

reviews

AMERICAN CHARACTER AND CULTURE IN A CHANGING WORLD: Some Twentieth-Century Perspectives. Edited by John A. Hague. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1979. \$29.95.

The first edition of *American Character and Culture* was composed chiefly of essays read in the Charles E. Merrill lecture series at Stetson University, and therefore, while the individual essays (for example, David M. Potter's well-known "American Women and the American Character") were often provocative in one way or another, the collection as a whole was somewhat miscellaneous. The second edition reprints nine of the original ten essays and adds fifteen new ones. If there is a major difference between the two editions, aside from the obvious fact that both America and the world seem rather different in 1979 from the way they seemed in 1964, it is in the increased concern with method in the second edition. Thus, for example, Bruce A. Lohof gives us a structuralist reading of the "short short" stories from *Good Housekeeping* magazine and Albert E. Stone gives us two essays on childhood, one written before and one after he had begun reading seriously in post-Freudian psychology. Murray Murphey contributes tightly-reasoned definitions of culture and personality in accord with stimulus-response theory, but warns that "Whether the same results would be obtained on the basis of Freudian theory or field theory or McClelland's theory or the many other possible choices is a question which must be left to the proponents of those approaches."

This is to suggest that while there does seem to be an increased concern for method in American Studies, we do not seem to be moving toward any one method, and for that we can all be thankful. The old question of whether American Studies can develop a method was after all a false question. Has English developed a method? Has history? What we find in most academic fields is not a method but a subject matter which can be profitably approached from a variety of points of view, employing a variety of methods. If that is true of traditional departments it should be doubly true of so broad (and sometimes so amorphous) a field as American Studies.

CH

A MAN'S PLACE: Masculinity in Transition. By Joe L. Dubbert. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, Inc. 1979. \$10.95. Paper: \$5.95.

Dubbert has two broad goals in his study of "the historical imagination and activity" of white middle-class Protestant heterosexual males in nineteenth and twentieth-century America. One is to establish that "middle-class American males had to contend with a paradigmatic revolution in self-perception" in the last two hundred years, marked by a transition from a "space paradigm" based on the earlier frontier experience to one of "place . . . community [and] social environment" reflecting the changed conditions of modern urban, technological and bureaucratic America. He succeeds in illustrating the shift, but his basic argument repeats what has already been said about this subject, especially Peter G. Filene's *Him/Her/Self: Sex Roles in Modern America* (1975). His other, implied, goal is to explain "the formation of the male image in American history." Dubbert is not successful here because he considers

only the frontier as a crucial symbol in the traditional American male imagination while ignoring the conditions of earlier colonial society and feminist arguments about patriarchy as an entrenched cultural system in human history.

A Man's Place is a survey whose format does not allow for a adequate analysis of any issue. Dubbert's remarks are often overstated or elementary; his discussion contains a good deal of repetition of motifs, tending to belie his point about substantive shifts within the general period. There are also methodological problems--e.g., the use of one source to represent an entire group or situation, with no thought apparently given to how representative that source really is. The treatment of literature is often simplistic or inaccurate. There are an unusual number of printing errors, and some citations are faulty. Most "men's history," for all its potential for reframing our understanding of past issues and our present social and moral situation, has been obvious or unsophisticated. This book is more valuable for its general concerns and outline than for its treatment of any particular topic within this broad area.

New York, New York

Joseph Cady

THE ORGANIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE IN MODERN AMERICA, 1860-1920. Edited by Alexandra Oleson and John Voss. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1979. \$22.95.

This is a companion to *The Pursuit of Knowledge in the Early American Republic: American Scientific and Learned Societies from Colonial Times to the Civil War*, edited by Alexandra Oleson and Sanborn C. Brown (1976). Both resulted from a series of conferences sponsored by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1973 and 1975; a third volume will be published in the future with papers selected from the 1977 conference.

Readers should not dismiss this volume as merely another symposium. Scholars interested in the American culture should find this second volume even more valuable than the first, for the emphasis here is squarely upon *knowledge*, broadly defined; the first volume was heavily weighted towards scientific knowledge and scientific societies. The themes which emerge from many of the essays are of general interest: the rise of scientism, or the scientific point of view, in American culture and knowledge between 1860 and 1920; the development (not necessarily straight-line) of "professionalization" and "specialization" in their social context and relations; and, in a sense, the development of "modern" high culture. Especially useful and authoritative are the splendid essays on the specialization of science and scholarship. Laurence Veysey's sparkling, forceful and imaginative essay on the organized worlds of the humanities is worth the price of the book alone; humanists ought to read it carefully. The other essays, no less sophisticated and authoritative, break new ground; they contain much information now available elsewhere, giving the reader multiple perspectives on the changes of intellectual and cultural life during the period. The essays grouped under the rubric of the institutional context of learning focus on the new universities, the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the National Academy of Sciences, the Boston Society of Natural History and American libraries. They will attract a smaller, but scarcely less enthusiastic readership than the essays on specialization. Several distinguished cultural historians, including John Higham, Neil Harris and Charles Rosenberg, provide more general comments and perspectives.

