

There are, of course, more obvious ways to use the strips to illuminate social and cultural processes: speaking as an editor thinking about how my consultants have reacted to the mss. on comics submitted to *American Studies*, I would say that next in importance to knowledge of the strips themselves, their history and the history of their techniques, is professional competence in whichever social or cultural process is under discussion. Authors of articles on the comics who are soundly trained in—as opposed to merely “sensitized” to—let us say, issues in race, religion, sex roles or ethnicity in America, would be able to say very useful things to the rest of us. We would all profit, for instance, from good discussions of the meaning of ethnic and racial stereotypes in the comics. In the present group, *Abie*, of course, stereotypes Jews. The meaning must be complex, first because the stereotype is reasonably affectionate, second because the author and, I have to believe, much of the audience, are themselves Jewish. (It is a little more complicated than this. Like Twain’s Jim, Abie sometimes steps out of character because of the demands of a comic routine.)

Jewish stereotyping in the comics is not always friendly. Hershfield, Herriman and McKay, moreover, also use fat-lipped caricatures of Black people. The stereotyping is generally pretty good-humored, as when Abie himself appears in blackface in a minstrel show at his lodge. In *Popeye* and *Dream Days*, “African cannibals” are drawn about the same way. These stereotypes appear, develop, change and disappear in a pattern which is worth studying and explaining. A student of such things could profit by a look at such comparable studies as Jules Zanger’s analysis of stereotyped literary dialects which appeared in this journal (“Literary Dialect and Social Change,” VII, 2 [Fall 1966], pp. 40 ff.); they might be methodologically suggestive.

All this is by way of an invitation; we are receptive to a certain (good) kind of article.

SGL

reviews

TESTING THE ROOSEVELT COALITION: Connecticut Society and Politics in the Era of World War II. By John W. Jeffries. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press. 1979. \$16.50.

The author presents Connecticut as a case study of the emergence of the Roosevelt Coalition and of the stresses it underwent in the course of the Second World War. Major attention is given to ethnic divisions and to the increase of industrialization and urbanization, especially in response to war production needs, but the interplay of personalities among the leaders of both parties is not neglected. Voting statistics are skillfully integrated into the narrative. While Jeffries does not purport to offer a major thesis, his work is a model of political historiography.

FHH

THE PORT OF NEW YORK: A History of the Rail and Terminal System from the Beginnings to Pennsylvania Station. By Carl W. Condit. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1980. \$29.95.

Condit has assembled a prodigious amount of information concerning the history of the rail and terminal system of the Port of New York, but the presentation of this data is disappointing, and the book (especially the maps) is frustrating to use. In its present form, the contents read as a sequence of detailed notes on a large number of topics for a book, but not as *the* book on the subject. The material is gathered into eight chapters, seven of which are divided into three or more sections. There is little sense of continuity among the sections or the chapters, hence it is difficult to gain a sense of historical development of the Port of New York. The book, however, can be used as a valuable reference tool for those with patience.

GE

arms and rights

WORLD WAR I AND THE ORIGIN OF CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THE UNITED STATES. By Paul L. Murphy. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. \$16.95.

Paul Murphy, who has previously given us an excellent study of First Amendment freedoms in the post-World War I period (*The Meaning of Freedom: First Amendment Freedoms from Wilson to F.D.R.* (1972)), here explores the question of the reasons for the emergence of these freedoms as major public concerns during the First World War. He shows that the concerted effort, encouraged if not spearheaded by the federal government, to array the public behind the war effort bred intolerance and lawlessness. The fact that the victims of this repression were in most instances totally innocent of any wrongdoing aroused concerns which laid the foundations for a continuing tradition in the defense of civil liberties. Professor Murphy, who is clearly a part of that tradition, has produced an excellent account of its origins.

* * *

MONTANA'S AGONY: Years of War and Hysteria, 1917-1921. By Arnon Gutfeld. Gainesville: University Presses of Florida. 1979. \$6.50.

Suppression of Civil Liberties during World War I reached extreme proportions in the state of Montana, long totally dominated by the Anaconda Copper Company. This monograph chronicles the events in Montana, analyzes their causes and concludes that, given the dominance of powerful economic interests, progressivism was doomed to fail—even if it was necessary to ignore the basic precepts of democratic government.

FHH

GRAY STEEL AND BLUE WATER NAVY: The Formative Years of America's Military-Industrial Complex, 1881-1917. By Benjamin Franklin Cooling. Hamden, Connecticut: Archer Books. 1979. \$19.50.

