
Seeds of Liberty represents another of the numerous current publications emphasizing intellectual history. Starting with the conclusion that America of today possesses faith in freedom, democracy, and science, the author carefully analyzes colonial materials, primarily literature, to determine the origin of these concepts and to trace their development. While the book covers the century from 1650 to 1750, special emphasis is placed upon the last two decades of the period. The scope of the book is wide, including chapters on religious, scientific, philosophical, economic, social, and political thought, and on the expression of the American spirit in literature, painting, architecture, and music, and concluding with a discussion of the beginnings of an "American" nationalism.

In an effort to determine the genesis of American national character, faith, and way of life, the author examines every aspect of American colonial civilization and attempts in this one volume to draw together "the major threads and motifs that appeared in the tapestry of early American thought." After studying the customs, ideas, and religions brought from Europe to America, he shows how this heritage was transformed under the impact of American conditions. The original colonists were largely conservative and aristocratic in their political and social ideas. Coming from Europe, it was quite natural that they should bring with them the fundamental concepts of aristocratic thinking. One of the evidences of American progress was the development of individualism and idealism, which replaced the concepts of superiority by reason of being well-born. To prove these points, the author allows the eighteenth-century generations to speak for themselves. He has attempted to uncover every important figure who lived during the period, to determine what he was thinking, and why he thought as he did.

The book will be of particular interest to students of Pennsylvania history, since the author places considerable emphasis upon the influence of Pennsylvanians in the developing of American concepts. An appreciative attitude is shown toward the Quakers, Mennonites, Dunkers, and numerous German groups. Likewise, a keen understanding is shown of the contributions of James Logan, Richard Peters, Francis Daniel Pastorius, Richard Jackson, Nathaniel Evans, Dr. John Kearsley, Dr. John Morgan, Philip Freneau, David Dove, John Penn, Francis Hopkinson, Alexander Mackraby, and a host of other Pennsylvanians. And above all, the contributions of Benjamin Franklin are recognized. He is quoted more often than any other person and on every major subject taken up in the book.
The preface states that the book was written, primarily, for the average citizen rather than for the scholar. But this reviewer doubts that the average citizen will read the book—although it would be definitely worth his while to do so; the vocabulary, style, and extensive quotations will discourage the serious attention of the lay reader. While the thesis of the book needs no apologies, the disarming statement of objectives lures a reviewer to suggest that a more extensive work is needed to present for students the biographical materials upon which this book is based.

The volume contains valuable references, ample footnotes, useful notes at the end of each chapter, and a good analytical index. No bibliography is attempted. Smoothly polished and attractively titled, the book is a worth-while product of vigorous scholarship—a thoroughly professional study. It is remarkably free from typographical errors. Occasionally the author runs ahead of his story and introduces persons who are not identified until later, but this is not serious. To say that a book of such magnitude does not include a misleading generalization would be unfair to other scholars who have reached different conclusions, but it comes as close to meeting individual differences of opinion as can be expected of a volume of this scope. Colonial history has long needed such a book as Seeds of Liberty.
shot, it is pointed out that the house in the far left corner of this picture is
the Benninghoff home where the famous robbery occurred. The highest well
at the upper right of the picture was the first in which 5\% iron casing was
used, and the pipe line going across the hill in the center of the photo-
graph was the first line to pump oil over a hill. None of this is explained
in connection with this interesting photograph.

On page 49, beneath the picture "Rouseville, 1867," it is stated that "... 
Rouseville was named after Henry Rouse of Warren, Pennsylvania." Rouse
was a resident of Enterprise in Warren County, but never a resident of
Warren. After his death from the burning of his well, his estate went to
Warren County for the benefit of the poor and the improvement of roads.

The value of twice reproducing pictures of Ben Hogan, "The Wickedest
Man in the World," and of his girl friend, French Kate, is doubtful. These
pictures appear on pages 65 and 107. In justice to Hogan, it could have been
added that he reformed, toured the oil country as an evangelist, and operated
a flop-house for derelicts in Chicago until his death in 1916.

The picture, "John Wilkes Booth" (p. 61), carries with it several errors
generally found in connection with Booth's oil-region experiences. Booth is
reported to have visited Pithole Creek; if he did so, his visit is unknown
and unrecorded. Instead of having purchased a thirteenth interest in the
Homestead Well for $15,000, Booth really purchased an undivided thirtieth
interest for $1,000. Giddens apparently followed the report in the first issue of
The Titusville Herald (June 14, 1865), which was repeated in slightly differ-
ent form seventeen years later in the magazine The Petroleum Age
(Bradford, January, 1882, p. 46).

Even with these faults, which are comparatively minor, the book does
what it was meant to do. It presents a fine pictorial history which is more
accurate than many words and which will be useful to those not already
fully acquainted with the earliest days of oil.

Warren, Pa.

Ernest C. Miller

James Madison: The Nationalist, 1780-1787. By Irving Brant. (Indianapolis:
The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1948. Pp. 484. $6.00.)

Madison has hitherto appeared in the histories as a man who in 1787 sud-
ddenly emerged from obscurity to take a most important part in decisive events.
It has never been explained why such a political miracle occurred. The an-
swer is now given by Irving Brant in the second volume of his admirable
biography of the father of the Constitution. By means of a thorough and
painstaking review of Madison's activities between 1780 and 1787, Mr. Brant
has explained why and how the Virginian had attained, in 1787, a position
of great influence in the United States. It is also revealed that the ideas which
Madison urged so successfully in the Philadelphia Convention were both the
fruit of his experience during the preceding ten years and the culmination of
his thinking on the issues of the day.

