BOOK REVIEWS


This short but solid study treats of seventeenth-century English geographers who wrote concerning America, especially concerning those parts of America where Englishmen were trading and settling. This being an age when specialization was in its infancy, and geography being in any case a gregarious discipline, it is not surprising that this literature tends to be catholic in its scope. It is not in all instances possible, for example, to discriminate between it and pioneer efforts to write the history of the impact of the Old World upon the New. The author differentiates, quite properly, between "promoters," appealing to potential investors and emigrants (a class of writers with which he is not here concerned), and "geographers," who wrote for the consumption of the general reading public. However, the distinction is hard to maintain, and one is left with the impression that it is something of an understatement to say of the geographers that they "more than once approached perilously close to the ranks of outright promoters." The merits of these writers vary greatly. George Gardyner and John Ogilby are outstanding; others are mere hacks. One with another, Dr. Mood is more impressed by their achievements as promoters than as geographers; though their writings unquestionably performed the important service of revealing America to the reading public, and the misconceptions and inaccuracies with which these works abounded were progressively cleared up in the course of time. Having dealt in the first part of his study with the geographers as dispensers of knowledge, the author treats in the second of their attitudes toward English expansion and their connection with the business interests behind it. This excellent little work would perhaps have gained in both unity and meaning if the two tasks had been performed simultaneously.

University of Pennsylvania

LEONIDAS DODSON


This essay has received but little notice because hardly more than a half-dozen copies are extant. Lawrence Wroth in An American Bookshelf, however, has suggested its importance as a significant piece of political writing.
The author of the Essay was a Virginian, and internal evidence leads to the conclusion that it was written by Robert Beverley, author of The History and Present State of Virginia. Dr. Wright believes that Beverley’s father-in-law, William Byrd I, may possibly have had a hand in it. William Byrd II is eliminated since he was in England at the time.

Beverley’s tract was written in part to contradict the views of Charles Davenant, whose Discourses on the Publick Revenues, and on the Trade of England had been published in 1698. Davenant had praised the piety and thrift of the northern colonies, the proprietary system of governance, and Penn’s plan of colonial union. Beverley, however, did not criticize Davenant’s production in toto, and in some measure he used it as a springboard for some ideas of his own upon colonial matters.

The Virginia landowners particularly objected to William Penn, who was competing aggressively with Virginia for immigrants; and Beverley believed that most of Davenant’s information was derived from Penn. Beverley denied, for example, that Virginia’s lands were all taken up and that prospects of success were discouraging in Virginia. He set forth the claim that the proprietary colonies were irresponsible, and especially that they connived with smugglers and welcomed criminals and other fugitives from justice. Penn’s plan of union irritated Beverley because each colony would receive one vote, whereas he believed that representation should be in accordance with population and wealth. He recommended that Virginia have four deputies; Massachusetts and Maryland, three; Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York, two; Pennsylvania, East Jersey, West Jersey, and Carolina, one. Instead of having all the meetings take place in New York, he would alternate the meetings among five colonial districts.

In dealing with the colonial system in general, Beverley favored closer ties with the home government. However, he saw no necessity for the king’s exercising, as some recommended, absolute power over the colonies. He objected strenuously to place-hunting governors and thought that they enjoyed entirely too much power. Governors were actually able to prevent remonstrances from coming to the attention of king and parliament. He approved the establishment of the Board of Trade, and looked forward to the institution of a system of colonial agents in London. He applauded liberty of conscience as it existed in the colonies, but thought that dominant religious groups, such as the Independents and the Quakers, had the means of too large political control. He deplored the confusion of law. No one knew where that of parliament ended and that of the assemblies began. Trade grievances were legion, particularly in the proprietary colonies which took matters into their own hands. A unifying law was needed to end the general chaos. The first step toward this end would be the establishment of a plan of union among the colonies.

Dr. Wright, in his appendix, publishes for the first time two drafts of memorials written by William Byrd II for presentation to the Board of Trade. Both touch on matters contained in the Essay. Dr. Wright’s intro-
duction, which deals with the question of authorship and content, is satisfying and excellent.

College of William and Mary  

JOHN E. POMFRET


The Declaration of Independence is a short document, not more than a few hundred words in length, but, in the hands of historians, great books from little documents grow. There have been many books written about Thomas Jefferson's little masterpiece and, no doubt, many more are to come. Indeed, the problem of finding space for all the books being written by Americans suffering from that fatal itch to see their names in print, is beginning to give serious concern to librarians. Mr. Boyd is a librarian who himself writes books and thereby helps to aggravate an already acute situation. But, in Mr. Boyd's case, this is not a fault: he is not only the librarian of one of the most important libraries in the country but he finds time and energy to write excellent books—which puts him in a class by himself.

