BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTES

Edited by J. Cutler Andrews
Pennsylvania College for Women


Dr. Tinkcom's volume adds a fine contribution to the growing list of monographs on the political history of Pennsylvania which will eventually be used as the basis for a comprehensive history of the Commonwealth. The volume under review is the sequel to Robert Brunhouse's Counter Revolution in Pennsylvania, 1776-1790, published in 1942.

The period of Pennsylvania history treated in this volume has long confused teachers and students because of the complexity of the party nomenclature then current and because of the nebulous character of partisan organization. Tinkcom's book clears up many of these problems.

In 1790, Pennsylvania had no political parties in the modern sense of that term. Many leading citizens, in fact, lived in the hope that the nation never would be divided by partisan groups. Such a hope seemed possible of fulfillment after 1788. Pennsylvanians who had opposed the ratification of the United States Constitution in 1787 became loyal supporters of the federal idea after the first ten Amendments had been approved. General support of the new system of national government eased the adoption of a new state constitution in 1790, which copied the Constitution of the United States. This state constitution, far from being the triumph of a reactionary party, represented a real compromise between political adversaries of a previous generation.

Governor Mifflin, also, represented political harmony. Although he "defied party classification," he was elected chief magistrate of Pennsylvania for three successive terms, from 1790 to 1799. He was supported by conservatives and liberals, easterners and westerners. He purposely acted the part of a compromiser between ephemeral political groups, avoiding controversial issues rewarding with office men of diverse political views, and steering wherever possible a middle course. Thus, both the new Pennsylvania Constitution and the new governor represented a truce to partisanship.

The impact of national problems upset the political balance in Pennsylvania. As host to the Federal government for ten years, the Commonwealth "was to react to national issues with a sensitivity so strong that her party groups were to arise primarily and fundamentally in response to them." (p. 32) The Genêt affair, the rise of the Democratic Societies, the Whiskey Rebellion, Jay's Treaty, and the contest between the state and national governments over the settling of the Erie Triangle—all served to create political division. By 1796, the terms Federalist and Republican began to reflect concrete differences of opinion and to represent specific groups of leaders. Still,
the personal influence of Mifflin continued to be so strong that he was elected governor for a third term in 1796 by a greater majority than ever, despite
the fact that he remained, from the standpoint of party politics, an enigma. Of this phenomenon, Tinkcom states: "He was considered unobjectionable by both Federalists and Republicans at a time when the relative strength of the two major factions was gradually approaching equilibrium. Neither could risk the nomination of a decisive and frankly partisan candidate when the political balance was so delicate." (p. 159)

After Washington's retirement from office, the balance shifted rapidly. The Alien and Sedition Acts and the direct property tax of 1798, which precipitated Fries' Rebellion, sealed the doom of Federalism. That party, in Pennsylvania, had been a "belated expression of post-war reaction"—"a mere dinghy attached to the national Federalist bark." "Actually," says Tinkcom, "Federalism in Pennsylvania was at its height when there were no parties in existence. When Washington retired, it began to weaken." (p. 272) The Republicans, on the other hand, had in their ranks a number of "highly gifted political manipulators and propagandists"; they developed effective machinery for nominating meetings and for getting out the vote; and they profited by national Federalist legislation which was obnoxious to Pennsylvanians.

The elections of Thomas McKean as governor in 1799 and of Jefferson as President in 1801 marked the emergence of disciplined party organizations in Pennsylvania. The Republicans, to be sure, obtained supremacy; but of equal importance were the facts that party labels now related to concrete sets of principles and that citizens willingly classified themselves on one side or the other.

This book is clearly organized and well-written. The general treatment is chronological, with pertinent topical subdivisions. The emphasis throughout is upon the development of partisanship. Matters which relate to this idea—the Genêt Mission, the Whiskey Rebellion, the Presque Isle affair, etc.—are told only in sufficient detail to explain their influence upon the main theme. As important personalities are introduced into the story they are deftly characterized and their place in the action clarified. The only adverse criticism which this reviewer feels compelled to make is that Mifflin, whose governorship dominates so much of the volume, never quite comes alive.