HC

THE SOUTHERN COLONIAL FRONTIER, 1607-1763. By W. Stitt Robinson. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. 1979. \$12.50. Paper: \$6.50.

This volume, one in a series dealing with the frontier experience in American development, is the first all-inclusive treatment of the southern frontier during the century and a half of the colonial period. The format imposed by the series does not allow for definitive, elaborate works, yet this book is the first attempt to interpret an extensive body of discrete writings and materials on the movement of peoples and their institutions from Europe to the American seaboard and then into the southern piedmont. Professor Robinson has provided us with abundant information on the process within a well-conceived structure and narrative. Of particular value are the

analyses, not often found in conventional frontier histories of demographic data, the process or settlement, the patterns of landholding and the role of promoters and speculators, the latter type usually ignored or cast in a demonic role in conventional buckskin and Indian tales. Relations between the tribes and Europeans are indeed discussed, but in the larger context of war in American colonial society.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

J.M. Sosin

MOSES HAZEN AND THE CANADIAN REFUGEES IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. By Allan S. Everest. Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press. 1976. \$12.95.

Everest attempts to give Hazen, an American general who led the Canadian sympathizers during the Revolution, the biographical commemoration which he says is long overdue. Wanting the book to be more than a biography, he also sought to treat the "Canadian Refugees" of the title. Unfortunately, the space devoted to Hazen leaves little room for the others, although the author nevertheless generalizes about their motives. Hazen asserts that the *canadiens* decided to follow Hazen into rebellion because they had "absorbed a few ideas about American freedoms" and felt that the war would be a wonderful adventure. Unfortunately, this view is quite improbable in light of the evidence which is cited to tell Hazen's story. We find that Hazen was nothing more than one of many opportunists who came to Quebec after 1760, purchased seigneuries and proceeded to exact a feudal tribute over the next fifteen years which was far more rigorous than any of the dues collected in the days of the Ancien Regime. Thus, the Revolution should have been the *canadiens'* opportunity to rid themselves of the Moses Hazens, not to follow them. Indeed, local militia captains in Hazen's district did rise up to throw out the British. It is the great irony of the book -- an irony Everest misses completely -- that the upstart lord of the Manor, Moses Hazen, was the man Congress appointed later to organize them into a regiment. No wonder all but a handful of the *canadiens* refused to settle in the state of New York after the war around Hazen on the land allotments provided by Congress. No wonder "the majority of the Canadians preferred to sell out and take their chances back in Canada. . . ."

University of Manitoba

D. N. Sprague

INVENTING AMERICA: JEFFERSON'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. By Garry Wills. Garden City, N.J.: Doubleday. 1978. \$10.00.

Wills quotes Johnson to define "invent" (Jefferson's mechanisms, architecture, authorship): "to *find*" or copy; Wills' Jefferson "did not consider invention an *original* act. . . . You can only find what is already there. The highest art is copying." But Webster's (1806) usages are Jefferson's; Johnson's are English, removed by time, place, culture and bias. "Invent" meant "to contrive" or discover or craft. Wills has gone to the wrong source repeatedly, ignoring American literature, lexicography, and *inventiveness*. Wills' method in American studies is deficient, right down to the use of his key term.

The University of Toledo

William K. Bottorff

FREEMASONRY IN FEDERALIST CONNECTICUT, 1789-1835. By Dorothy Ann Lipson. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1977. \$18.50.

In this excellent book, which could be termed the first detailed scholarly study of Freemasonry, Professor Lipson has wrested this important topic from interested antiquarians. Skillfully and subtly she has placed Freemasonry within the context of the rampant social and cultural change which characterized these years, tracing the functions of the Order in the lives of both men and women. While primarily a contribution to the social and cultural history of the early Republic, this book -- particularly the sections on Anti-Masonry -- cannot be overlooked by political historians.

Lehigh University

William G. Shade

GUNPOWDER JUSTICE: A Reassessment of the Texas Rangers. By Julian Samora, Joe Bernal, and Albert Pena. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press. 1979. \$10.95.

Asserting that the Texas Rangers are an anachronistic relic of a primitive age, the authors argue that one of the world's most renowned police organizations should be dismantled because it has become little more than a brutal, repressive extension of the state's reactionary establishment. Minorities (especially Chicanos) have repeatedly suffered a denial of their civil rights at the hands of Rangers whose strong-arm methods thwart political grass roots reform and incipient unionization. While their thesis is hardly unique, the authors fall far short of offering the reader definitive proof of Ranger abuses (sources for the most part are published memoirs, secondary works and contemporary journalistic accounts) of the sort which have become commonplace among the public indictments of the Hoover-led F.B.I. Consequently, this book is merely a polemic without substance. It is not recommended to the serious student.