Let it be said at the outset that it will be a long time before we see a more thoroughgoing and meticulous study of the Declaration of Independence. If one wishes to know how the Declaration was written, the changes that occurred in the various drafts, the part played by the various members of the Committee of Five (of which Jefferson was a member) in determining the form and scope of the Declaration, in what ways it was amended by the Continental Congress, Mr. Boyd's book is the place to go. Here are brought together for the first time facsimiles of all the known drafts made by Jefferson, handsomely set forth at the end of the volume. It is, in short, a word-by-word study of the Declaration which attains a high order of painstaking and exacting scholarship.

The conclusion reached by Mr. Boyd from his examination of the sources is that Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence was actually improved by the emendations of the Continental Congress. Of course, Congress at that time boasted some of the keenest minds and masters of literary expression in the United States. Given Jefferson's draft, these men made the Declaration more logical and smoother in style: although Jefferson protested these changes, Congress prevailed and, Mr. Boyd believes, the result was much to the advantage of the Declaration.

In the final paragraph of his book, Mr. Boyd, in brilliant fashion, summarizes his views of the Declaration. "The charter of American liberty," he says, "far from being brought full-blown into the world, was the result not merely of a single author's lonely struggle for the right phrase and the telling
point, but also of the focusing of many minds—among them a few of the best that America ever produced—upon this world-famous proclamation." Jefferson intended that the Declaration should be "an expression of the American mind." Mr. Boyd's book reveals how truly the Declaration of Independence was the work of the American people.

*Cotuit, Massachusetts*  
*John C. Miller*


We heartily commend to every student, every lover of history, and every admirer of rhetorical writing these two octavo volumes, which for the first time give "all of Paine's writings available at present" at so reasonable a price that from now on much of the current nonsense about Paine ought to cease. Here he is, equipped with a suitable and full edition, capable of standing on his own feet and being judged without interpretation or apology. The format is satisfactory, the editorial modernizing of the text is as successful (though as unnecessary) as it can be, and the coverage extensive. The editor has collected from contemporary newspapers and from manuscript repositories over two hundred fugitive pieces that have not been published before in the various editions of *Works* and *Writings,* and has added some unpublished letters. Volume I contains the five major books: *Common Sense, The American Crisis, The Rights of Man, The Age of Reason,* and *Agrarian Justice.* Volume II contains lesser known works and shorter writings, arranged by topics in such groups as Humanitarian, The American Revolution, Scientific Writings, Songs and Poems. A chronological table of all writings, a short list of books consulted, editorial introductions to each section and each selection, and an index of each volume constitute the *apparatus criticus* of the book.

Beyond expressing our gratitude at having so much for so little, we must comment on the book as a book, and observe its effect upon our thinking about Thomas Paine.

This book belongs to, and we hope will prove the climax of, the stream of revisionist writing about Tom Paine. Revisionism is wholesome, but enough is enough. Tom Paine has been loved, honored, read and celebrated so long now, that it is a bit tiresome to find Mr. Foner asserting, "the time has come once and for all to end the torrent of abuse that has been heaped upon Tom Paine for about a hundred and fifty years." What torrent, Mr. Foner? The vilification of Paine is largely a myth, with just enough basis in fact to enable writers who enjoy belligerency to convince themselves...
they are carrying a flaming torch of justice in a blighted land. Let us look at the record.

Something happened to the glands of American writers a generation ago which impelled them to start blowing Tom Paine up into heroic stature. People do not study history; they fabricate it. No fabricated product has proved easier to market lately than the stylized concepts of figures of the past presented as figures of the present, fighting our twentieth century battles for us. We are asked to admire men not for what they did but for what we wish to make of what they did. The present process of apotheosizing Paine began fifty years ago when Moncure D. Conway published his six-volume Life and Writings. In 1908 came an even greater collection, in ten volumes. In 1925 another ten-volume collection appeared. Along with these were volumes of selections—one in 1922 edited by Carl Van Doren, another in 1928 by Arthur Peach, the quizzically titled Complete and Unabridged Selections in 1935, one by John Dos Passos in 1940, another in 1942. Between the two World Wars there were several biographies bearing exciting sub-titles: “Liberator,” “Friend of Mankind,” “Prophet and Martyr of Democracy.” There were also numerous articles in learned journals dealing with special aspects of Paine’s career. One might fairly have assumed that the Thetford staymaker was receiving his due from both enthusiastic popularizers and more restrained analysts, yet in 1942 Dixon Wecter from an abundant knowledge of American hero-worship wrote, “Perhaps it is too late for [Paine] ever to gain his true stature as an American hero and liberal.”