Madison's service in Congress, after March, 1780, kept him in touch with
the major questions which carried over from the closing years of the war
into the first years of peace. Two ideals animated his work. One was his
national patriotism—his desire to establish in America a new nation; the other was his faith in self-government and his determination to do his utmost toward the creation of an effective and enduring republic. In order to realize those ideals, it was necessary, first of all, that the States win the Revolutionary War. That need dominated Madison's work during his formative years on the national stage. It compelled him to think in terms of an effective central government. For the sake of victory, the states must be subordinated to the nation; the Union must have all the powers needed for vigorous action in war. Centralized military operations required that Congress possess an independent taxing power and that it be supreme in foreign affairs. Believing that the French alliance was essential to victory, Madison adhered to it faithfully, and in so doing exalted the Union, for he perceived that thirteen separated states could not deal effectively with a foreign power.

After the war he strove to incorporate its gains into the structure of a self-governing republic. This purpose confirmed and intensified his unionism. He now desired to promote American commerce, to secure the West for the United States, and to achieve social and political stability within the country. Only an effective central government could attain those ends. Moreover, the nation must be strengthened if republican ideals were to be fully realized, since history had proved repeatedly that republicanism would not flourish in small states. Its deadly enemy, party factionalism, quickly exposed it to ruin, if it was confined within a small compass. A vast country, with a variety of factions, parties, and interests, offered the best hope for the healthy survival of republican principles.

Madison was not a dramatic, exciting, or colorful person. It is not surprising, therefore, that Mr. Brant's biography does not partake of those qualities. It reflects the characteristics of its subject: honesty, moderation, intelligence, thoroughness, sanity, balance, and judicial temper. Madison labored in the main behind the scenes—in committee rooms or in the study; he exerted influence through conferences, conversation, letters, and reports. Commonly, the more technical and thorny problems were assigned to him. His industry, fairness, and knowledge continually widened the range of his influence, so that in time he dealt with all the main issues of the day. Mr. Brant's volume is therefore largely a history of the 1780's—not a complete history, but a survey of the leading issues, ideas, and controversies in politics and diplomacy.

Madison appears as one of the great Virginians, in stature comparable to Washington and Jefferson. If at times too much has been claimed for the hero, the fact remains that few men of Madison's time surpassed him in the ability to find, on difficult problems, the position that proved in the end to be most satisfactory to the country as a whole. Viewed in the light of later events, his opinions coincided with the decisions that were finally made on the Mississippi question, on the western land cessions, on national revenue, on paper money, on internal improvements, on foreign affairs, and on federalism and republicanism. His Americanness is explained by his dual attachment to both the nation and his state, by his intimate knowledge of American conditions, by his adherence to basic principles, by his desire for harmony,
and by his devotion to the general good. "Considerations of national welfare, not his own, determined his position."

Mr. Brant, in revealing the influence and character of Madison, has done justice to a quiet, self-effacing man whose apparent dullness has dimmed the lustre of his achievements. All praise is due the author for making known a man whose achievements have been obscured by his virtues of modesty and self-restraint.

_Cornell University_  
_Curtis P. Nettels_


The scope of Mr. Laski's commentary on American democracy is monumental. After chapters on "The Traditions of America" and "The Spirit of America," he runs the gamut of our society, through government, business, labor, religion, education, culture, opinion industries, and the like, to his concluding chapter on "Americanism as a Principle of Civilization." His knowledge of America is encyclopedic. He knows the country in all its infinite variety. Nothing seems to have escaped his eyes and ears, with the important exception of American agriculture, which he largely equates with southern sharecroppers.

For all of this, Mr. Laski, his publishers to the contrary notwithstanding, has not given us a book to be set alongside those of Tocqueville and Bryce. Their interpretations grew out of what they saw. It could hardly be more evident that Mr. Laski's interpretations are _a priori_. They do not prevent him from seeing and describing the pluralism and the flexibility which characterize our society; they merely assure that in each case, often with very little supporting evidence, he will finally doubt the adequacy of these features to meet the challenge of changing conditions.

The general thesis which pervades the book and dictates the conclusions is of course the Marxist analysis. America "is essentially a democracy of the middle class, which assumes, though it does not announce, the authority of wealth, and has been careful throughout its history not to permit its informing idea to jeopardize the claims that men of property invariably put forward as the boundaries beyond which democracy may not pass" (p. 17). To be sure, this is not unique to America; for "no society ever permits the foundations of its system to be called into question unless it is certain that it will triumph overwhelmingly in the reply" (p. 23). This is the basic assumption which predetermines Mr. Laski's conclusions. It is curious but not surprising that a great deal of the book is devoted to criticizing American institutions for adhering to what he has here at the outset laid down as a fundamental sociological law.

The typical pattern of Mr. Laski's analysis is exemplified by his discussion of American business. First, we are given a detailed picture of "big-business" domination during the decades since the Civil War. Then follows a brief discussion of our progress toward a social-service state under the New Deal. Finally, comes the inevitable conclusion, supported only by his initial assumption, that there has been no "fundamental" change—American enter-
prise continues to be “founded on the theory of restriction and not of abundance” (p. 178). The facts of abundance are not allowed to obscure the picture prescribed by doctrine.

Bias pervades the whole, but in some instances it is more obvious than in others. One may note, for example, his extended discussion of judicial review in terms of its actual operation, which neglects to speak of the course of events since the spring of 1937. It is also hard to forbear calling attention to his discussion of labor and the law. Reference is made to thirteen Supreme Court decisions dealing with labor. All but one were unfavorable to labor’s claims and all but one—the same one—were decided before 1930. With this one exception, there is no reference to the predominantly pro-labor decisions of the Court since 1937, nor to the fact that they included reversals of several of the most important of the cases which are cited. Again, America’s bad record on the Negro problem is duly detailed without any reference to the decline of lynching, the rise of Negro voting, or the improvement of Negro employment opportunities. Yet these facts all appear among the findings made by Myrdal, on which Mr. Laski heavily relies for the other side of the picture.

Mr. Laski has much to say that is true and worth saying, not least in his discussions of religion, education, press, cinema, and radio. But the conclusion is always the not surprising one that the institutions in question are not primarily dedicated to the purpose of recasting society and altering its fundamental postulates. As if it could be otherwise! He treats minority voices in behalf of reform as futile, forgetting that all progressive movements start as minorities. In fact, “there cannot be a new education without a new society to sustain it,” he declares, and “a new society needs a new philosophy of living . . .” (p. 392). We seem to have arrived at a cul-de-sac.