Wichita State University

J. M. Skaggs

SOBERING UP: From Temperance to Prohibition in Antebellum America, 1800-1860. By Ian R. Tyrrell. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1979. \$23.95.

Tyrrell has provided a well-researched, superbly documented and thoughtfully analytical book. This is the best general synthesis to date on the subject. The author carefully traces the developing story of the temperance movement and growing prohibitionist sentiment, especially in the Northeast, during the 1800 to 1860 period. Tyrrell reveals the conflicts within but more importantly depicts how the temperance movement became a significant part of American society in certain areas in the nineteenth century before the Civil War. The author skillfully refutes some previous interpretative attempts to denigrate the significance of the temperance movement and argues powerfully that temperance was in the 1800 to 1860 period "an intrinsic component part of the shaping of the modern economic system." As a companion to this excellent study, we need an equally good general synthesis of the temperance reform movement from the end of the Civil War to 1920.

Central Connecticut State College

Norton Mezvinsky

THE MESS IN WASHINGTON: Manpower Mobilization in World War II. Contributions in American History, No. 76. By George Q. Flynn. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press. 1979. \$17.95.

One of the toughest issues confronting the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration in its struggle to convert America into an "arsenal of democracy" was "manpower" mobilization. What policies should govern the allocation of American workers among the various claimants—the armed services, critical defense industries, the agricultural sector and "civilian" needs? Who should decide and implement these policies? Examination of these and the other questions regarding what George Q. Flynn, a veteran scholar of Rooseveltian and wartime history, aptly if reluctantly labels "the mess in Washington," might produce important new insights about the social/cultural and political effects of the effort to achieve maximum use of human resources. However, Flynn chose to focus on the role of War Manpower Commission head Paul V. McNutt and to trample the hypothesis that the Second World War produced a "social revolution" in America. The result is a study that, though based on impressive research, is seriously limited by its emphasis on McNutt and the WMC's immersion in the cauldron of Washington politics. This "mess," defined as the ways in which manpower needs affected all Americans, is a far larger, more complex story.

University of Kansas

Theodore A. Wilson

THE PEOPLE'S VOICE: The Orator in American Society. By Barnett Baskerville. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky. 1979. \$14.50.

This excellent work of intellectual history demonstrates the close relationship be-

tween attitudes toward public discourse and speaking practices throughout American history. In lucid prose, it traces the varying fortunes of oratory: central in the Revolutionary crisis, at its zenith in the antebellum debates, rendered irrelevant by post-Civil War machine politics, revitalized in the progressive era, reduced to business speaking in the twenties, revived by crises and the skills of Roosevelt and presenting moments of eloquence amid a general contemporary decline. Public discourse may be shaped by its age, the author argues, but it is always central to self-government.

The University of Kansas

Karlyn Kohrs Campbell

THE THIRD ELECTORAL SYSTEM, 1853-1892: Parties, Voters and Political Cultures. By Paul Kleppner. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press. 1979. \$21.00.

Expanding upon his earlier work and taking note of other scholarship in political history in the last decade, Paul Kleppner has developed a systematic description of the third electoral system and a comprehensive analysis of mass political behavior from the 1850s to the 1890s. The result is an important and impressive book, one which repeatedly concludes that ethnocultural issues profoundly influenced political behavior. Kleppner rejects the concept of an "ethnocultural school" of historiography. There are instead, he argues, methodologically and conceptually sophisticated "voter-behavior studies." He includes in this group, coincidentally, only those studies which have shared his conclusions.

Dartmouth College

James Wright

ALMOST PERSUADED: American Physicians and Compulsory Health Insurance, 1912-1920. By Ronald L. Numbers. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1978. \$10.00.

This study examines one of the great might-have-beens of American social policy: the turning away of the organized medical profession as represented by the American Medical Association from sympathy with, or at least toleration for, proposals for compulsory health insurance to bitter hostility within the brief four year span of 1916-1920. Numbers rejects previous explanations for this switch that emphasize the displacement from AMA leadership of the medical academic and scientific elite by more conservative general practitioners. Rather, he points out that the doctors who rejected compulsory health insurance in 1920 were largely those who had earlier welcomed it. What Numbers sees as the decisive factor was "money." At first, poorly paid American doctors believed that they might benefit financially, but as reports came in about the experience of the British physicians under health insurance, and as they themselves experienced the functioning of the new workmen's compensation laws, the financial attractions appeared less appealing, while simultaneously incomes of American doctors rose dramatically after 1916 without health insurance.

University of Nebraska -- Lincoln

John Braeman

literature/afro-american literature

AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS: A Critical Reference Guide From Colonial Times to the Present. Edited by Lina Mainiero. New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing Co. 1979. \$45.00.