Professor Wecter need not have worried. In the last three years another biography, “America’s Godfather,” has appeared, as well as a pseudo-biography in the form of a pseudo-novel; at least three articles by historical scholars (one of which, by R. R. Palmer in this Magazine, was notably poised and judicious); two more volumes of selected writings, and the present two-volume Complete Writings. Paine has been elected to New York University’s Hall of Fame; an extensive study of his career in connection with eighteenth-century radicalism is said to be in progress, and we may be sure that scholarly energy will not let things rest there.

It would be possible to count more than a hundred thousand pages of print devoted to Paine by his defenders in the last fifty years. What are they defending him from? Chalmers’ unfavorable biography was published in 1791, Cheetham’s in 1809, but both were answered by sympathetic works, the first of which, Rickman’s, appeared as early as 1814. Of course, there was that tasteless and intemperate remark of Theodore Roosevelt, a tasteless and intemperate man, who in 1888 called Paine a “filthy little atheist”; and there have been occasional attacks upon his religious position, but these can scarcely be called “heaping abuse.” Parrington, apparently quite seriously, called Paine “the first modern internationalist,” an “epitome of the world in revolution,” “probably the greatest pamphleteer that the English race has produced, and one of its great idealists.” Parrington’s
superlatives had a way of ignoring a great deal of history. Conway was even less temperate: Paine was in his opinion the “great Commoner of Mankind, founder of the Republic of the World, and the emancipator of the human mind and heart.” This bordered on inanity.

All that is admirable in Paine’s life and writing suffers from such foolish testimony; so does our understanding of history. We need the kind of sane and helpful study that Crane Brinton’s biographical sketch in the DAB outlined. Unfortunately, Mr. Foner has not given us that. Most of his notes are quite helpful, and without occupying too much space achieve their purpose, though certain notes are repeated too often, sometimes meanings are obscure (“a romantic rather than a realistic revolutionary”), or very dubious statements are made (Paine understood “the significance of the frontier in moulding American democracy”), and in one annoying footnote to a trivial remark in a commonplace scientific essay the atom bomb is dragged in for Paine’s expatiation.

It is not the notes themselves, however, but the tone in which they are written, to which we object. To term Paine a “humanitarian and inspired agitator” is certainly just, but nothing in the corpus of his writings or in the opinions held of him by his great contemporaries warrants the assertion that he was a “keen analyst of social and economic problems.” Mr. Foner’s statement, that Paine’s discussion of political and economic issues “ranks highest in the literature of the era,” is a judgment which cannot be accepted. Nor do Paine’s mechanical gadgets—the iron bridge, the smokeless candle, the gunpowder engine (which Mr. Foner happily refrains from comparing with jet-propelled aircraft)—entitle him to be called a “distinguished” inventor, especially by comparison with the great inventors who were his contemporaries; nor do his scientific essays support the praise of his “breadth and depth of approach towards scientific problems.”

One curious assertion is made in the biographical introduction, namely, that the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776 was “drawn up by Paine and Franklin.” At the same time, Mr. Foner says, “Paine was doing more than writing Constitutions.” In a footnote on this page (I, xv) reference is given to Dr. Selsam’s book on that Constitution, which is pronounced “an excellent analysis,” even though part of Selsam’s analysis had been to attribute authorship carefully where it belonged, which was with neither Paine nor Franklin. In Volume II (p. 269), Mr. Foner publishes a statement by Paine himself to the effect that he had had nothing at all to do with making the Constitution, indeed, knew nothing of it until it was printed. Introducing this document, Mr. Foner acknowledges his statement in the biographical essay to have been erroneous (why was it allowed to stand?), but remarks that the incorrect point of view has been “generally assumed by most students.” It certainly was not assumed by Dr. Selsam, whose book Mr. Foner cites as authoritative.