His conclusion indicates that he does not despair completely, but just what may be the means to our salvation he leaves obscure. We must somehow re-achieve that unity in the pursuit of the goal of equality which we have lost. How to do it? Earlier in the volume he devoted considerable space to arguing for a strong labor party to produce a sharper dichotomy between our major parties. Is this the way to unity? Or is it perhaps by revolution or civil war, as he darkly hints in the concluding pages, referring to Lenin’s exploit of cutting “the Gordian knot of passionate disagreement upon first principles . . .” (p. 761)? The reader is left with the feeling that Mr. Laski believes the prospects for peaceful change in this country are about as dark as he thought they were in Britain before 1945.

Swarthmore College

J. Roland Pennock


When the two-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Reading was drawing near, the Historical Society of Berks County decided that it would be fitting to celebrate the bicentennial of the city by publishing its history.
Fortunately for the society, Dr. Albright was available to write the history, a task which he performed conscientiously and capably. Since the Council of the Historical Society requested that this book should be of a popular rather than of a technical character, "in order to secure as wide a reading as possible," it is not documented, and no primary sources and only twelve secondary works are listed in the bibliography. It is a debatable question whether the inclusion of technical apparatus would have lessened the number of its readers, though there can be no doubt that its omission detracts from its value as an historical publication.

The volume begins with the story of the early settlements in Berks County, and then proceeds to trace the origin and development of Reading throughout the two centuries of its history. The city was founded by Thomas and Richard Penn in 1748, four years before the erection of Berks County, of which it has always been the capital. Every phase of the city's life and progress is portrayed with painstaking care. Its population, economic growth, manufacturing, commercial, and transportation interests, and its religious, educational, and cultural development, as well as the part it played in wars and politics—all these are given adequate treatment. If one is desirous of knowing anything about the city of Reading, one is likely to find it in this book, and there should be no question in one's mind as to accuracy of the author's statements. Furthermore, some thirty-eight illustrations add considerably to the attractiveness of the work. Its format is good, and it has a satisfactory index.

It would seem that the work would have been more interesting and more readable if its treatment had not been so severely chronological and factual, and at least a part of it had been given topically. No method of treatment, however, is entirely satisfactory, and it is easy to criticize. Dr. Albright's book is a serious work, and a real contribution to the history of Pennsylvania, reflecting credit upon both the author and the Historical Society of Berks County. This worth-while publication will repay a careful reading.

State College, Pa.

W. F. Dunaway


A few years ago a careful study of the genus Hollywood, thinly disguised as fiction and entitled What Makes Sammy Run, attracted considerable attention and may even have prompted some soul-searching in the quarters concerned. Now perhaps the professorial breed may take warning from the life history which Dr. Freidel has recorded. For if ever a man pursued that will-o'-the-wisp, academic advancement, it was Francis Lieber: Berlin-born soldier of von Blücher's at Waterloo; sometime student at Berlin, Jena, Halle, and Dresden; exile, first to London and then, in 1827, to America; keeper of a school of gymnastics; eventually a long-time but always reluctant professor at South Carolina College; and finally, incumbent of a chair of history and political science at Columbia College, which for thirty years he had coveted while serving as translator, encyclopedist, tractarian, publisher's hack, apologist for the status quo, and, perhaps, becoming something of what he set out
to be—political scientist. In Lieber's moderate success and in his immoderate compromises there is a bitter lesson.

Take, for example, his attitude toward slavery. Ostensibly every sentiment in Lieber, political exile from Metternich-controlled Europe and friend of Daniel Webster and Charles Sumner, should have opposed the institution. But, writing in 1834 (Letters to a Gentleman in Germany), he could keep firmly in mind that as yet his influential Northern connections had won him no satisfactory post and that there were rumors of a Southern professorship. To his principles and friends he did throw the sop of admitting that slavery was vicious—against the spirit of the times. But only thus far would he go. If slavery were evil, emancipation was the foolish solution of violent and impractical people who knew not that the superiority of the white race was axiomatic. Moreover, Congress could do nothing about slavery; it was a matter for state legislation only. No wonder so respectable a candidate won the nod from South Carolina.

His twenty-one years there were miracles of rope balancing. Privately, he persuaded himself that slavery was "deciduous" and would fall "at a certain time as the first teeth . . . give way to the second." The winter of 1849-50, with its controversy over the Mexican Cession, made his perch more precarious. "The institution [slavery]," he was forced to admit, "had outlived its necessity." Nevertheless, it should be protected in the slave states, and the Fugitive Slave Act should be enforced. Even after his accession to the Columbia staff, Lieber's inaugural address was such that he could send it to the ardent pro-slavery advocate, Senator Hammond, and follow it up with a solicitation of the Senator's influence! It was only in his confidential correspondence that Professor Lieber could afford to be frank.

Or, consider the larger matter of Lieber on economics and government. His was the age when Jacksonian democracy was a new brew. But the followers of Jackson, eastern working men and frontier farmers, had no academic plums to give away. Lieber's first magnum opus, the two-volume Manual of Political Ethics, published in 1838-39, was one of the most comprehensive defenses of the rights of property yet to appear. In his Essays on Property, for which the Reverend Alonzo Potter wrote an introduction, Lieber himself avowed: "I firmly believe that men like Astor, Lawrence and Appleton ought to print my Property mss. and give me a handsome douceur. . . ." His last and greatest treatise, On Civil Liberty and Self-Government, ended with a chapter denying that the voice of the people is the voice of God. "You are so sound and conservative," James Kent told him. "You are a very safe writer." And surely it was always so.

But perhaps the reviewer is being too hard on the good professor. If he served his masters too well, this at least is to be said to his credit: he marshalled to their defense such an impressive array of scholarship that he devised many of the weapons of political reasoning which would eventually be turned against them. Little survives today of what Lieber said. But in his own day what he said did have serious significance.