In recent years, the origins of that institution about which President Eisenhower prophesied, the "military-industrial complex," has been pushed back in time—to the early Cold War, to the First World War, and now, in Benjamin Franklin Cooling's study of naval expansion, to the 1880s. There, it may remain because it is difficult to conceive of a military-industrial complex without industrialization and because Cooling makes a persuasive case for terming the U.S. Navy's effort to build a high seas fleet by forging relationships with the steel industry, special interest groups in Congress the "first military-industrial complex." This is a fascinating work, clearly written and based on thorough research. It should be of interest to business and institutional historians as well as specialists in military/naval and diplomatic history.

University of Kansas

Theodore A. Wilson

history of ideas

THE RISE OF AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY: Cambridge, Massachusetts 1860-1930. By Bruce Kuklick. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. Clothbound 1977. \$30.00. Paperback 1979. \$9.95.

This ambitious, brilliant and provocative book attempts to chart “the history of philosophic thinking in the United States as typified and dominated by Harvard from 1860 to 1930” (p. xvii). Kuklick has two major foci for his study. One is the ideas of the leading Harvard-based philosophers; the second is the emergence of philosophy as a professional discipline with its defined niche in the university curriculum.

The largest portion of the text is devoted to an analysis of the ideas of the major figures of Harvard philosophy’s “Golden Age”—William James, Josiah Royce, Hugo Munsterberg and George Santayana. But Kuklick does not fall into the trap of looking at their ideas as simple exercises in abstract thought. He recognizes that temperament was a key factor in predisposing a philosopher to embrace one or another solution to a problem. Simultaneously, the concerns of society—or at least of its cultural elite—determined the agenda for philosophical speculation. In the latter nineteenth century, the critical issue preoccupying the educated public, and thus the Harvard philosophers, was the threat presented by Darwinism to religious faith.

Unlike precursors and contemporaries, such as Chauncey Wright and Charles Pierce, who likewise grappled with the Darwinian challenge, the big four were members of the emerging higher educational establishment. Yet because of the centrality of the issues with which they dealt, they spoke to a wider audience than simply fellow academicians. Their successors—such as Ralph Barton Perry, William Ernest Hocking and C.I. Lewis—were primarily technicians whose influence did not extend beyond the community of professional philosophers. Thus, in a real sense, the story Kuklick has to tell is one of decline. The price of institutional success was that “philosophy lost its synthesizing, comprehensive function” (565).

* * *

SOCIAL DARWINISM: Science and Myth in Anglo-American Social Thought. By Robert C. Bannister. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1979. \$15.00.

Bannister argues that most previous students of the impact of Darwinism upon social thought have exaggerated the extent to which Darwinian ideas provided a rationale and justification for *laissez-faire*, unrestrained economic competition and a devil-take-the-hindmost attitude toward losers in the marketplace. This misapprehension was due partly to their failure to distinguish between Spencerianism and Darwinism, partly to their accepting at face value “the myth of social Darwinism” (10) fostered by contemporary reformers as a weapon in their attack upon the defenders of *laissez-faire*. His thesis is that the *Origin of Species* “from the start, fatally undermined social speculation based on the assumptions of harmonious, mechanical, self-regulating laws of nature.” (9) Thus, its principal legacy was “the reform Darwinism that flourished in various forms from the 1880s onward” whose keynote was the belief that conscious human control must replace natural forces which, “if left alone, were evil and destructive.” “Socially,” he concludes, “this perception helped generate a decade of progressive reform. Intellectually, it fostered significant departures in sociology and social science.” (11)

Unfortunately, Bannister exaggerates how revisionary his thesis is. His differences with Richard Hofstadter’s *Social Darwinism in American Thought*—which he sees as the seminal work popularizing the notion of the reactionary impact of Darwinian ideas—are largely a matter of emphasis. Even he acknowledges that what he dismisses as “a tiny minority” (10) drew conservative implications from Darwinism. And Hofstadter saw clearly how a broad spectrum of advocates of government regulation and social welfare reform found in Darwinism support for their programs.

* * *

HUMAN NATURE IN AMERICAN THOUGHT: A History. By Merle Curti. Madison and London: University of Wisconsin Press. 1980. \$25.00.