Other objections, big and little, we shall not mention here. It is too gratifying to have all this Paineana to permit us to take the editor further
to task. But we hope the appearance of this work will stimulate those who write about Paine in the future to impose standards of care and judgment upon their work which have not characterized their predecessors. Paine was great in his element, but his was not the whole genius or the entire stature of the American, or the French, revolution. He was a man of his age, and no Messiah.

The Free Library of Philadelphia

J. H. Powell


Provided only that they are competently prepared, we can hardly have too many anthologies of Franklin’s writings. We have had select collections for the scholar and the general reader, for high school and college students, for specialists in the history of science, medicine, education, and typography, for the young tradesman “on the make” and the lover of light literature. There will be others and, with the proviso mentioned, they will all be welcome, for a writer as copious, entertaining, and instructive as Franklin is perhaps inexhaustible. Like the landscape described by the poet Dyer, he is “ever-varying, ever new.”

The two most inclusive collections of Franklin’s writings have now appeared simultaneously. Except from the standpoint of editors’ royalties, this is not unfortunate, for each is excellent and has its particular usefulness. One of them, Benjamin Franklin’s Autobiographical Writings, edited by Carl Van Doren, has been announced with more éclat, thanks to the editor’s best-selling and now standard biography of Franklin. The other is the book being reviewed. In the first, the term “autobiographical” is very broadly interpreted; the scholarship is impeccable; and the considerable fraction of uncollected and altogether new matter makes the volume requisite for every close student of Franklin. Some of the new matter, to be sure, is not very consequential, and the book has at times the air of what the French pleasantly call “mémories pour servir à l’histoire.” If it serves the devoutly to-be-wished-for definitive edition of Franklin’s writings, so much the better.

Dr. Goodman’s collection has been prepared primarily for the common reader in the best sense of the term. It presents the Autobiography as a single unit (not as Mr. Van Doren has arranged it, separated into parts according to date of composition), and it groups the other writings under a series of subject and biographical headings: Religious Beliefs, Editor and Publisher, Promoter of the General Welfare, Practical Scientist, Colonial Agent in London, American Minister to France, Essayist and Humorist, The Family Circle, and Miscellany. In each section the reader will find all the expected pieces, the canon of Franklin classics from the Dogood Papers of 1722 to the magnificent letter of 1790 to Ezra Stiles on his religious
beliefs. In addition the reader will find a good many unexpected pieces. Here, at one extreme, is the formidable *Dissertation on Liberty and Necessity*, happily Franklin’s sole venture into metaphysics; and here, at the other, are certain naughty bagatelles that have been customarily excluded from trade editions. The section on Franklin as a practical scientist is particularly rich, drawing as it does on Dr. Goodman’s earlier collection, *The Ingenious Dr. Franklin*, and including the memorable satire on scientific ingenuity from *Poor Richard’s Almanack* for 1757, “How to Make a Striking Sundial.”

Minor faults are the lack of a list of sources and the occasional banality of the captions (for example, “Leads Movement to Pacify Rioters Who Attacked the Moravian Indians”). The illustrations, both the originals made for this book and the reproductions, are uniformly pleasing and illuminating. The book is handsomely designed and printed. It deserves to be widely read and reread.

*Princeton University Library*  
L. H. BUTTERFIELD

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In recent years the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation in Philadelphia has begun the publication of a series of bibliographies which more and more prove to be a very helpful tool for historians, librarians, and archivists. The first and second volumes of the series were concerned with the Muhlenberg and Sower families; the third is dedicated to the Ephrata cloisters. The first part of the bibliography, contributed by Mr. E. E. Doll, furnishes a list of books about Ephrata. He enumerates general works, literary products of eighteenth-century Ephrata, references, fictitious and poetic works on the cloisters, handbooks and articles. The more important entries have short critical annotations which will be of great help to anybody interested in the history of Ephrata. The second part covers books, pamphlets, and broadsides printed at the press of the Ephrata community between 1745 and 1794. This compilation, contributed by Mrs. A. M. Funke, is based mainly on the Cassel Collection of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Again all items are carefully annotated; detailed information is given on origin, history, and location of the Ephrata printing products. The two parts supplement each other in a perfect way. These 452 items listed represent an impressive array of the literary contributions emanating from and stimulated by Conrad Beissel’s monastic community. It is to be hoped that this valuable series, published under the general editorship of Dr. Wilbur K. Thomas and Dr. Felix Reichmann, will be continued and that future numbers will maintain the high scholarly standard set forth by this promising beginning.