The style, a pleasant surprise, proves that a serious historical monograph can also be a work of literary quality. Facile writing, in this case, greatly enhances the narrative. Dr. Tinkcom's study is based, for the most part, on manuscript material. It is thoroughly documented and bears every indication of being a work of earnest and competent scholarship. The author is to be congratulated for producing this study, and the Historical and Museum Commission of Pennsylvania deserves our thanks for publishing it.

The Pennsylvania State College

PHILIP S. KLEIN


An adequate biography of this distinguished Philadelphian has long been needed, and Professor Earnest has now met the need in full measure. The
essence of Dr. Mitchell's genius lay in personal vitality and in versatility—in his eighties, he was still fascinating feminine patients, preparing competent medical papers, and turning out some of the best of his novels! Hence this biography, well written and based on a sifting of many sources, should appeal to a varied audience—to specialists in both our medical and our literary history, as well as to all those who will enjoy the portrait of a genteel Victorian.

The biography opens with Mitchell's somewhat difficult boyhood in the home of his father—also a leading physician—and then carries him quickly through the successive stages of medical training in Philadelphia and Paris, the stimulating experience as a "contract surgeon" during the Civil War, and the resulting growth of both research and practice in the field of neurology. As a medical man, Mitchell was remarkable in several ways. He never secured a professorship, yet carried on more and better clinical research than did the great majority of American professors prior to 1890. At a time when the medical schools viewed disease exclusively in physical (somatic) terms, he extended his interests to include the psychosomatic. His great contribution in the latter field, as the author notes, was to take neurotic patients seriously. Although he elaborated no such theories as Freud did somewhat later, his famous "rest cure" seems to have been of some help and brought him widespread recognition.

The busy physician of the 1870's was also trying his hand at literary efforts. His first published story grew out of medical experiences; in subsequent writing he continued to portray neurotic personalities—combining this with the prevailing vogue for historical romances. Space does not permit even a listing of his many novels. Curiously enough, Earnest finds the most popular of these (Hugh Wynne, the only one now remembered) quite inferior to several of the others. Mitchell's occasional excursions into verse were less successful, although certain quotations suggest that at his best he was capable of dignified and moving lines.

Combined prestige as a physician and author had made Mitchell a celebrity and a sage by 1900. He was also a social figure, a bon vivant, whose position was enhanced by moderate wealth and by marriage into the influential Cadwalader family. The author gives an interesting picture of the man's complex personality—of the talent for enduring friendships among both men and women, of the introspectiveness, and of the egotism which never degenerated into that of the mere "stuffed shirt."

Professor Earnest also provides a thoughtful analysis of Mitchell's achievements and limitations. The accounts of his scientific work are less extensive than those of his literary, but the general view of Mitchell's international position as a neurologist seems well founded. At only a few minor points did the reviewer feel that too much was claimed; as, for example, in holding (p. 78) that the doctor was opening "a new field" in discussing medicine in popular language. Nor was there anything remarkable in his investigation of the germ theory "as early as 1871" (p. 89): his father had done that before him.

In turning to Dr. Mitchell's verse and fiction, Earnest enters into detailed
descriptions and evaluations. The conclusion that the poetry was usually mediocre but that certain of the novels had real merit seems a fair and balanced one. However, the reviewer, having read only two of the latter, is hardly qualified to pass judgment at this point.

Professor Earnest's final conclusion is that Mitchell, although "an important figure in his time," was never quite "first rate." This was not because of any lack of brilliance but was rather a result of the doctor's social attitudes. In short, Mitchell's limitations were set by those of the Philadelphia circles in which he moved. His conformity to "the mores of a highly conservative community" kept him from entertaining more original and daring theories in either psychiatry or literature. There is no doubt, finally, that his versatility was remarkable for his era; although I cannot agree with Professor Earnest—or with Dr. Osler—that in this respect Mitchell was unique. (p. 225) Indeed, he might be compared here with two of his own best friends, Dr. Billings and Dr. Holmes.