This alphabetical survey of American women writers, which reevaluates the notable and rescues from oblivion those long lost, has a simple format: biographical sketches precede succinct overviews of each author's *oeuvre* as well as balanced estimates of significant strengths and weaknesses. Any volume which devotes roughly equal space to Willa Cather, Hannah Arendt and Anita Bryant respectively puts the broadest possible construction on the term "writer": the female *literati* are joined by the nonliterary and the sub-literary. The range of occupations is impressive: economists, naturalists, suffragettes, abolitionists, children's authors and Gothic novelists.

There is no false glorification here of the mere fact of being a woman who writes. Written by women about women on and about their femaleness, this volume is an important attempt to assess and place in perspective each woman's literary, cultural and socio-historical contributions. This treasure chest of information is filled with good writing on good writing. In short, this is a book to whet the appetite, a pioneering reference work in the best feminist tradition. Comprehensive in scope, this first in a multivolume series will be followed by a supplement, should other neglected female authors be brought to the editor's attention.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Caroline Dodge
Kent Ljungquist

THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MARGARET FULLER. By Margaret Vanderhaar Allen. University Park and London: The Pennsylvania University Press. 1979.

Despite the author's feminist sympathies, this study of Fuller's ideas does not follow the latest scholarly attempts to place her in women's history and once again Fuller is portrayed in the context of male intellectual history—as a Goethe scholar, as Emerson's friend, as the literary critic in Poe's time, as the social critic in Greeley's *Tribune* and as the political journalist in Mazzini's camp. The author does give, however, a good exposition of the stereotyping which conditioned her posthumous reputation, a comprehensive assessment of her nature writing and literary criticism and a sympathetic portrayal of her humanism, as it progressed from individualism to utopian socialism.

University of Pisa

Liana Borghi

REBELS AND VICTIMS: The Fiction of Richard Wright and Bernard Malamud. By Evelyn Gross Avery. Port Washington, N. Y.: Kennikat Press, 1979. \$10.00.

Rebels and Victims compares the experiences and responses of the protagonists of Richard Wright and Bernard Malamud with racial and religious persecution. As a literary study it is carefully documented. It becomes extremely questionable, however, as it attempts to make Wright's and Malamud's protagonists representative of Black and Jewish experience in America.

Wright's bleak assessment of Afro-American culture in *Black Boy* has been strongly challenged even by writers who readily acknowledge Wright's extraordinary achievement. Yet Avery assumes Wright's views as gospel. Malamud, on the other hand, represents traditional Jewish beliefs and institutions much more positively than many other Jewish-American writers.

As a consequence, Avery's book frequently seems to read like a literary parallel to the Moynihan report. The Afro-American experience is seen as culturally barren and consistently problematical. The Jewish-American experience is seen as fundamentally sustaining even when it provokes conflict or confrontation with modern American experience.

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Robert M. Farnsworth

THE HALF-BLOOD. By William J. Scheick. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. 1979. \$9.75.

This work investigates the image of the half-breed in nineteenth-century American fiction. Scheick demonstrates that the treatment of the half-breed by Southern and Western writers was quite severe, whereas the writers of the Northeast were more benign. He also argues that the half-breed was a much "safer" literary subject than the mulatto. His study is based on the Freudian fiction that man has a divided nature with the two sides at war. This is an interesting attempt to use fiction to clarify fiction.

Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

George W. Linden

DISCOVERERS, EXPLORERS, SETTLERS: The Diligent Writers of Early America. By Wayne Franklin. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1979. \$15.00.

A literary history of early American travel writing, *Discoverers, Explorers, Settlers* also charts the relation between language and event, and how this shaped, as it was shaped by, American culture. Franklin demonstrates how writing about the literal American frontier is, perforce, writing about the "frontier" between language and event; he sees American literature as rooted in a self-conscious sense of language as a means not merely of expression, but of "exploration" - and invention - of its own limits.

As a guide through the critical *terra incognita* of American travel writing, and as an essay on language and the reality beyond words, Franklin's achievement is considerable.

Furman University

Alan Axelrod

IN THE PRESENCE OF NATURE. By David Scofield Wilson. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. 1978. \$15.00.

Wilson analyzes closely and subtly the subject matter, style, symbolic content and large cultural significance of books by Mark Catesby, John Bartram and Jonathan Carver, whom he calls "nature reporters." He shows how each author transmits "nature's beauty and worth as well as truth." Nature has much more to give to man than commodity alone. Wilson's scholarship is at once rangy and intense. His own writing, including some rich, informative footnotes, makes important, sharp distinctions in a sometimes self-conscious, always highly intellectual way.

California State University-Los Angeles

Richard G. Lillard

NAY-SAYING IN CONCORD: Emerson, Alcott, and Thoreau. By Taylor Stoehr. Hamden: Archon Books. 1979. \$14.50.