*University of Maryland*  
Dieter CUNZ
The Warning Drum. The British Home Front Faces Napoleon. Broadsides of 1803. Edited by Frank J. Klingberg and Sigurd B. Hustvedt. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1944. x, 288 p. $4.00.)

It has been said—and with considerable truth—that World War II bore far more resemblance to the Napoleonic struggles than it did to its 1914 predecessor. Nowhere is this parallel more apt than in the comparison of the Treaty of Amiens with Munich. Both were triumphs of appeasement, and after both the dictators' ambition followed the familiar pattern—not observing either the letter or the spirit of the agreement, attempting to control the foreign policy of the prospective victims, incursions of "tourists," espionage, sabotage, and a war of nerves generally. In 1803 Malta was Britain's Poland, the point on which she would not yield, and in May of that year France's behavior had become so intolerable that the war was renewed. From then on, the parallel still holds. There was the "phony war," the attempted invasion (thwarted by the Royal Navy as that of 1940 was crushed by the R.A.F.), the opening of a second front (in the Peninsula instead of North Africa) and finally Bonaparte's desperate gamble in Russia.

It is against this background that this intensely appropriate book has been compiled, made up as it is of broadsides issued in England during the "phony war" period of 1803, when Napoleon was assembling his mighty host at Boulogne to crush his indomitable adversary. Aside from the navy, Britain was weak, but the spirit later to be embodied in Churchill's speeches was there, and the appeals of these broadsides were answered by a national unity of response which made England the mightiest of all Napoleon's foes. We can well understand on reading them how the enthusiastic volunteers of 1803 who knew nothing of war became under Wellington the finest infantry in Europe.

The broadsides themselves run the gamut of literary virtuosity. Some are in poetry, though most are in prose, and a few are in the epistolary form. Some are merely coarse Billingsgate, while some are in the lofty classical style of Burke and Pitt. We meet with a few in imitation of official proclamations, with at least one (No. 4) that is genuine historical writing, with several that make use of dramatic elements (such as sham playbills), and with others that are in dialogue form. But the tone, the temper, and the purpose in all are the same—to rouse "the freedom-loving Britons with hearts of oak" against "the half-starved followers of the Corsican traitor." History and tradition are especially appealed to, and references to Agincourt and the Plantagenet kings are very frequent. In all there are seventy of these broadsides, while the book itself is prefaced by an introduction which as an historical essay is a little gem. It is to be regretted, however, that there are no illustrations; a few reproductions of the more pictorial broadsides would have made the presentation more vivid, while a sprinkling of cartoons by Gillray, Dighton, or Rowlandson would have made an attractive volume still more attractive.
A supremely good book on the general subject has recently appeared, and should be read in conjunction with *The Warning Drum*. This is Arthur Bryant's *Years of Victory*.

*Devon, Pennsylvania*  

**Boies Penrose**


News of another Lincoln biography raises the question in the minds of readers: Why another one? The answer is not hard to find. No trained historian has heretofore undertaken to study the voluminous sources and attempt objective judgment on the historical problems which Lincoln's career presents.

Randall is eminently qualified for this task and his work will probably remain unique. In the first place, it is not so much a biography as a history of the executive management of the Civil War with a natural emphasis upon the particular personality and problems of the President. In the second place, it is only an installment. Its furtherest extent in time is November, 1863, but it is not complete to that date, for we are assured that certain topics which have earlier phases will be treated later. Thirdly, it is written on the basis of only part of the evidence, as the bulk of the Lincoln Manuscripts cannot be consulted by anyone until 1947. When this collection is opened, no one knows what will be disclosed. The author has assumed that it will not be much but this is not altogether certain. Whatever there is, the author plans to incorporate in his final volumes. Most important, then, will be the biography of Lincoln when it is completed. It will be a large-scale, scientifically dispassionate work; it should be the biography to end biographies of Lincoln.

This unique work deserves great praise. Its author is remarkable for his detachment, his scholarly precision, and his refusal to be borne along by the weight of long-accepted interpretation. It challenges thoughtful consideration and will provoke some dissent. The thoroughness with which the voluminous sources have been covered is as gratifying as it is unusual. All these sources are noted carefully and their contributions adequately recorded. The whole subject has been freshly studied.

The two volumes, though concerned primarily as the title suggests with Lincoln as President, do not by any means entirely omit his early life. Three introductory chapters deal with Lincoln's career prior to 1860. Also the author gives much thought to the causes of the Civil War and his conclusions in this difficult problem should be given particularly careful reading.