_Simon of the York University_  

Richard Harrison Shryock

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_Benjamin Franklin's Letters to the Press, 1758-1775_. Collected and Edited by Verner W. Crane. Published for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Virginia (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, c. 1950. Pg. lxv, 308. $6.00.)

Journalists and propagandists think so little of their productions that frequently they fail to identify their writings; they extol the result of their efforts, but conceal or depreciate the means by which it has been achieved. This may account for the fact that so prominent a writer as Benjamin Franklin—not too much inclined to hide his light under a bushel—left so many of his fugitive writings anonymous or with their authorship confused by various pseudonyms. None of Franklin's writings has been more elusive than those which he contributed to the English press. Years afterward, when an attempt was made to bring together some of these, he testified to this fact: "They were most of them written occasionally for transient purposes, and having done their Business, they die and are forgotten. I could as easily make a Collection for you of all the past Parings of my Nails." Yet a diligent bibliographer like Professor Crane can now do that which seemed impossible to the philosopher. Carefully piecing together scraps of information, making hypotheses on the basis of style and content, and proving by internal evidence, he gives us 141 items with full annotation. In cases where these have been printed in previous collections of Franklin's works they are not reprinted—a matter of disappointment for the casual reader. Yet the editor claims to have doubled the number which could be so attributed.

These letters to the press were compiled in various ways. Some times they were the product of the propaganda machine at the Craven Street House, where others furnished material or worked under Franklin's direction. Occasionally they were extracts from letters. Then there were the typical comments of one who was forever making observations—not without their political angle—concerning such diverse topics as water traffic on the Thames, New
Fables, and American Longevity. They contain much that is factual and repetitious, but there is also abundant illustration of Franklin's quaint and clever touch, his irony and satire, and his penetrating logic. These are the qualities which make Franklin readable today, even though his subject may be lost amid the less well known topics of the eighteenth century. No new light on Franklin is to be expected, but here is meat for those who feed on Frankliniana.

Professor Crane's introductory essay not only explains his method and the nature of the work, but provides the historical setting. He gives a picture of the contemporary English press and of journalistic practices. There is an engaging picture of Franklin, too, as a press agent, using his house in Craven Street as a factory for press releases; employing his scientific prestige and learned friends, as well as his business relations with printers, to furnish information and contacts; and at the same time mixing in official society or frequenting the coffee houses to feel the pulse of public opinion. Franklin as colonial agent was the prototype of all our unofficial "Ambassadors" in foreign service. The present volume is a contribution to our understanding of that phase of his career.

Milton W. Hamilton
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In this small, well written volume, which is number 6 in the Rutgers Studies in History, Dr. McCormick has done for New Jersey what E. Wilder Spaulding and R. L. Brunhouse have already done for New York and Pennsylvania respectively. In his preface the author admits that the problems with which New Jersey had to wrestle in the critical period were not dissimilar to those which plagued the other states. Nevertheless, he feels that the critical period can be understood only by recognizing the fact "that the unique and significant characteristic" of this period "was the dominance of the states in their individual capacities." Dr. McCormick believes, further, that because of certain conditions peculiar to location, geographical divisions, and other factors "New Jersey had no counterpart among the original states." Admittedly, then, the justification for this volume is apparent. The stated purpose of the book is "to examine the experience of New Jersey as it sought to meet these large problems and explain the circumstances that conditioned its attitude toward them."