In view of the foregoing, it may surprise some readers to note the subtitle to Dr. Freidel's book, Nineteenth-Century Liberal. Can the epithet be ap-
plied to a man who opposed women's suffrage, labor unions, pacifism, Oriental immigration, Darwinism, Catholicism? Not, certainly, in today's sense, but rather in the interpretation of "liberal" current in Lieber's own time, which identified liberalism with the dynamic business philosophy of the day. A man is known by the company he keeps, and Lieber kept the company of those "liberals" who opposed regulation of rising private industry and who championed free trade.

Always clearly and often gracefully written, evidencing full use of the voluminous Lieber material available, superseding the earlier studies by Perry, Harley, and Phinney, and expanding Dorfman's analysis, the present study is a worthy contribution to the memory of one who was at least a systematizer and publicist of political science, if not a political scientist himself.

New York State Historical Association

MARY E. CUNNINGHAM


When the historian finds himself utterly baffled in his struggle to pay his allotment of taxes for international homicide—past, present, and future—inevitably he writes either a text-book or a Lincoln book. The latter is surest of a market, and the best of the Hesseltine boys was smart enough to choose it. Also, he proved to be sufficiently erudite, thorough, and entertaining to produce more than "just another book" for the thousands of collectors of what Senator Brooks calls "Lincolnianiana." Professor Hesseltine recognized that the North, in its fight for nationalism, was bedeviled by state-rights dissensions; that Lincoln himself was elected the first time by the activities of the governors of the several states; that the great problem of the new President was to bring these governors, with their petty state jealousies, into line for a great national effort; that he succeeded in this effort; and that, finally, Lincoln was in a position to elect or re-elect the governors.

Twenty-three years ago, when Professor Hesseltine was still in scholastic swaddling clothes, I had the temerity to announce the thesis that "the state-rights principle, as applied in the organization and administration of the Union Army in the Civil War, did as much to prolong that conflict as the dissensions in the South contributed to bring it to a close." Now Hesseltine proves in 400 pages that my guess was correct. But he goes much further, and shows just how Lincoln solved the whole problem. I would be an ingrate if I did anything else than praise such a book. What do I care if the author sometimes gazes through the smoke of his bulldog pipe and writes Morgan for Morton; if, in a cavalier disregard for middle initials, he speaks of William M. Dayton and Herschel B. Johnson; if, neglecting to keep a card index of title abbreviations, he does not always cite the same book the same way; or if, by the form of the possessive, it would seem that he does not know how to pronounce Illinois? The publishers' readers and the house editors can often be blamed for the introduction of, or the failure to remove, such trivialities. Perhaps more serious slips should be mentioned. Perhaps my prejudice unfits me for writing this review at all.
Nevertheless, the book impresses me as a fine piece of realistic writing, and its tone is one that has long been needed. But the qualities of the tone can be fully appreciated only after long familiarity with Hesseltine's subtle ability in the use of two-edged words. Pennsylvanians can get comfort from the book in the realization that, conservative as Governor Andrew G. Curtin may have been, he was not as officious, as obstreperous, or as much a thorn in the side of the President as some of the governors nearer to Springfield. A due consideration of what is written between the lines in the following characterization will reveal Hesseltine's mental image of Curtin:

His fine six-foot, broad-shouldered, symmetrical figure was a splendid vehicle for his powerful oratory, which made up in rhetoric and wit what it lacked in grammar and literary finish. In his profession of the law he had never been a scholar, but the charm of his personality, the dignity of his bearing, and the roaring torrent of his words had made their impression on juries and played their part in his political career. He was right on most of the things that counted. He gave generously to churches. He talked convincingly about education. And he was sound on the tariff (p. 32).

University of Illinois

FRED A. SHANNON


In recent years there has been much interest in the life of Henry William Stiegel, the German immigrant who came to Pennsylvania in 1750, and, in a rapid and spectacular manner, became an ironmaster and a glassmaker, only to lose his wealth and spend the last years of his life in poverty. The author of *William Henry Stiegel and His Associates* has attempted to sift fable from fact in the story of this remarkable character, and has succeeded quite well. In instances where it is impossible to secure accurate information, as in the case of the time and place of the death of Stiegel, all the available evidence and theories are presented.

Though no important aspect of Stiegel's life is slighted, emphasis is placed on "Stiegel the Glassmaker." His activities as ironmaster, patron of education, churchman, and as one of the founders of the town of Manheim are well sketched. Especially worth-while are the descriptions of Stiegel's business and social relationships with other Pennsylvanians. The details concerning the Festival of the Red Roses, the annual service at Zion Lutheran Church at Manheim, where one red rose is paid as ground rent to descendants of Stiegel, are set forth. The author has gleaned much from the Stiegel manuscripts, from newspapers, and from other sources; he reaches the conclusion that Stiegel was a great and noble character, "a churchman, a benefactor, a manufacturer, and a man of vision."

The book is clearly written, but a careful editing would have eliminated such terms as "from whence (p. 1), "vague western lands" (p. 18), and "neck of the woods" (p. 25). The format, including the type, is good; the illustrations are well selected and clear; the appendix presents such infor-
BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTES


In fact, if not by formal declaration, the book now under review is volume thirteen of A History of American Life. In both format and typography it shows its kinship with the volumes of that series; and, moreover, from the first chapter to the “Critical Essay on Authorities” there is a wide ranging over subject matter in the manner that one acquainted with A History of American Life would expect to find in a volume supplementing that series. Yet there are differences easy to perceive, the most striking one being the scanty documentation in The Age of the Great Depression. Obviously, this volume is offered to a wide reading public, an observation which should not be construed as a disparagement. The author, an able scholar and a good stylist, has not sacrificed his standards of craftsmanship upon the altar of popular applause. His book is neither trivial nor pedantic. On the contrary, it embodies a serious, and, in general, a successful attempt to survey and appraise for intelligent and literate Americans the important period of our history extending from 1929 to 1941.