Randall wrestles with causation realistically. To him the explanations usually advanced are "unconvincing." Why should a nation so successful in its enterprises, so wealthy and so resourceful turn aside in the midst of its
great achievement to fight and to destroy so much that it had built with so much pride? Randall puts the heart of the matter thus. The influences for peace were great and they should have been sufficiently potent to repress the conflict. But certain differences of opinion and interest based on sectional and regional diversity produced alarms which were "loud and vociferous. Their appeal was not to reason. Their menace was in a kind of emotional unbalance. Their language was that of name calling, shibboleths, epithets, tirades. Such mental currents bore within themselves the power to upset normal life and to precipitate a major conflict that no majority in any section would have deliberately willed. One of the most colossal of misconceptions is the theory that fundamental motives produce war. The glaring and obvious fact is the artificiality of war-making agitation."

This situation was the crux of the matter when Lincoln was elected in November, 1860. Two vocal minorities appeared. One in the South rushed seven states into secession. The other was an element in the Republican party which was so eager for the fruits of power that it was unwilling to make any concessions in an effort to stop the tide of disunion. The peace-loving majorities in both sections could not mobilize the strength of their numbers to overcome the noisy minorities. Lincoln, far away in Springfield, Illinois, dared make no move lest members of his own party destroy his power almost before he assumed it. Whether any leader could have mobilized the conservative North and the upper South to effective action, none can say; certainly no such leader appeared. Buchanan and Crittenden tried—the one to secure a national convention, the other to promote a territorial division as in 1820 and 1850—but failed dismally.

Power did not come to Lincoln's hands until March 4, 1861. He was planning to rally the latent love of Union which he thought existed in the South. But he could not find it, and in the meantime the rush of events and the politics of the Republican party which threatened to destroy him as a power caused him to send reinforcements to Sumter. The result was war, and he must turn to the difficult task of being commander-in-chief of an army and navy still largely to be created, organized, and led.

From these volumes we get a new sense of the awful burden of civil war which Lincoln had to bear and we marvel again that he could have survived with character and success. We follow him through the grievous defeat at Bull Run, the exasperating experiences with McClellan, the humiliations of his relations with Stanton, the fiasco of Pope, the elections of 1862, the senatorial cabal which sought to disrupt his administration in December, the disappointments at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, the crisis of Gettysburg; and in the final scene stand with him some months later on that field at its immortal consecration.

One leaves these pages with a sense that on many of them probably the last word on Lincoln has been written. Careful, objective scholarship has weighed the evidence and here is the verdict. In two instances, however, the reviewer must file a friendly caveat. Mr. Randall does not like Herndon's

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psychoanalytic tendencies. Herndon was undoubtedly incoherent and imaginative and he did not get along with Mrs. Lincoln, but his descriptions of the married life of the Lincolns cannot be disregarded. Lincoln was an unsatisfactory husband in many ways and Mrs. Lincoln’s nerves, which were none too strong, suffered grievously. It does not seem likely that their married life was as normal as Randall would indicate. Nor is this reviewer convinced by the defense of McClellan. Randall has done a great service in bringing pro-McClellan angles into greater prominence; McClellan was probably the best general that Lee faced, at least until 1864, but the commander was not so much a victim of a radical plot to ruin him as he was of his own temperamental, egoistic weakness and of the peculiar way in which democracies must fight wars.

The publication of the final two volumes will be an even greater historical event than that of the first two. They will contain more of the personal, behind-the-scenes atmosphere of the presidential years; they will also have whatever secrets may still lurk in the Lincoln papers. They will give us new light on Grant, Chase and others. Their appearance will be impatiently awaited. To date Randall has not produced a new Lincoln but he has assured us that we can trust the man we have long known.

University of Pennsylvania

ROY F. NICHOLS

Lock, Stock and Barrel: The Story of Collecting. By DOUGLAS and ELIZABETH RIGBY. (Philadelphia: The J. B. Lippincott Co., 1944. xix, 570 p. Illustrated. $5.00.)

The Rigbys (Douglas and Elizabeth) have written a fascinating book about collecting in their Lock, Stock and Barrel. The title was certainly one of the best of the year. The book is not the “final authority” on the subject (nor was it intended to be), but it is an able attempt to bring together many of the facts, fables, and conjectures—collecting lore—of mankind’s most absorbing peculiarity. Why it is that collectors feel they must dignify and excuse their pursuits by exhuming historical precedents is one of the mysteries of the activity. Collecting is fun. The pleasure a collector derives from owning treasures, whether they are Beauvais tapestries, Chippendale furniture or Irish glass, swinging saloon doors, cast-iron hitching posts, or knotholes, is all the excuse he needs. Collecting needs no apologists. Its practitioners could, however, afford a sense of humor and an appreciation of “one man’s meat . . .” or “chacun à son goût.”