A study of how three of the foremost Transcendentalists practiced their idealism through nonconformist eloquence and action. As dissenters from social evils especially slavery, war, materialism and conformity these nay-sayers are found to have been more realistic and activist than generally thought, indeed more so than other reform movements of the time. For example, Thoreau's refusal to pay his tax in 1846 is explored for its implications, for the response of Emerson and others and for the contrasting views of radical "resistance" and "non-resistance." Other issues discussed include manual labor, communal experiments, labor vs. property, family vs. community, tribe vs. hermit, dietary laws, abstinence and "cannibalism and appetite." A short concluding chapter compares the "new consciousness" of the 1840s with the "movement" of the 1960s.

University of Connecticut

Eric W. Carlson

EDGAR ALLAN POE: An American Imagination Three Essays. By Elizabeth Phillips. Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat Press. 1979. \$12.50.

Phillips pursues, in this imperfectly unified volume, a "main-travelled road" of Poe criticism by contending that he was not isolated from his native American milieu. In tracing his troubled response to a democratic society, his handling of vast landscape and his interest in widely-held medical theories of mania, she makes suggestive arguments for Poe's affinities with contemporaneous thinkers, artists and scientists; she does not, however, add unequivocally to the list of his sources.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Kent Ljungquist

THE NEGROES IN AMERICA. By Claude McKay. Edited by Alan L. McLeod. Translated by Robert J. Winter. Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat Press Corp. 1979. \$10.00.

Written during his 1922-23 stay in Russia and only recently discovered in its Rus-

sian translation, McKay's *The Negroes in America* is a curious fusion of history, propaganda and prophecy. McKay emphatically blames "Big Business" for the perpetuation of racism in the United States following the Civil War and argues that its demise will come only with the Afro-American workers' recognition of their affinity with white workers and of their common role in the international workers' movement. McKay's optimism that this will happen, however, is tempered by his acknowledgement of the problems for migrant black workers in northern industrial centers after World War I, centers which had previously been dominated by white immigrants. McKay also surveys the position of the Afro-American in sports, literature, art and music, concluding that although blacks have been exploited in these areas, subjected to unjust criticism and limited by racist stereotypes, "a new spirit [is rising] among the Negro masses." Thus, in spite of its propagandistic overtones, *The Negroes in America* aims toward the same general end as Alain Locke's *The New Negro*, the work usually identified as giving consciousness to the Harlem Renaissance. In addition, McKay's discussion of the role of sexual fears and sexual stereotyping in the continued oppression of blacks and of the "inseparable connection between the Negro question and the question of woman's liberation" is particularly perceptive.

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WALTER WHITE AND THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE. By Edward E. Waldron. Port Washington, N. Y.: Kennikat Press Corp. 1978. \$12.50.

The argument made in this study is that while Walter White's long service with the NAACP has assured him a place in American history, his role as a novelist and as patron of the arts and of artists during the Harlem Renaissance has been obscured. The bulk of Waldron's book is background—a biography of White's early life, a survey of the major issues and influences prompted by the Harlem Renaissance and accounts of the difficulties he had publishing his two novels—for his central argument which he postpones until the concluding chapter. His discussion of the background would seem pedestrian to any one at all familiar with the Harlem Renaissance; what Waldron might have done to have given illumination to this well-examined period is to have considered in general the publishing problems with which Afro-American artists were confronted in the twenties as well as the importance of patrons, usually white, but in the rare case of Walter White, black.

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THE "HINDERED HAND": Cultural Implications of Early African-American Fiction. By Arlene A. Elder. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 1978. \$18.95.

Elder's work is a thorough study of the nineteen novels written by Afro-Americans between 1853 and 1910, of their sources and of their audiences. Focusing specifically on Sutton Griggs, Paul Laurence Dunbar and Charles Waddell Chesnut, she demonstrates how the black artist at this period seemed hamstrung between the conventions of the sentimental novel and the expectations of a white publishing industry and a white readership on the one hand, and the traditions of black oratory, narrative and folklore and a desire to represent the realities of Afro-American life on the other. The success of Elder's work lies in the fact that aesthetic judgment of the novels is never suspended as she leads us to understand more fully the literary, social and historical pressures placed upon the earliest of black American writers.

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FROM BEHIND THE VEIL: A Study of Afro-American Narrative. By Robert E. Stepto. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1979. \$12.50.