The story begins with national economic collapse, continues with the drift toward national prostration, and presently strikes a new note with the emergence of an heroic remedy for our national ills, the New Deal. Much of the book, necessarily, is concerned with the New Deal as both state of mind and program for action, and with the immediate consequences of the New Deal efforts to administer relief, to bring about recovery, and to safeguard restored prosperity with appropriate measures of reform. Accordingly, the author deals with the enlarging functions of the Federal government, with the rôle of labor and of industry, with the problems of youth and of age, and with the subjects of education, literature, art, religion, and science in a time when the faith of Americans in their national destiny was so badly shaken that most of them rejoiced when their Federal government at long last boldly accepted the novel rôle of benevolent receiver in bankruptcy. The author concludes his study with a rapid summary of the events that culminated in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

What is the judgment of the author in respect of the New Deal?—a question every reader of this book will surely ask. In the matter of its origins, Mr. Wecter believes, and demonstrates, that the Republicans bear no slight responsibility for the New Deal—a fact McKinley Republicans will like to hear no better than they have liked to read the presidential election returns since 1928. As to the New Deal objectives—relief, recovery, and reform—here is hardly the stuff of which revolutions are made; and there is, I think, no reason to believe that Mr. Wecter would call the New Deal a revolution. Rather, and properly so, he appears to regard the New Deal as a revival and a continuation of the crusade for social justice which, getting under way
early in the present century, swept onward through a succession of triumphs until it was halted by our entrance into the first World War, and then was repudiated by the conservative reaction which followed that war. In this light, therefore, the New Deal appears only as new means to attain old ideals. Yet the reader is brought up sharply when he contemplates the title of one of Mr. Wecter's most revealing chapters: "Reading, Writing and Revolution." What was the revolution?

The New Deal failed, as Mr. Wecter clearly perceives, to achieve one of its major objectives: it "did not, and apparently could not, solve the basic recovery problem." Here is a grim fact to set alongside the promising New Deal reforms that are likely to endure. It is a matter for sober contemplation, by New Dealers no less than by Old Dealers, that the problem of unemployment was "solved" by preparation for war and by war itself.

This book, stimulating though it is, has the major defect of "recent histories." We are very close to the 1930's—too close to be certain of our judgments with respect to that decade. Yet the events of that stirring time are already dim in our minds—crowded out by the harsher events of the 1940's. Hence the real value of this book. It sums up for us very ably the events of the recent past that we are already in the way of forgetting. We should be grateful to Mr. Wecter for the service he has performed.

Bucknell University

J. ORIN OLIPHANT

Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings and Addresses, Volume LIII.

(Norristown, Pa.: The Society, 1948. Pp. xxiv, 125, 171. $5.00.)

This is the most recent of the volumes issued by the Society over a period of fifty-seven years, its first having appeared in 1891. Volume LIII is divided into three parts. The first part briefly summarizes annual meetings held by the Society at Reading in 1944, at Waynesboro in 1945, and at Trappe in 1946. The second part consists of a study by Edward W. Hocker, librarian of the Germantown Historical Society, on a well-known Pennsylvania German family, the Sowers of Germantown. The third part is devoted to a study by the Reverend R. L. Winters dealing with a rather well-known Pennsylvania German minister of the Lutheran Church, John Caspar Stoever, Jr. (1707-79), who labored in southeastern Pennsylvania for fifty years.

Mr. Hocker's paper, entitled "The Sower Printing House of Colonial Times," deals with a subject that has engaged the attention of many persons from the time of Samuel W. Pennypacker and Abraham H. Cassel, in the latter part of the last century, to 1943, when Felix Reichmann's brochure on Christopher Sower, Sr., was published by the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation. Nevertheless, this paper by Hocker fills a gap. It draws together much material on the subject, and is authoritative and interesting. It deals, of course, mainly with the activities of Christopher Sower, Sr. (1693?-1738), who established in 1738 an important and a successful printing house in Germantown, a part of present-day Philadelphia, and with the activities of his son, Christopher Sower, Jr. (1721-84).

The care with which Hocker lists the productions of the Sower press, far beyond the colonial period, is commendable. In some instances more descrip-
tive material than has been given is desired. Thirteen pages are devoted to the listing by years, from 1738 to 1758, of the products of Christopher Sower's press and eight pages to the listing by years, from 1759 to 1777, of the books and pamphlets issued by Christopher Sower, Jr. A considerable number of the listings include helpful annotations, of which the following is an example: "'Hirten-Lieder von Bethlehem.' [1742] 12 mo., 138 pages. A collection of 369 hymns which Count Zinzendorf had Sower print for him. It was the first Moravian book printed in Pennsylvania."

In some parts of the study, where sources are cited merely by name, one wishes for specific page references. Such omissions should not disturb the reader, however, for Hocker has been familiarizing himself with his subject for many years, and has become an authority on the Sower family. His paper is the comprehensive work on the subject, but Reichmann's list of items issuing from the press of the elder Sower should also be consulted.

The study by the Reverend Mr. Winters, entitled "John Caspar Stoever, Colonial Pastor and Founder of Churches," comprises the last part of the volume. It is heavily and precisely documented. Reference is made not only to excellent original sources, German and English, but also to secondary works.

Stoever's ecclesiastical records are not so detailed as we might desire, but they certainly are useful, and, together with his energetic pioneer missionary work, make him a character worthy of investigation. This is the first extensive study of Stoever. It is useful because it shows the part he played in Lutheranism in Pennsylvania during the fourteen years before the arrival of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg and because of the apparently objective evaluation which Dr. Winters makes of this zealous, orthodox, somewhat intolerant, and rather turbulent pioneer minister and shrewd businessman.

The study could have been shortened considerably. Dr. Winters has injected material that does not apply strictly to the subject, yet it is woven in skillfully and furnishes appropriate background. He has given much attention to Stoever's activities in combating the Ephrata Sabbatarianism and to saving Pennsylvania for orthodoxy—Luther variety. Data on some important aspects of Stoever's life seem to be unattainable.