In this pioneering and landmark study, the fruition of over forty years of thought and research, Curti examines the ideas that American thinkers, writers and publicists have held about human nature. He relates, within a largely chronological framework, the transmission of European ideas to the New World, their reception and adaptation on these shores, and the new contributions made by American intellectuals. "Throughout our history," he points out in his preface, "some idea about the nature of mankind has informed religious discussion, literature, education, and political, social, and economic theory and practice. Assumptions and reflections about human nature have in turn left their mark on all these." (xi)

Although the specific terms and language of the discussion have changed over time, the debate on the nature of human nature has revolved around two primary foci. One involved the dispute "regarding the innate evil, goodness, or moral neutrality of the human being as such." (410) The second major issue was "the immutability or plasticity of human nature." (411) And the most important contribution of the book is Curti's success in placing the differing views that have emerged on these questions solidly within the larger social and cultural context. Thus, he shows how changes in the acceptability and popularity of one or another set of views about human nature reflected the impact of a myriad of social, political, economic, technological and intellectual developments. At the same time, he brilliantly illuminates how assumptions about human nature underlay and shaped the responses by Americans to such issues as slavery, race relations, education, the family, the economic order, the role of government, and war and peace.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

FREEDOM AND FATE IN AMERICAN THOUGHT FROM EDWARDS TO DEWEY. By Paul F. Boller, Jr. Dallas: SMU Press. 1978. \$15.00.

This book is not intended for specialists on the individuals covered, such as Paine, Calhoun and Twain. Rather, the author deals with figures who are representative of various attitudes toward free will and necessity. The individual chapters are tightly reasoned, Boller's terminology is lucid and the discussion of Emerson is particularly penetrating.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Kent P. Ljungquist

the presidency

PREJUDICE AND THE OLD POLITICS: The Presidential Election of 1928. By Allan J. Lichtman. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. \$20.00.

In this statistically sophisticated but readable study, Lichtman focuses on the electorate voting behavior of the Hoover/Smith presidential race. In one respect, his analysis confirms the contemporary common-sense assessment that religion—with Protestants pitted against Catholics—was the central issue in 1928: ". . . religious considerations preoccupied the public, commanded the attention of political leaders, and sharply skewed the behavior of voters. Regardless of their ethnic background, their stand on prohibition, their economic status, and other politically salient attributes, Catholics and Protestants split far more decisively in 1928 than in either previous or subsequent elections." (231) More revisionary is his challenge to the thesis put forth by Samuel Lubell and V. O. Key, Jr., that the election marked a major turning point in American politics: that the "Al Smith Revolution" laid the basis for the new Democratic majority that emerged during the 1930's. Lichtman convincingly shows that because of the overriding importance of the religious issue, 1928 was "an aberrant election that had little impact on later patterns of politics. Electoral

alignments of the 1930s resulted primarily from the responses of Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt to challenges posed by the Great Depression." (239)
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
John Braeman

THE PRESIDENCY OF ANDREW JOHNSON. By Albert Castel. Lawrence: Regents Press of Kansas. 1979. \$15.00.

This volume, another in the American Presidency series, assesses Andrew Johnson not on moralistic or ideological grounds but in terms of his effectiveness in using the powers of the Presidency. On this basis he is adjudged a failure. Although the biographical treatment of Johnson's pre-presidential years is highly compressed, it lays the groundwork by attributing Johnson's urge for political power to bitterness over the hardships of his boyhood and resentment against the rich and well-born. Endowed with great oratorical ability, Johnson was motivated by vindictiveness and vengeance. He was indeed poorly suited to lead in "a time to heal."

A seventeen-page chapter on "Johnson before the Bar of History" concludes the volume and must be regarded as one of its outstanding features.

FHH

education

THE PARADOX OF PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION: The Gary Plan and Urban Schooling. By Ronald D. Cohen and Raymond A. Mohl. Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat Press. 1979. \$15.00.

The authors illuminate their title by showing how various aspects of the Gary Plan demonstrate the contradictory drives within progressive education toward efficiency on the one hand, and enrichment on the other. Though uniformly well-written and researched, some chapters, such as "Immigrants and the Gary Schools," are much more significant than others, such as "Willis Brown and Child Saving in Gary." Furthermore, the book reads more like a set of essays on interrelated topics than like a carefully integrated analysis. Still, the authors thoughtfully convey the complex interconnections between school administrators, local elites and various local groups.

Utah State University

Carol A. O'Connor

COLD WAR ON THE CAMPUS: Academic Freedom at the University of Washington, 1946-64. By Jane Sanders. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press. 1979. \$12.50.

The University of Washington was the first in the nation to dismiss tenured professors because of Communist Party membership. Sanders' account of the events in Seattle shows a sure grasp of the complex relationships existing within the university and between the university and the community. Her major weakness is her uncritical acceptance of a simplistic absolutist version of academic freedom. There were the good guys and the bad guys. Until the late 1950's, the bad guys prevailed, due in large part, she argues, to a timorous administration and a divided and uncertain faculty who failed "to clearly enunciate the necessity of an untrammelled atmosphere for the pursuit of truth in the midst of a social crisis." (vii)

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

religion

PUBLIC RELIGION IN AMERICAN CULTURE. By John F. Wilson. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1979. \$12.50.