Stepto's work has major importance to the study of Afro-American literature. Not only does he convince us of "a pregeneric myth" underlying all Afro-American narrative—the quest for freedom and literacy—from the slave narratives to *Invisible Man*, but he also devises a terminology of aesthetics which explains precisely and persuasively the differences among Afro-American narrations with particular emphasis upon the triumphs of *The Souls of Black Folk*, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*, *Black Boy* and *Invisible Man*. Especially useful are the terms: narrative of

ascent—the account of a ritualized journey North in which the protagonist gains “sufficient literacy to assume the mantle of an articulate survivor”—and narrative of immersion—the account of a ritualized journey South in which the protagonist gains or regains “sufficient literacy to assume the mantle of an articulate kinsman”; in Step-to’s final chapter, *Invisible Man* is presented as having the qualities of both of these narrative forms. Step-to’s reading of the continuity and marvel of Afro-American literature is thus dependent not upon an understanding of socio-historical forces, but upon a penetrating analysis of the form and content of the works themselves.

EAS

minorities

FROM BROWN TO BAKKE: The Supreme Court and School Integration, 1954-1978. By J. Harvie Wilkinson III. New York: Oxford University. 1979. \$17.95.

A Virginian who has served as a Supreme Court Law clerk, has taught law at the University of Virginia, and now edits one of the Commonwealth’s largest newspapers, Wilkinson has written a comprehensive and highly readable account of school integration in the United States. “The long journey from *Brown* to *Bakke*,” he concludes, “has been one from optimism and confidence to confusion and doubt. . . .” but it has also been “a maturing journey.” “School integration has taught us at home what Vietnam did abroad: how much eludes the American capacity to reshape.” Wilkinson foresees continuing tension over school integration, with the Supreme Court seeking to blunt the issues rather than blaze trails that are too far in advance of public opinion.

FHH

THE EDUCATION OF AN URBAN MINORITY: Catholics in Chicago, 1833-1965. By James W. Sanders. New York: Oxford University Press. 1977. \$13.95.

Relying upon fresh manuscript sources such as the Archives of the Catholic Bishop of Chicago, James Sanders traces the emergence, transformation and decline of the Catholic educational system in Chicago. In an important work which links the history of a distinct institutional complex to the processes of immigration and assimilation, nativism and changing racial realities in the modern city, the author attacks the stereotype of an intolerant Catholic Church and describes a system which accepted ethnic diversity to a greater degree than did the society as a whole and which ultimately operated as a powerful Americanizing agent.

University of New Orleans

Arnold R. Hirsch

OUR WAY: Family, Parish, and Neighborhood in a Polish American Community. By Paul Wrobel. Notre Dame, Ind.: Notre Dame University Press. 1979. \$12.95.

Reacting to earlier works by Thomas and Znaniecki among others who studied, and oftentimes denigrated, Polish-American community life from the outside, Wrobel examines three major institutions as a participant-observer of a Detroit Polish-American community: the family, the parish, and the neighborhood. Encroaching crime, interethnic-group hostility and unethical realtors are contributing factors to the beginning of a possible breakup of this particular neighborhood, which Wrobel fears will destroy the community itself. Yet nowhere does he infer that the community might adapt to a non-propinquitous situation. The book is readable and is intended for a general audience as well as the academic community.

University of Minnesota

Jon Gjerde

architecture

KANSAS CITY MISSOURI/An Architectural History/1826-1976. By George Ehrlich. Historic Kansas City Foundation. 1979. \$19.95.

A scholar’s conscience and sensitivity to historical, social and cultural considera-

tions have turned what was originally to have been essentially a picture book, and what could have been simply a book for architecture specialists, into a model exploration of the physical growth of a metropolis. The main story, of course, must be architecture, but Ehrlich is sensitive to social, racial and demographic variables. Despite limitations imposed by space and by the paucity of prior scholarship, he finds ways to define the terms in which such important topics are going to have to be treated, and thoughtfully suggests what findings might turn out to be. The good essay on race, loans, segregation and red-lining on 122f. is a good example. Working from primary materials—there is very little specialized material to go on, and nothing in the way of bibliographical help in finding it—Ehrlich has managed to handle both “the large picture” and the details.

Generally historic surveys have no central thesis; the hidden thesis of this volume is that the specialist sensitive to factors beyond his specialty produces work of great value.

SGL

THE PALACE OR THE POORHOUSE: The American House as a Cultural Symbol. By Jan Cohn. East Lansing: The Michigan State University Press. 1979. \$15.00.

An introduction to the subject of the American house that draws on a random selection of sources: letters, diaries, chronicles, novels, histories, articles, pattern and picture books, and scholarly studies of American architects and architecture. As indicated by the two building types in the title, both of which have become obsolete in the twentieth century, the attitude toward the house is essentially a nineteenth-century one. What still needs to be done is an in-depth analysis of the house in relation to the changing nature of the family, especially the role of women, and the changing nature of building and environmental technology.

University of Kansas

Harris Stone

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT: His Life and His Architecture. By Robert C. Twombly. New York: John Wiley & Sons. 1979. \$19.95.