The author holds that New Jersey's strong desire to strengthen the confederation government was due to the condition of the state's finances. The tax burden was extremely heavy and the requisitions of the central government exceedingly onerous. Therefore, in the opinion of the state's leading men, a new government which would put an end to all these exasperations by means of a continental impost would be most welcome to all groups. An additional reason for the enthusiasm with which the Federal Constitution was received was the protection which it gave to property rights. This was ac-
accomplished by certain limitations which were placed upon the power of the state assembly. To the present writer, the underlying theme of the book is the clash of interest between what might be termed a popular party and the propertied interests, landed, mercantile, and financial. Throughout the volume it is made abundantly clear that the conservative minority was in constant fear of democracy unlimited.

Dr. McCormick's concluding chapter, which is in essence a summary of the book, is especially good. In this reviewer's judgment, other writers on matters historical could well afford to adopt a similar procedure. The work conforms to the best canons of historical writing with its full documentation and an excellent bibliography. An unusually good map, two appendices relating to state financial matters, and an adequate index complete the volume.

While not intended for the general reader, this modest work is an excellent addition to the literature of one of the most troubled and yet most inspiring periods in our history.

*The Pennsylvania State College*  
Burke M. Hermann


The need for a scholarly and somewhat detailed study of the craftsmen and artisans of the colonial period has been largely filled through the publication of *The Colonial Craftsman,* by Carl Bridenbaugh, Director of the Institute of Early American History and Culture at Williamsburg, Virginia. This volume presents the author's research as embodied in the Anson G. Phelps Lectures on Early American History. At the end of the book are references to authorities which reveal a wide range of sources, including newspaper, documentary, and secondary sources.

The author uses the term "craftsman" in its broad meaning, accepting the definition of the word as set forth in N. Bailey's *Dictionary Britannicum* (1730): "Craftsman—An Artificer: One who professes some Art or Trade, a Workman, a Handicrafts-man." As a result, tanners, cooper, millers, and cordwainers are discussed along with silversmiths, cabinetmakers, artists, and engravers. Thus gristmills, ironworks, and shipyards, together with the specialized handcraft shops of the period, find a conspicuous place in the book. The aim of the author is to depict the various phases of the life of the colonial artisan and to show the significance of his work and position in the colonial community; this aim has been well achieved.

The study is concentrated on the period from the beginning of the eighteenth century to the American Revolution. By 1776 American arts and crafts had made much progress throughout the colonies, especially in the urban centers of New England and the Middle Colonies. This can be seen in the handiwork of Paul Revere, silversmith (the Boston Museum of Fine Arts has a treasured collection of his work); William Savery, cabinet-maker; Charles Willson Peale, who excelled in many fields; and a host of other highly-skilled workers. More information on individual craftsmen would have enhanced the value of the work.
A broad variety of topics is woven into the well-knit narrative of the colonial workman and his family: apprenticeship, journeymen, "female" and Negro artisans, the Pennsylvania rifle, the Conestoga wagon, the Moravian communities in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. All are parts of a colorful story. The seventeen illustrations, taken from the French Encyclopédie, are revealing and helpful in noting the activities of the various crafts; but it should be kept in mind that they are pictures of French crafts and manufacturers, not American.

The volume is written with keen insight and is a careful analysis of the subject. It is a worthy contribution to the literature in the field of American economic history.

University of Pennsylvania

Arthur C. Binng


Eleanor Young's Forgotten Patriot is a slim 280-page biography of Robert Morris, Philadelphia financier. The story is told in a straightforward, chronological order, and the three parts into which the book is divided ("Preparation, Robert Morris and the Sea Lanes," 3 chapters; "The Struggle, Robert Morris and the Sinews of War," 8 chapters; and "Decline, Robert Morris and the Land Fever," 7 chapters) make for effective presentation. In the eighteen chapters Miss Young deftly traces, often with direct quotations from personal letters, the life of Morris from the "sturdy boy" of fifteen with a "west-of-England look" who strolled along Front Street in 1750 to the old man who died in 1806 on Twelfth Street not far from his once great mansion, still dreaming of riches, though he had been released only a few years before from the "hotel with the grated door" that was the debtor's prison.