Wilson explores "the utility of Public Religion . . . as a working concept for students of American religious history" and argues that the "civil religion" and "Religion of the Republic" proposals of Robert Bellah and Sidney Mead respectively were calls for revitalization of American culture and must be interpreted as specific social products of the 1960s when American culture and religion were called into question. In successive chapters, informed by anthropological and sociological insights, Wilson analyzes the cultural materials that might constitute a civil, or as he prefers, public, religion in America: the myths surrounding the national covenant, the religious language of Presidents, the civic rituals of political life, the pluriform religious meanings of community, and the social institutions— churches, public schools, law, communications and voluntary patriotic associations—that might transmit a public religion. Wilson concludes that America has not had a differentiated, well-institutionalized public religion and that the ambiguity of the concept is due to theoretical confusion that has led to the uncritical mixing of social, cultural, political and theological analyses. Sharing the ambiguities of what he calls an "exasperatingly elusive" topic, Wilson's book is nevertheless important for all scholars interested in the ongoing discussion about civil religion.

Concordia College— Moorhead, Minnesota

Carroll Engelhardt

RICHMOND'S JEWRY: Shabbat in Shockoe. 1769-1976. By Myron Berman. Charlottesville, Virginia: University Press of Virginia. 1979. \$12.50.

Relying primarily on Jewish source materials, the author has written a descriptive and traditional history of an American Jewish community. Little distinguishes Richmond's Jewish community from other American Jewish communities either in the origin and development of its religious and secular institutions and organizations or in the problems encountered within the community and as a religious and ethnic minority. Richmond Jewish attitudes toward slavery and racial questions mirrored those of the non-Jewish white majority. Although well-written, the study adds little that is new or unique to what is already known.

Tel-Aviv University

Robert Rockaway

FROM WILDERNESS TO WASTELAND: The Trial of the Puritan God in the American Imagination. By Charles Berryman. Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat Press. 1979. \$15.00.

Despite its claims to be original and controversial, this is on the whole a straightforward, commonplace vulgarization of a somewhat antiquated version of the long decline of Puritanism in America. (Berryman's presentation of T. S. Eliot as Puritanism reborn is less commonplace, but also less probable.) Of no interest to scholars; students pursuing the subject should go to the source and read the work of Perry Miller.

The University of Chicago

Laurence Rosenwald

PHOTOGRAPHY IN AMERICA: The Formative Years, 1839-1900. By William Welling. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell. 1978. \$29.95.

This is an encyclopedic history of the development of the photograph in America during the nineteenth century. Welling provides a wealth of documentation including numerous reprinted newspaper and magazine articles of the period. The book contains a description of the scientific advances in the field of photography as well as the

social uses of the photograph. A failing which restricts its usefulness is the lack of any detailed consideration of the intellectual impact that photography was having in either the arts or the sciences. Even with this omission, which very well may be the result of the decision to organize the book chronologically, Welling's book is absolutely indispensable for anyone who would study the history of photography in America.

Iowa State University

Charles L. P. Silet

SOUTHERN MUSIC: American Music. By Bill C. Malone. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky. 1979. \$9.95.

This brief but valuable survey of the ways in which American popular music (and, occasionally, serious music) fed on Southern folk musics over the past hundred years is sometimes lacking in proportion (Scott Joplin gets less than one page, Elvis Presley more than two). The bibliographical notes will be particularly useful to scholars outside the field.

CH

BELIEVING SKEPTICS: American Political Intellectuals, 1945-1964. By Robert Booth Fowler. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1978. \$19.95.

Fowler, in this conscientious but plodding study, achieves a reasonably detached evaluation of an emotion-charged topic. His findings are not surprising but do provide a thorough and useful analysis for the knowledgeable reader of recent United States political and intellectual history. Fowler concludes that America's postwar political thinkers embraced skepticism in name but were in practice skeptical only of those values, concepts and beliefs that were linked to the political radicalism of the 1930s and that threatened to bring political change. Instead, says Fowler, most of these self-designated skeptics were true believers in their own essentially conservative ideology—an ideology which praised America and sought to preserve stability and the postwar liberal consensus.

Iowa State University

Mary S. McAuliffe

BRINGING THE LEFT HOME: A Critique of American Social Criticism. By Gary Thom. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. 1979. \$17.50.