This is Robert Twombly's second biographical treatment of Frank Lloyd Wright, the first having been published just six years earlier, in 1973. In the interval, Twombly continued his research and, as he said, examined old material in new ways. The result is a different book with many more illustrations. There is no question about the compelling attraction of Frank Lloyd Wright and his architecture, and from quite early in his long career he was a newsworthy subject. Twombly, a historian by profession, has made extensive use of newspaper files, and in this he enlarges the more traditional view of Wright, especially as a figure of frequent public controversy. In gathering together this type of data I feel he has made his book a useful resource for the student of American culture. However, I believe the book does expect some previous knowledge of Wright and especially of his architecture. Without this, the book could become a bit overwhelming as projects, problems and issues roll by us. The book is filled, probably overfilled, with details, all meticulously documented as to source. As a result, the book is probably most useful as a supplementary rather than a primary guide to the life and architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright.

GE

education

ANDREW D. WHITE: Educator, Historian, Diplomat. By Glenn C. Altschuler. Ithaca & London: Cornell University Press, 1979. \$17.50.

White is not the subject of this volume so much as its protagonist. Where he goes we go also, and that journey itself is worth taking although we might wish a guide more willing than Dr. Altschuler to point out the curiosities to be observed en route. Born in 1832 near Syracuse, N.Y., White graduated from Yale and subsequently taught history and rhetoric at the University of Michigan. Elected to the New York

State Senate in 1863, he soon joined in Ezra Cornell's machinations to gain control of the land-warrants due New York under the Morrill Act. Their success yielded the establishment of Cornell University with White as President in 1865, and the enrollment of its first 414 students three years later. Even by this year, however, White had noticed and sometimes participated in a series of events which altered the nature of American civilization during the 19th century-- the emergence of the state university and the transformation of higher education from a proprietary endeavor to a public trust; the rationalization of the American system of eleemosynary institutions, exemplified by the establishment of a New York Board of Health and the codification of the New York School Law; the democratization of opportunity through the establishment of co-education (of the races) and coeducation (of the sexes); and the institutionalization of ratiocination through the introduction of the lecture and seminar in place of the recitation in schools and colleges. All of these Altschuler describes (and thereby effectively dismisses) as "reforms," although contemporaries knew quite well that more than merely conflict between "interests" was at issue.

During the 70s, 80s, 90s, 00s, and 10s (!), White achieved considerable national prominence, not as an educator-- the persona he provided for himself in later years, when the real focus of his career had gone smash-- but as a potential candidate for public office and an ineffectual agent of American foreign policy. Altschuler wonders sotto voce about the origins of such prominence but does not limn the emerging system of national and international politics which made White's career possible.

University of Cincinnati

Henry D. Shapiro

THE PERPETUAL DREAM: Reform and Experiment in the American College. By Gerald Grant and David Riesman. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1978. Paper: \$6.95.

With typologies, fieldwork data and optimism the authors describe the liberal bases of educational reform in American universities. Their "modest proposal" for specific future reforms is viable if one accepts the selection of types as representative and shares the confidence in continuing economic and intellectual attention to higher education. Readers can use an extensive bibliography to test authorial assumptions.

University of Minnesota

Judith Modell

transportation

AMERICANS ON THE ROAD: From Autocamping to Motel, 1910-1945. By Warren J. Belasco. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press. 1979. \$14.95.

THE DEVIL WAGON IN GOD'S COUNTRY: The Automobile and Social Change in Rural America, 1893-1929. By Michael L. Berger. Hamden, Connecticut: Archon Books. 1979. \$17.50.

Both books show that while rural and small-town Americans initially feared and resisted automotive technology, they soon welcomed motor vehicles with enthusiasm.

Belasco expertly traces Americans' use of the automobile as a vacation vehicle before 1945. His chief theme is the steady institutionalization of automobile travel, from the free-wheeling era of "gypsying" in the early twentieth century to the predictable and somewhat standardized roadside services of 1945. Between the two Roosevelt eras, autocamping passed through several discrete phases: free municipal camps; municipal pay camps; private autocamps; and early motels. Belasco's thesis is that each "fad" was very short-lived, soon losing its attractiveness and originality due largely to the enormous popularity of automobile travel. More photographs would enhance this beautifully written book.

Berger traces both the positive and negative social impacts of the automobile upon the rural family, small town, leisure, religion, education, health, and the environment before the Depression. His thesis is that despite lingering hostility, ruralites who had perceived the automobile as an evil urban influence in 1900 saw it as a godsend, an absolute necessity by 1929. His analysis could be deeper. While Berger effectively describes the automobile's impact upon specific social institutions, the reader gains little sense of its overall impact during specific decades. An excessive number of overly

long quotes mar a writing style which is otherwise lively, even entertaining. Despite its faults, this book is a useful contribution to an important area of social history, too long ignored by automobile historians.

University of Colorado at Denver

Mark S. Foster

THE AMERICAN RAILROAD PASSENGER CAR. By John H. White, Jr. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1978. \$45.00.