It is properly pointed out that biographies of Robert Morris are few indeed. Yet Morris is perhaps the best known of all America's "forgotten" heroes. The author's failure to recognize that fact—plus a determination to use her story in part as a modern moral—detracts greatly from the value of her volume to historians. Miss Young skims lightly and somewhat pleasantly over the rise of young Morris to fortune, the grim days of the Revolution, and the last years of speculation and vain hope for financial rehabilitation. No new basic facts are presented. What is needed if Robert Morris is to be placed in his proper historical position in the story of the nation is a heavy tome based on an exhaustive study of commerce, of money and finance, of national politics, and of national development in the more than fifty years in which he was an outstanding individual. The monetary difficulties of the Revolution, for instance, ran far deeper than a mere unwillingness on the part of the people to support "sound" financial policies.

While it is not grounded on wide familiarity with modern economic and financial studies of the half century of Morris' active life, the biography has merit as a popular story. The author has read much in personal sources, and she writes with clarity and vigor, though frequently employing in descriptive passages imagination rather than evidence.

Temple University

James A. Barnes
As a co-operative venture undertaken by some ten participants, this book has all the advantages and disadvantages inherent in the symposium type of work. In general, however, a first-class job has been done; repetitions—the bane of such volumes—do creep in but are kept at a minimum. Those who conceived the project are to be congratulated on the successful outcome. It is a worthwhile part of the 1848 centennial.

The contributors deserve to be mentioned. A. E. Zucker, editor of the volume, wrote the preface and probably had the task of making the index also, Arthur D. Graeff penned the introduction. The main part of the text begins with “The European Background” by Carl J. Friedrich, who is followed by Oscar Handlin, who portrays “The American Scene.” Then the Forty-eighters’ “Adjustment to the United States” is described by Hildegarde Binder Johnson. Augustus J. Prahl writes of “The Turner.” The part played by “The Forty-eighters in Politics” is told by Lawrence S. Thompson and Frank X. Braun. “The Radicals”—that is, the socialists and communists among the Forty-eighters—are discussed by Eitel W. Dobert. Ella Lonn offers an estimate of “The Forty-eighters in the Civil War.” Bayard Quincy Morgan ends the formal part of the book by giving an account of Carl Schurz, while others in the panel also refer to the life and contributions of the greatest of the Forty-eighters.

The appendix includes a section on bibliographical abbreviations, a list of bibliographical notes which take the place of footnotes, and an interesting biographical directory of about 300 Forty-eighters, compiled by Zucker. It is remarkable testimony to the high abilities of the some 4,000 Forty-eighters who came to the United States that such a large proportion as 300 of them made their marks.

Readers of this journal will ask: What is there in the book for Pennsylvanians? The answer is that there is considerable, especially for those who stress—not to say overstress—the Pennsylvania Germans. It is good to see that writing and research are being done on Germans other than the “Dutch”—important as the “Dutch” are. It is entirely proper that we be reminded of the fact that other Germans in addition to the “Dutch” made contributions to the history of the United States and of Pennsylvania.

Although most of the Forty-eighters bypassed Pennsylvania, going on to Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri, and other midwestern states, well over twenty of the 300 named in Zucker’s biographical directory were connected in one way or another with Pennsylvania. Perhaps the best known Forty-eights to stay on in Pennsylvania was Schimmelfennig, who died at Minersville. Other Keystone State Forty-eighters of note were Zentmayer (microscopes and photographic lenses); Poesch (statistics); Morwitz (“patent insides” newspapers); Maisch (the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy); Kellner (Philadelphia journalism and the German theater); two of the four famous Hexamer brothers; Conrad (gymnastics for girls); Brentano (journalism
at Pottsville); and Bauer (Pittsburgh Volksblatt). Those searching for doctoral subjects on Pennsylvania history please take notice.