Thom's argument is that both "left-liberal" and Marxist criticisms are based upon an inadequate conception of human nature that fails to recognize how human beings are at the same time drawn toward achieving maximum personal autonomy, on the one hand, and toward seeking membership in a community, on the other. What is needed, he concludes, is the development of "an explicit communal ethic" (222) that would "simultaneously affirm and do justice to these apparently opposite and contradictory needs and aspirations, to overcome these oppositions as if they were not really opposite and contradictory." (219) Whatever this magic formula might be is left hidden amidst a mass of turgid and unreadable prose filled with innumerable as-so-and-so-said.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Braeman

THE CHEROKEE FREEDMEN: From Emancipation to American Citizenship. By Daniel F. Littlefield, Jr. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1978. \$18.95. **AFRICANS AND CREEKS: From the Colonial Period to the Civil War.** By Daniel F. Littlefield, Jr. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1979. \$22.50.

Both works are volumes in the Greenwood Press series Contributions in Afro-American and African Studies. *Cherokee Freedmen* tells the story of an important factor in weakening and factionalizing the Cherokee Nation. Controversies over tribal citizenship and recognition involving freedmen after the Civil War harmed tribal leadership, undermined tribal autonomy and worked against the internal governmen-

tal strength of the Cherokees, just as Congressional enactments emerged to end tribal sovereignty through allotment. The book is an impressive account of blacks who were better off under Cherokee rule and who were disfranchised and segregated under Oklahoma state acts after they became United States citizens. *Africans and Creeks* details the significant impact on Creek society of the small black minority within that nation from the early eighteenth century through the Civil War period. There is some overlap with the author's 1977 *Africans and Seminoles*, but the Creek book demonstrates the important role blacks played in acculturation and factionalism in the Indian society, pressures for removal, separation of the Seminoles from the Creeks and conflicts in the West. Both *Freedmen* and *Creeks* are based upon exhaustive research, and are almost overwhelmingly detailed.

California State University, Long Beach

C. B. Clark

AMIRI BARAKA/LeROI JONES: *The Quest for a "Populist Modernism."* By Werner Sollors. New York: Columbia University Press. 1978. \$16.95.

This book makes Baraka's life and work coherent by tracing, through the four stages of the career, the writer's habit of blending American and Afro-American "popular" culture with European "modernism." New biographical and bibliographical data and fresh, informative views of Baraka from diverse modernist perspectives make scholarship the chief virtue of this well-researched book. Though indispensable as a factual and historical account, it contains a number of unconvincing interpretations of key works and experiences. The trip to Cuba is mostly about youth and age, and the villain of *Dutchman* is less Lula or racism than "the world." Most disappointing is that an all-consuming "populist modernism" reduces Baraka to a mechanical man by absorbing the credit for his virtuosity and the responsibility for his flaws.

Boston College

Henry A. Blackwell

obnafrucepbopitroas*

e. e. cummings: *THE GROWTH OF A WRITER.* By Norman Friedman. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press. 1980. \$5.95. An affectionate and sympathetic overview and a coherent (though not always pointed) survey of the cummings canon as it was known up to around 1962: this is a valuable and useful book, informal in tone and sensible in judgement, one of the best of SIU's "Crosscurrents" series. It is good to have it in paper, albeit at a price which must be about as high as the 1964 hardback cost.

AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS: *A Critical Reference Guide*, vol. 2. Edited by Lina Mainiero. New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing Co., Inc. 1980. \$45.00. Entries of a couple of pages each, uneven in sophistication but uniformly useful, of women writers of many sorts. We found the note on our contributor Gerda Lerna informative and moving.

Bernard Hirsch of the University of Kansas eyeballed a new reference volume for us: THE

AMERICAN INDIAN IN SHORT FICTION: *An Annotated Bibliography.* By Peter G. Beidler and Marion F. Egge. Metuchen, New Jersey: The Scarecrow Press, Inc. 1979. He reports: "Though by no means exhaustive, as the authors themselves readily acknowledge, this bibliography, which covers the period from 1890 to the present, should prove most helpful to scholars in various disciplines who are concerned with the causes and manifestations of public perceptions of and attitudes toward Native Americans."

THE BOOK OF SHAKER FURNITURE. By John Kassay. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. 1980. \$35.00. Handsome photographs and elucidating commentary thereon. Good introduction and captions; numerous diagrams; a chronology and a glossary.

INDIAN ARTISTS AT WORK. By Ulli Steltzer. Seattle: University of Washington Press. 1977. \$14.95. Handsome photographs, organized into what are almost photo-essays.

*Other books, not accepted for review under current editorial policies, but of potential interest to readers of *American Studies*.