Weighing in at 9 lbs., five dollars a pound, this lavishly illustrated coffee table volume by a leading historian of technology, the curator of Transportation at the Smithsonian Institution, will delight railroad buffs as well as historians concerned with transportation, business, technology and aspects of American society in the late 19th and 20th centuries. The railroad car, White indicates both in his text and through carefully selected illustrative material, developed from the application of many techniques and crafts. Out of these developments came the miracle of the modern passenger train, essentially a city on wheels providing facilities and services for up to a thousand people functioning in all types of weather at a speed of 80 miles an hour. White's approach is largely chronological (to 1970). It is supplemented by a set of appendices containing biographical sketches of car designers and builders, statistical tables, a chronology and an invaluable annotated bibliography. Twenty-nine pages of footnotes followed by a lengthy (nine-page) index round out this handsome, heavy volume.

Iowa State University

Richard Lowitt

the presidency

FDR AND THE PRESS. By Graham J. White, Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press. 1979. \$13.95.

In contrast with most historians of the New Deal who emphasize Roosevelt's inconsistencies, lack of clear direction and confusion even in his own mind about his aims and purposes, Australian scholar Graham J. White—utilizing as his vehicle a case study of Roosevelt's attitude toward the press—finds a “high degree of coherence and consistency, and even a certain simplicity in the man.” He argues that Roosevelt's hostility toward the press—or, to be more accurate, against newspaper publishers—reflected his adherence to a broader cluster of ideas about American politics and history that he had developed by early 1925 whose central theme was the continuing struggle between the Jeffersonian champions of the “many” and the Hamiltonian “few.” “. . . having developed these ideas early in his career,” White concludes, “he spent the rest of his political life spinning out their implications in various spheres. . . . Armed with them, he was untroubled by any doubts as to either his long-term purpose or his short-term role.”

Provocative as his argument is, White overstates his case. While there is no question that Roosevelt sincerely believed in his self-image as the defender of American democracy against Hamiltonian oligarchical control, that belief provided no guide on substantive issues of policy, but simply a psychologically and politically satisfying rationalization for any course he was following. White's most important contribution lies in demonstration of the falsity of Roosevelt's oft-repeated claim that he faced the hostility of the overwhelming majority of the country's newspapers. Yet were Roosevelt's criticisms of the press so much a case of an inflexible ideology resistant to contrary evidence, or rather a shrewd political tactic to win popular sympathy and support?

University of Nebraska—Lincoln

John Braeman

THE PRESIDENCY OF WARREN G. HARDING. By Eugene P. Trani and David L. Wilson. Lawrence, Kansas: The Regents Press of Kansas. 1977. \$12.00.

Though unexciting, both in style and substance, this volume in the American Presidency Series presents a well-balanced assessment of the Harding presidency,

rehabilitative in its acceptance of administration accomplishments and an independent, if not always effective, chief executive, but traditional in its overall negative judgment. However extensive their reading in the secondary literature and useful their excellent bibliographical essay, the authors occasionally slipped. Their comments about the tax policies of Mellon and the press conferences of Harding are incomplete, misleading or in error, a problem that could have been averted with research in contemporary periodicals and newspapers. Nevertheless, their interpretation of the Harding presidency is essentially sound. American historians ought to read the book and correct any misconceptions that still mar their lectures to undergraduate students.

Iowa State University

Richard N. Kottman

PRESIDENTIAL IMPEACHMENT. By John R. Labovitz. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1978. \$15.00.

The author served as a research attorney for the impeachment inquiry of the House Judiciary Committee in 1974. He utilizes the fruits of his research to present a history of the impeachment process in the American constitutional system, an analysis of the major legal issues in the impeachment proceedings against Supreme Court Justice Samuel Chase (1805) and President Andrew Johnson (1868), and a careful discussion of the legal issues raised in the course of the Nixon inquiry in 1974. The historical treatment is not as exhaustive as Raoul Berger's (*Impeachment: The Constitutional Problems*, 1973) but the legal analysis is less argumentative and benefits from the author's access to the committee staff's documentation. Labovitz sees the impeachment process as "an elaborate ritual to legitimize a political decision but, since the participants are unlikely to acknowledge its primarily political character, legal rhetoric and legal techniques inevitably take on primary significance." The absence of a formal bibliography is regrettable.

FHH

CHOICES AND ECHOES IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS: Rational Man and Electoral Democracy. By Benjamin I. Page. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1978. \$17.50.

In this important study, based primarily on data from the elections of the 60's and 70's, the author seeks to evaluate the relative importance in presidential elections of a variety of factors, such as candidates' policy stands, public opinion, the candidates' record and personalities and their constancy. He demonstrates that, contrary to public opinion theories which minimize differences between the two major parties, Presidential election contests are characterized by fairly constant, systematic differences between the parties. Although the basic framework is derived from economic models, the presentation is lucid and should be of interest to a broad readership.

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