In short, the book is well done and fills a need. Kudos to all the participants.

Susquehanna University

WILLIAM A. RUSS, JR.


Two related questions are suggested by Irving Brant’s third volume of the life of Madison: (1) why did Madison, who took an active part in the making of the Constitution, later break with most of his co-workers at the Philadelphia Convention? (2) how extensive was his influence in the forming of the Constitution?

Mr. Brant answers the second question decisively, as signified by the sub-title of his third volume: James Madison: Father of the Constitution. On page 155, Mr. Brant says: ‘Madison richly deserved to be called the ‘Father of the Constitution.’ . . . His fundamental gift to the Constitution was the concept of national supremacy and local autonomy in a federal republic ruled by the people, with checks and balances to guard against legislative or executive tyranny and against impetuous legislation.’

With respect to the first question stated above, Mr. Brant does not offer, directly, a satisfactory explanation of the reason why Madison soon found himself at odds with his co-workers of 1787-89. Mr. Brant’s failure on this score arises from the fact that he has exaggerated Madison’s influence in the making of the Constitution. In so doing he has given a misleading impression of the major purposes of its principal framers and of the strongest forces behind it. Madison was not the father of the Constitution. He did not fully represent the most influential men among the framers. Essentially, he had a secondary part. The man to whom he was subordinate was Washington. The influential men with whom Madison co-operated had aims different, in part, from his. Once the Federal Government had begun to function, those aims asserted themselves in legislation. Madison was repelled and joined the opposition. This happened because he had not been the dominating figure at Philadelphia.

The purpose of Madison as a framer was in part negative, and otherwise limited. His chief preoccupation in 1787 was the paper money issued by the states. His main objectives were to deprive the states of the power over money and credit and to create a new monetary system that would be uniform throughout the nation, that would safeguard investments against debtor relief laws, and that would afford the benefits of a sound, stable currency. Such, of course, was one of the aims of the majority of the framers, led by Washington. But other aims of the leaders were broader. The larger purpose was that of creating an active national government that might effectively foster a diversified, self-sufficient national economy. In 1787-89, such a purpose meant, first of all, the promotion of manufacturing industries
in the United States. To that end the establishment of the national credit was to play the leading rôle.

All the leading acts of the Federalist program, 1789-92, were designed to achieve a diversified national economy. With this purpose Madison had little sympathy. When the intent and effect of the Federalist program became clear in 1791, Madison broke with Washington and joined the opposition as a lieutenant of Jefferson. Madison discovered that the aims of the Federalists were broader than had been his purpose in 1787. He had cooperated with the dominant figures then. He had served Washington admirably in preparing the constitutional framework through which the aims of the leading Federalists were to be realized. Madison had not been the real father of the Constitution. His services were utilized in 1787 by Washington, much in the manner that Washington made use of Hamilton, after 1788. The story of Madison is not that of a dominant man who broke with onetime subordinates; it is that of a subordinate man who broke with earlier associates more influential than himself.

The apparent shift of Madison's position in 1790-91 formerly presented an enigma. Mr. Brant's volume now clears up the mystery. By giving the evidence concerning the extent of Madison's influence in 1787, it helps to explain why he parted company with the Federalists in 1791. That evidence shows that what Mr. Brant regards as Madison's peculiar contribution to the Constitution was in fact the work of many men. The evidence also shows that Madison was often on the losing side and that many of his major proposals were rejected by the Convention.

That one disagrees with Mr. Brant's conclusion does not, of course, lessen the debt that is due to him for the wealth of evidence which he has presented so skillfully, so exactly, and so thoroughly.

Curtis P. Nettels


This little volume, dedicated to Boyd Lee Spahr, was published as a tribute to him on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his graduation from Dickinson College. The tribute is indeed a fitting one, for Mr. Spahr through long years has served his alma mater well. Not the least of his benefactions have been his magnificent donations to the Dickinsoniana Collection—a collection now housed appropriately in the Boyd Lee Spahr Room of Bosler Hall.