The title page in red and black and the ten enamel pages devoted to illustrations assist in making Volume LIII attractive. This volume will be useful to students of the Pennsylvania Germans, of the history of printing, and of Lutheranism. It belongs in every library having a Pennsylvania history collection. It is not, however, in the class of significant publications like Strassburger and Hinke's Pennsylvania German Pioneers, published in three volumes by the Society in 1934, and Borneman's Pennsylvania German Illuminated Manuscripts, brought out by the Society in 1937.


John Hancock, by Herbert S. Allan, undertakes to appeal to both the scholar and the general reading public. The result is a book which is uneven
in quality. The author has consulted a wide range of sources, and has put forth a strenuous effort to achieve authenticity. From time to time there are superlatively written sections. In an attempt, however, to avoid extreme statements and at the same time include colorful comments not strictly warranted by the facts, Mr. Allan often resorts to conjectural phrases. The abundance of "probably" terms detracts from effective writing, as does the frequent use of popular jargon in word choices.

Despite defects in his literary presentation, Mr. Allan has succeeded in putting Hancock into his proper historical setting. A John Hancock is presented memorable for more than his reputedly dramatic signing of the Declaration of Independence. His inestimable usefulness in the infancy of our nation is shown in such characteristic activities as maintaining a semblance of unity in the Continental Congress, helping quiet the Shays dissidents in Massachusetts, and paving the way for the adoption of the Federal Constitution in the Bay State. Hancock is not portrayed as a paragon of virtue. His faults are freely admitted, i.e., his vanity, sensitiveness, occasional ruthlessness, hypocrisy, and procrastination. Against this formidable array of shortcomings the author pits an impressive set of virtues: Hancock is revealed as generous, often at great cost to himself; as courageous to the point of risking his life for the patriot cause; and as charitable toward the underprivileged.

In much of the writing there is a spectacular quality not in keeping with other portions of the book. The author seemingly goes out of his way to avoid stuffiness, but he frequently succeeds only in being annoying, as in his references to John Hancock as the "Hamlet of the American Revolution" (pp. x, 287), or as "the frustrated self-fancied fighter from the peaceful purlicus of Beacon Hill" (p. 285). Specially contrived descriptions abound to so great an extent that such designations as "fancy financier," "unpredictable patriot," "Machiavelli," "sybarite," all with the appendage "of Beacon Hill" (pp. 310, 137, 51, 260), degenerate into mere elegant variation.

Herbert Allan's John Hancock is not a perfect book. It meets, however, a long-felt need for a full-length biography of a leading Revolutionary patriot. The illustrations and the general make-up, as well as the insights it reveals, make it a valuable addition to American historiography.

Carnegie Institute of Technology

NORMAN H. DAWES


These two books grew out of an event in 1944 which for a number of days threatened serious racial conflict in Philadelphia. This event was the strike of the workers of the Philadelphia Transportation Company in protest against the upgrading of Negroes to platform positions. The Bureau of
Municipal Research of Philadelphia sponsored and financed the two studies. Aside from the fact that it points out the scarcity of recreational activities financed by municipal departments, the latter and shorter study has little to recommend it as compared with the first-mentioned and perhaps more significant study.

The author modestly characterizes the first book as one "designed primarily to ascertain whether there existed feelings of resentment or distrust by the Negro people toward those responsible for maintaining law and order." Rather than concentrating on the problem of differential treatment, he overemphasizes the physical organization of the police department and presents an array of irrelevant although otherwise important matters, such as housing, education, recreation, public health, and other services.

The study establishes a background by examining certain characteristics of the Negro population of Philadelphia, such as origin, distribution, housing, employment, and social status. Data were compiled by means of personal interviews with white and colored, and conclusions were then predicated upon the information thus obtained. According to the study, the Philadelphia police force comprised some 4,749 officers of all ranks. The white population numbered more than a million and a half, and the Negro population was believed to be greater than 265,000. Of those interviewed, forty-nine were white, forty-nine were informed Negroes, and 121 were "representative members of the general Negro population." Of the thirty-four policemen interviewed, ten were white patrolmen, four were Negro patrolmen, and twenty were high-ranking officials. One finds it difficult to accept the authority of conclusions based on such sketchy sampling.

The study also includes a series of interviews with Negro inmates of Holmesburg prison, from which were drawn certain definite conclusions, the following being an example: "the Negro in Holmesburg prison feels that he suffers some disadvantages; but these believed disadvantages are not overwhelming, and the nature of the complaints suggests that even if his position is not of equality, it is not as bad as it is said to be in some other cities." The interviewer, after arriving at this conclusion, states that "it should be borne in mind" that "their responses may have been inhibited, since a prison official was present." Obviously, conclusions based on this type of questioning are of little value.

Emphasis is placed on the organization of the various law-enforcement agencies and on their training and equipment. We read, for example, that "the equipment of the park guard force consists of 13 motorcycles, 10 coupes, 2 sedans, 1 cabulance, 2 patrol wagons, and one horse drawn van." This reviewer may conceivably be interested in such information, but is genuinely skeptical as to its value or significance for the study in hand. The insertion of large amounts of extraneous information as background material gives rise to a suspicion that an otherwise sketchy literary effort has been padded.

Another section of the book deals with recommendations on how to improve the status of the Negro in the total process of law enforcement. Says the writer: "The Philadelphia Negro is faced by a definite, though limited, discrimination in the process of law enforcement and responds with mixed
and varying attitudes and beliefs." In a book of this sort, one expects some explicit treatment of the problem, but the best suggestions offered are: (1) a course in race relations to be made a part of the police-training program and (2) the establishment of a permanent civic-relations committee.

Although it is well written and well executed, one cannot help feeling that the book is somewhat below the level of the research scholar and somewhat above that of the undergraduate student.

