven E. Kagle. Boston: G.K. Hall and Co. 1979. \$13.50.

This is a useful introduction to better- and lesser-known diarists of the period. The diaries are grouped into conventional categories: spiritual journals, travel diaries, war diaries, diaries of romance and courtship and the more inclusive "life" diaries. Unfortunately, diaries, like the people who write them, rarely conform to neat divisions, and some readers will find that the more interesting diaries like Anne Home Livingston's (1763-1841) contain matters far more complex than the narrow category to which they have been assigned. Kagle's book, nevertheless, is a concise guide to diary literature of the early national period.

Brooklyn College

Lillian Schlissel

THE HOMOSEXUAL TRADITION IN AMERICAN POETRY. By Robert K. Martin. Austin: University of Texas Press. 1979. \$14.95. Paper: \$7.95.

A study of several male American poets whom the author places in a tradition because they "have defined themselves as homosexuals and . . . given expression to their sexuality in their work," Martin's is the first book to approach gay literature positively and from within gay experience. Working by close textual analysis, Martin discusses

Whitman and Hart Crane as central figures. Between these two long sections, he has an illuminating chapter on a group of genteel nineteenth-century homosexual poets: Fitz-Greene Halleck, Bayard Taylor and his circle, and George Santayana. The final section contains sometimes rushed discussions of seven contemporaries: Allen Ginsberg, Robert Duncan, Thom Gunn, Edward Field, Richard Howard, James Merrill and Alfred Corn.

Martin's organizing scheme is too broad; the book lacks a more concrete unifying thesis or theses. Since it is possible to comprehend and write about one's homosexuality in different ways, it is not enough to base a tradition on the writers' self-definition and subject matter alone. This makes the book unknowingly diffuse—e.g., though Crane certainly invokes Whitman, he is very different formally, and several of Martin's contemporaries follow conventions of irony and ornateness foreign to Whitman. The book is more a study of several important homosexual *presences* in American poetry, some of whom follow different traditions, than it is a demonstration of *one* homosexual tradition there.

At times Martin's connections to contemporary radical social and sexual theory seem thrown in, and the book lacks sufficient research into gay history. Martin is disappointingly equivocal in his conclusion, where he seems to deny the cultural oppression of homosexuality that is implied throughout his materials. And the adjective "male" should have been added to the title—without it Martin inadvertently implies that American lesbian writing has no significance. But Martin's accomplishments overshadow these shortcomings. He is very skillful at textual explication and he has courageously opened up an entire field that traditional scholarship has persistently evaded. His book will be controversial and should be required reading.

New York, New York

Joseph Cady

studies of women

MARGARET FULLER'S *WOMAN IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY*: A Literary Study of Form and Content, of Sources and Influence. By Marie Mitchell Olesen Urbanski. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1980. \$17.95.

With this study Urbanski joins the ranks of other recent writers such as Belle Gale Cevigny, Paula Blanchard and Margaret Vanderhaar Allen who illustrate how former critics denigrated Margaret Fuller's reputation. In an effort to reclaim *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*, Urbanski methodically traces the many sources Fuller uses and demonstrates her penchant for synthesizing them. Urbanski's tightly structured explication allows her to reorder and elucidate Fuller's ideas which, as Urbanski explains in one of the best sections of her book, Fuller presented in a "soaring and circular" manner foreign to most of today's readers.

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FEMININE SPIRITUALITY IN AMERICA: From Sarah Edwards to Martha Graham. By Amanda Porterfield. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1980. \$16.50.

Porterfield proposes to illustrate how femininity characterizes a powerful tradition of spirituality that is distinct from the patriarchal spirituality or feminine moral superiority. She ventures no conceptual definition of feminine spirituality, but illustrates it through the lives of Sarah Edwards, Emily Dickinson, Catherine Beecher, Martha Graham and others. Certain common characteristics emerge from the illustrations: the women react against conventional spirituality, fuse sexuality with their spirituality, and apprehend beauty. This definition, however, does not adequately distinguish spirituality, even secular spirituality, from self-actualization or fulfillment. Porterfield occasionally wrenches the meaning of conventional terms as when she claims that "the success of Dickinson's craft became a religious vocation" and that "Graham's esthetic was finally a theology."

University of Northern Iowa

Grace Ann Hovet

WOMEN, WAR, AND WORK: The Impact of World War I on Women Workers in the United States. By Maurine Weiner Greenwald. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1980. \$27.50.

This well-written first scholarly interpretation of the role of women during World War I comprises case studies of workers in the railroad, intracity transit and telephone industries. Women's contributions to the war and the war's effect on their self perceptions, relations with male bosses and workers, and opportunities during and after the war are thoroughly documented. For example, standardization of certain work routines made it possible for less skilled women to substitute for more skilled men.

Indiana University

D'Ann Campbell

CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN: The Making of a Radical Feminist, 1860-1896. By Mary A. Hill. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1980. \$14.95.

The emergence of contemporary feminism in the late sixties provided momentum for further investigation of Gilman and her inclusion in the literary and historical canon of Women's Studies. A complex, searching, resolute individual emerges from the pages of this richly textured biography. Nevertheless, the closely argued and compelling portrait of Gilman is not sufficiently balanced by analysis of the social and cultural milieu that contributed to "the making of a radical feminist." The documentation of Gilman's conflict notwithstanding, Hill neither places them in context nor considers their implications for nineteenth-century women. Gilman's life posed in the starkest light possible a basic dilemma confronting women, but the conflict between social dictates and self-assertion, between commitment to one's family and individual aspirations, between the home and the world beyond, were hardly unique to her. There are also instances in which Hill employs evidence from a period or setting other than the one she is attempting to document. Those caveats aside, Hill's utilization of sources is skillful, her judgment incisive, and her analysis cogent. Here is an important contribution that makes one eager for the completion of the second volume.

Dartmouth College

Mary Kelley

WOMAN AND TEMPERANCE. By Ruth Bordin. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1981. \$17.50.

Dedicated not only to abolishing the use of alcohol but also to solving numerous other social and political problems, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) developed into an activist reform organization and grew in size to become the largest organization of women in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Curiously, only a few serious studies of this important organization exist. Ruth Bordin's *Woman and Temperance* is the most recently published and to date best over-all study of the WCTU. This book is generally well-researched, carefully documented, judiciously presented and well-written. Bordin's analysis covers the period from the early 1870's to the turn of the century. A further analysis of the WCTU in the first two decades of the twentieth century would now be useful.

Central Connecticut State College

Norton Mezvinsky