The book contains a vigorous attempt to raise collecting to the realm of dignified activities—say, to the level of adult education, or county historical societies. Simultaneously—and quite rightly—the authors describe
many kinds of collecting which are undignified. And when they describe
the antics of some "great" collectors they make their poor subjects act like
moronic tycoons and "ostrichified" scholars—as well they may have been.
Perhaps if they had tried less earnestly to endow their book with scholarly
majesty, the authors would have emphasized the hedonistic aspects of col-
lecting. They might, also, have been less repetitious, if they had not tried
to make nearly all consideration of their subject weighty and important.
They do not seem to understand fully the very great importance of senti-
ment in collecting.

Nearly all the classic tales of collecting are present from those involving
the Medicis and the Morgans to those involving the Boston and the British
Museums. They are skilfully told, for the most part, and, apparently, with
as much veracity as is possible. Collectors are like fishermen (and the
Rigbys would have us believe fishermen are a variety of collector—as per-
haps they are) in that they regularly exaggerate their "catches." One is
reminded of the dealer in antique furniture who always added two or three
hundred dollars to his specimens if the buyer insisted on a story to go with
the chair or desk or bed-Washington-slept-in. Collectors are avid for
"stories" to impress non-collecting friends, to have something to make con-
versation about, and to incorporate in their memoirs.

The anecdotes about collectors and collecting are the best part of the
book and for them, Lock, Stock and Barrel will have a long life. Yet while they
occasionally stretch their lines of argument of the philosophy of collecting
a little thin, the authors seem very close to truth when they write: "True
collectors are those who gather paintings or books, furniture, glassware,
stamps, coins, or whatever they will, not because they think that some form
of collecting is expected of them, not as a perfunctory undertaking, but
because they are 'earnest in their love' of such things and have taken them
'into their hearts.' Collections formed in this spirit will be good collections,
and the lives of their owners will be in many ways richer for their possession.
The true collector can well afford to disregard the quips of the skeptics, for
it is with him as though he had found an open sesame to happiness, and
in his heart of hearts he can have only pity for those who, unlike himself,
may be too blind to see the path into his enchantment."

Like many books of the period 1940-1946, Lock, Stock, and Barrel suffers
from poor book materials. The paper used is inferior and the crowded type
page is too large for the paper size. The binding, oddly enough, is a stout
one; it is also pleasantly designed. The illustrations, for the most part, are
clearly printed and well chosen, but in many instances, where more than
one object is shown on a single page the layout is disappointingly poor.

The Clements Library

Colton Storm
Lafcadio Hearn. By Vera McWilliams. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1946. x, 465 p. $3.00.)

Vera McWilliams has assembled the extensive data found in various books about Lafcadio Hearn, co-ordinated the material and presented us with the first, and indeed the only, complete biography of that unusual personality. She has achieved her task extremely well. She has contributed independent research of her own, carefully sifted the facts and given a living portrait of the man, neither exaggerating his merits nor overlooking his faults. The book is well-written, avoiding both extremes of bald style and purple patches. True, she sometimes incorporates phrases and clauses from the writings of her subject, but this is not done in an obtrusive manner. She has aimed at objectivity, avoiding creation of any fictional scenes, but has not set forth a dry chronicle. The work holds the reader’s interest and makes him live with Hearn. The biographer has so entered into the heart and mind of the man that one may say she has wholly caught his spirit. It is to be regretted that she has not attempted a critical appraisal of his literary work, but this was not within her scope. She must be judged by what she has attempted to do.

Hearn spent the first nineteen years of his life in Great Britain and France, the next twenty-one in the United States and West Indies, and the last fourteen in Japan, dying there in 1904. Though most of his life in America was occupied as a reporter in Cincinnati and an editorial writer in New Orleans, he lived for several months in Philadelphia in the summer and fall of 1889 with Dr. George M. Gould at 119 S. 17th Street. Hearn was very fond of the Quaker City and liked to visit Chinatown and Fairmount Park. He wrote a story here called “Karma,” which was published in Lippincott’s Magazine. For a time his famous library also reposed in this city with the Doctor. After a bitter controversy in which Hearn’s friends and executor engaged, the library finally was sent to Japan.