*Police Women's Unit, Philadelphia, Pa.*  
**GENEVIEVE WELSHANS**

The Development of Southern Sectionalism, 1819-1848. By Charles S. Sydnor.


In his preface to this volume Professor Sydnor has stated his objective to be "a case study of sectionalism." Upon this traditional theme most of the works on Southern history have been centered. Such a synthesis is undoubtedly significant, and Professor Sydnor has done his job exceedingly well; nevertheless, the reviewer hopes that the trend of historical writing about the South will be turned into other directions. This volume is remarkably free from patent errors, and is based on a thorough study of the sources and a scrupulous use of evidence. So admirable is the judiciousness of the author that it would be difficult to tell whether he was born above or below the Mason and Dixon line. Furthermore, he has the virtue, rare among so-called scientific historians, of having a philosophical outlook on his subject.

The volume gets started slowly with a rather dull survey of static social conditions in the 1820's. But after these preliminaries the author gathers momentum by grappling with some of the basic problems of Southern history. One of these unsolved questions is the location of political power in the society of the Old South. In dealing with this problem Professor Sydnor makes his most valuable contribution, studying realistically county government, the remarkable growth of democratic political institutions during the period, and the change in political leadership. He also gives fresh interpretations of the Missouri Compromise and of the Nullification controversy, and he skillfully integrates the politics of the ante-bellum South with its economic and social life, particularly noting the impact of economic crises on political movements. Indeed, he has made a brilliant analysis of Southern political development, in which he has penetrated beneath the forms to the spirit.

His discussion of social history is less satisfying. He has a chapter on the humanitarian reform movement in the South, entitled "Toward a More Perfect Society," which seems to some degree inconsistent with his last chapter, "The Affirmation of Southern Perfection." This last chapter is interesting and provocative, but it leaves one wondering whether the glorification of a slave-based society was not a defense mechanism. Although slave propagandists and some intellectuals, like Calhoun and Fitzhugh, may have exalted slavery, it is doubtful whether the mass of yeoman farmers regarded the
in any other light than as a necessary institution to preserve order—far from being a perfect organization of society. Nevertheless, the author has sensed the great change in mind and body which came over the South between 1820 and 1850.

*University of Kentucky*

Clement Eaton


Like our lakes and rivers, our railroads have acquired institutional forms which are distinguishing features of our regional cultures. The Milwaukee Road is thus appropriately claimed as a Wisconsin institution; its history should afford excellent insights into the life of its community. The story will be midwestern, and readers should not expect to find an illumination of Pennsylvania history in it.

The Milwaukee Road—the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company—originated as one of several plans to bind a rapidly growing agricultural area to the town of Milwaukee. For a decade the economically elite of the lakeside business center debated whether the binder should be canal, plank road, or railroad. The result was a railroad chartered in 1847 and opened for traffic in 1851. Successive generations of managers then extended the original twenty miles of track from Milwaukee to Waukesha by construction, lease, and merger into an 11,000-mile system. One hundred and fifty-four corporate entities are represented in the history of the present company, and through the years financial tycoons battled for control of these properties in the traditional manner.

The introduction leads the reader to anticipate a skillfully drawn account of this "Wisconsin institution." But the story told is unbalanced because it is largely a history of top-level administration, and the author is unable to delve beneath the corporate report. Too much of the story remains an apology for the checkered history of the road. To demonstrate that Byron Kilbourn and Alexander Mitchell, two men who dominated the road in its early years, were "men of vision" is easy, but the mold in which these and other personalities are cast is the standard one of publicity agents. Summarizing the road's relations with an aroused public as "an almost constant barrage of opposition from legislative sources as well as from misinformed or deliberately misled men in the street" (p. 264), a theory consistently employed in explaining instances of public disapproval of company policy, is indicative of a readiness to accept ill-conceived official apology and to distort fact. Familiarity with the incident discussed would have led the author to call the "Milk Case" (p. 145) by its commonly accepted name, the Minnesota Rate Case, which in spite of the availability of essential evidence and a number of special studies is inadequately described. Then, too, if the rate case is worth only two paragraphs, why should a mail robbery of 1927 (pp. 217-222) be worth five pages? If Standard Oil interests chose to use the road as a "listening post" (p. 144), one would like to know why. As
Recognizing the extreme difficulty of working with records of the kind preserved by railroads, the historian of any railroad should first of all honor a railroad’s principal function—to provide transportation. Of this, the volume contains too little. Of how the road achieved its characterization as a “Wisconsin institution,” there is enough to justify the conclusions that the anonymous employees must have been motivated by nobler purposes than many of the top-level managers and that the people of Wisconsin have been indulgent as often as they have been aroused.

Carnegie Institute of Technology

Charles W. Paape

The Diary and Sundry Observations of Thomas Alva Edison. Edited by Dagobert D. Runes. (New York: Philosophical Library [c. 1948]. Pp. xi, 247. $4.75.)

As is stated in the preface, the editor of this work has attempted to present “a selection of Edison’s social and philosophical ideas.” In this task he has done a fine job.

The book is divided into two parts. Part One, The Diary, is the record kept by Edison from July 12 to July 21, 1885. In this sampling one gets only a tantalizing glimpse of Edison the man. Here is indicated a careful observer of nature and people, a very wandering and speculative mind with respect to both the physical and the spiritual worlds. Edison had a keen sense of humor, but his puns are scarcely uproarious, e.g., his referring to a raspberry patch as a “burying ground”! This reviewer wishes the editor had extended this “sampling” beyond the thirty-five pages here presented. A more extensive identification of names used in the Diary would also have been welcomed.

Part Two, Sundry Observations, is more revealing and substantial. Here, in eight chapters, can be seen the evidences of an insatiable quest, and the range of Edison’s mind in its social and philosophical meanderings. In these Observations one may read of Edison’s ideas on Motion Pictures and the Arts, on War and Peace, Education and Work, the Philosophy of Paine, Man and Machine, For a Better World, and The Realms Beyond. In Chapter I, Autobiographical, he tells, in a common-sense way, the advantages of his deafness and the part it played in the development of the telephone and the phonograph.