Strictly speaking, only four of the seven papers comprising this volume are Boyd Lee Spahr Lectures. Two of the other three were delivered as lectures on special occasions at Dickinson, and one was read before an annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association. Three of the seven papers were first published in scholarly journals.

It was appropriate that the first of the Boyd Lee Spahr Lectures (March 7, 1947) should deal with Benjamin Rush and the founding of Dickinson Col-
lege, just as it was fitting that this lecture should be delivered by Lyman H. Butterfield, associate editor of The Papers of Thomas Jefferson. Equally appropriate were the three lectures which followed: "A Frontier Experiment with Higher Education" (1948), by Joseph B. Smith; "The Education of Roger B. Taney" (1949), by Carl Brent Swisher, biographer of Taney; and "Hugh Brackenridge's Ride: How We Got 'Old West'" (1950), by President William W. Edel. Mr. Spahr's address on Charles Nisbet, the first president of Dickinson, was delivered in 1947 at the Annual Founders' Day Convocation at Dickinson College, and Roy F. Nichols' address on James Buchanan was delivered in 1948 during the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the founding of Dickinson College. James W. Phillips' paper, "The Sources of the Original Dickinson College Library," was read in 1946 before the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association in Reading, Pa.

These essays, though each one is complete in itself, have an underlying unity. They are chapters of the early history of Dickinson College, as well as chapters of the early cultural history of the Republic. Some of the great names of America appear in the early records of Dickinson. As an illustration of the relation of this college to national affairs, it may be observed that soon after one Dickinsonian, James Buchanan, became President of the United States, another Dickinsonian, Roger B. Taney, Chief Justice of the United States, delivered an opinion in the case of Scott v. Sandford that literally rocked the nation.

This book will be prized by many who are not graduates of Dickinson College. It is adequately illustrated and beautifully printed. Unhappily, it has no index.

**Bucknell University**

J. ORIN OLIPHANT


Although Connie Mack's *My 66 Years in the Big Leagues* falls far short of sound historical writing, it is appealing to the baseball fan and has some value for the social historian. "Connie" does not use statistics skillfully, organize well knit paragraphs, nor write effectively. The critic, nevertheless, will find much to praise in this popular account of the growth of professional baseball.

The contents of *My 66 Years* have more to do with the rise of organized baseball than they do with the author's actual experiences. The roles of great players, umpires, sports writers, colleges, high schools, and the American Legion are so described as to impart an appreciation of the scope of baseball and of its significance to the American scene since 1839 when Abner Doubleday organized the game substantially as we know it today. The book presents arresting details, such as the explanation as to why the Philadelphia Americans came to be symbolized by the elephant and why they lost the World Series to the Boston Braves in 1914. There is a delightful account of Cris von der Ahe, the fabulous millionaire owner of the St. Louis
Browns, who ordered champagne for his team, the newspaper men, and the fans to celebrate a championship victory over Al Spalding’s Chicago White Stockings in 1886. The author presents what he calls a political secret about Branch Rickey, who at one time was urged to enter Missouri politics and to run for governor. Had Branch become governor, the author surmises, he might have been selected as Roosevelt’s running mate in 1944 and, accordingly, might now be President of the United States, which is a thought to intrigue the historian.

The book includes many photographs, the author’s selections for all-star teams of the past and present, a chronological series of “firsts” in baseball, a list of “immortals,” an enumeration of American Legion players who have made the Big Leagues, and an index.

Connie Mack’s reputation as a lovable personality who contributed richly to the great American game will outlast whatever fame accrues to him as an author. He has not written a great book, nor a solid, well-presented book, but this volume will be widely read and relished, especially by those who know and love baseball.

_Carnegie Institute of Technology_  
_NORMAN H. DAWES_