Space does not permit summarizing each of these Observations. Though they are uneven in interest and somewhat repetitious, through most of them runs Edison’s eternal optimism and continued reach into the unknown. Noticeable, too, in an unusual way, is his insistence upon the advantages of education. There are many references to the inadequacy of text-books in modern education, and there is an insistence upon the merits of visual education, especially motion pictures.

This reader was disappointed that so little material on Edison’s inventions was included. There is, however, an interesting paragraph on “the inventor’s
lot," in which Edison defines an inventor as one who "tries to meet the demand of a crazy civilization." Mad indeed must have been the world of Edison!

In his final chapter the editor has included Edison's observations on "The Realms Beyond," an interesting and a stimulating speculation on the mysteries of life and of life after death.

Mr. Runes has performed a genuine service for the general reading public, but the value of a work such as this to an historian is questionable. Other than by date, there is no identification of the *Sundry Observations*. The sources are not specifically indicated, nor the circumstances under which they were written. Five illustrations are included, but no bibliography and only a short index.

It may not be amiss, perhaps, to express the wish that Mr. Runes may issue later on a more extensive *Diary* and additional *Observations* which will include more of Edison's scientific writings.

Lebanon Valley College  
FredERIC K. MILLER


In view of the increasing interest among scholars in the religious backgrounds of American culture, this little volume, one of the attractive Pendle Hill booklets on Quakerism, makes a useful contribution to Pennsylvania history by outlining, in the words of Quaker leaders, the faith which motivated the founder and many of the later builders of our commonwealth. A typical instance of the volume's gift for clarifying aspects of Quakerism which are not always plain to the outsider is the section on the "Inward Light," which points up the differences distinguishing, one from the others, Inward Light, reason, and conscience.

Of special interest to the American historian is the section dealing with "Quakerism and Society." The active aspects of Quaker pacifism are accentuated in the statement that true patriotism, as the Quaker sees it, does not lie in military service to a national state, but in the redeeming of mankind and the rebuilding of a war-torn society "through the spiritual forces of love and active good-will." Hence the words, "Our highest loyalty to God and our fellow man is also the highest loyalty that we can render to our nation." Thus it may be observed that this book, though its principal purpose is the practical one of showing "the vital message Quakerism has for the present and the immediate future," has also historical value as a source book on all aspects of Quaker life and thought.

Muhlenberg College  
DON YODER


Here is a gift book *de luxe*. Brought out in an edition of twenty-three hundred numbered copies, it has been largely distributed by The Maple Press
Company of York, Pa., as its Sixth Annual Keepsake. The book is artistically designed, and is printed in 14-point monotype Baskerville on hand-made paper. The author, for many years a professor of history in Gettysburg College, has just completed a three-year term as president of the Pennsylvania Historical Association.

This work should be prized by collectors of Pennsylvaniana, for, besides being a splendid example of the printer's art, it deals with a subject of enduring interest. It tells the story of the wanderings of our central government, in the country between the Hudson and the Potomac Rivers, for more than a quarter of a century, during much of which time the capital of the United States was somewhere in Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, Lancaster, and York have been capitals of the United States; and Philadelphia enjoys the distinction of having been the capital at four different times.

The Maple Press Company has on hand a few copies of this book, and will answer the inquiries of prospective purchasers.

The Price Family of Barrett Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania.

By Violet Hallett Price. (Boston: The Christopher Publishing House [c. 1948]. Pp. 86. $3.00.)

This brief book is, as its name indicates, a genealogical history of a family in a limited area; yet it is somewhat more than that, for it contains some notes on the Price family in general. Of her efforts and purpose the author writes: "I have gathered my information from older members of the family and from the early histories of Northampton, Wayne, Pike and Monroe Counties. I have searched records of property transfers and letters of administration to be found in these counties. My search has led me into Trenton and Flemington, N. J. . . . My thought has been to map out as clearly as possible the relation of each to other members of the family rather than gather histories and information of individuals."


Volume XVIII of the Pennsylvania Archaeologist came out in "new dress" and in two double-numbers. The Spring number contains the following articles: "Shawnee Pots and Pottery Making," by Erminie Voegelin and Georg K. Neumann; "A Bucks County Argillite Cache," by John Witthoit; "Wanted: One Early Man," by Edmund S. Carpenter; "Monongahela Woodland Culture and the Shawnee," by C. A. Weslager; "Notes on Indian Maize," by Volney H. Jones; and "Varieties and Sources of Flint Found in New York State," by Charles Foster Wray. The Fall number consists of an extensive monograph by George S. Snyderman, entitled "Behind the Tree of Peace: A Sociological Analysis of Iroquois Warfare." This study is documented and is accompanied by a rather full bibliography.


A two-hundredth anniversary address, by the secretary and treasurer of the Reading Company, Philadelphia.


These preliminary inventories are intended to make “more available” to government officials and to scholars some of the records in the National Archives. In the course of time they will be replaced by more nearly definitive check lists and guides.

A catalogue prepared by Mrs. Elizabeth E. Hamer. On the front cover is reproduced the act of April 30, 1798, establishing the Department of the Navy.


A useful booklet issued as a temporary guide to historical markers in Pennsylvania. The markers are arranged by counties, and the full text of each inscription is reproduced.
CONTRIBUTORS

ANNA M. QUATTROCCHI is a member of the faculty of the Taylor Allderdice High School, Pittsburgh. Her paper was read at the annual meeting at Erie.

JOSEPH B. SMITH is an instructor in the Department of History at Dickinson College. His paper was presented as one of the Boyd Lee Spahr Lectures at the college.

SYLVESTER K. STEVENS, State Historian of Pennsylvania, has just been elected president of this Association. He is also serving as president of the American Association for State and Local History.

PHILIP S. KLEIN is secretary of this Association, and is a member of the faculty in the Department of History, Pennsylvania State College.
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