Hearn’s books on Japan have been his best-known works. His writings on this subject have given rise to some misapprehension since Pearl Harbor. He was primarily a collector of Japanese folklore (which incidentally was largely derived from China) and he praised the virtues of the humble common people. On the other hand, he warned Japan against her statesmen and militarists and saw the chaos before her. As she continued listening to the voice of the aggressively minded among her leaders, he became so antagonistic to her that he concluded the loss of her statehood might be the best thing for her. He said her people had no souls and that it was preferable to live with cobras than with them. Yet one reviewer of Mrs. McWilliams’
book has stated that Hearn so blinded the western world that it could not see Japan's dominating intentions. The appearance of Mrs. McWilliams' book is timely and necessary. It will help draw attention to some prevailing misunderstandings and misjudgments about this unusually gifted genius. The impression still reigns that Hearn is but a minor writer, not creative, and of interest only to literary virtuosos. First, it is overlooked that he was one of the greatest masters of English in American literature. Besides, he wrote of life directly whether of the slums of Cincinnati or the peasants of Japan. He is the writer of the best letters by an American, with the possible exceptions of James Russell Lowell, Henry Adams, and William James. He was a pioneer in literary criticism, and in his lectures, as well as in his early literary articles, he broke away from puritanical traditions. He called attention in the eighties to the great European writers. His studies in philosophical Buddhism are sound as well as profound.

Mrs. McWilliams has been singularly free from major mishaps. Her errors are few and of a minor nature, such as may be remedied in another edition, which we hope will be called for. Among these is the assumption that "John Stirling," the translator of Zola's novels whom Hearn attacked, was the name of a man when it was the pen-name of a woman, Mary Neal Sherwood. Some episodes are not fully covered like the affair Hearn had with "The Lady" in Cincinnati, whose name Mrs. McWilliams does not even seem to know.

Undoubtedly there will be other lives of Hearn, for there are even now research students investigating and uncovering much new material. Probably other biographers will also undertake to act in the capacity of literary critics. But, meanwhile, this is and will be for some time the best biography of Hearn.


Philadelphia

Albert Mordell

The Last Trek of the Indians. By Grant Foreman. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1946. 382 p. $4.00.)

Grant Foreman's stirring thoughts and findings are again presented to historians and sociologists in another book of ample size. His former publications brought out by the University of Oklahoma Press have established his reputation as an ethnohistorian of the first rank, a rating earned especially by The Indian Removal (1936). In this book he dealt with forced deportation to the West of sixty-thousand members of the Five Civilized Tribes from the region south of the Ohio River. Their displacement, handled by tribal units, lent itself to a comparatively simple narra-
tive, as the author states in commenting on the tasks undertaken in his series of studies. His latest book is the account of the removal of Indians north of that river, a more complicated undertaking entailing a more involved narrative. The book is a treatise on events to be engraved deeply on tablets imperishable in American history.

The author has had long experience in judiciary matters relating to the tribes of Indian Territory and Oklahoma, where now over fifty (p. 354) such units reside, of which less than half a dozen are indigenous. It is with the immigrant groups from the Northeast and Southeast that he has dealt. He began as a field worker for the Dawes Commission and as an arm in the administrative machine to dissolve Indian tribal existence, but has so humanly presented the Indian sense of frustration and loss of self-consciousness that the reader who follows his publications is led to wonder whether he, like Paul of old, has undergone a change of heart toward the oppressed.

In detailed and compendious notations Mr. Foreman treats the history of the land actions of Monroe’s and Jackson’s administrations with splendid historical objectivity. Questions of justice and humanity are left to be inferred from the narrative; sentimentalism is discreetly avoided.

Emphasis is centered on the vicissitudes for over a century of the tribes of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Some of them (Delawares, Seneca, and Wyandots) had first encountered the dilemmas of adjustment to white encroachment still earlier and farther east. The review of these events yet remains to be written with the same care and fullness. In twenty-one chapters in Part One, the movements relating to the Potawatomi, Miami, Sauk and Foxes, and the motives behind these movements, are covered. The Miami, Illinois, and Kickapoo as immigrants into Kansas, and the immigrant tribes from the western states—Osage, Kaw, Quapaw and Modoc—with other small tribes, claim attention in Part Two.

Pennsylvania readers who may scan this book expecting to find something pertaining to Delawares and other tribes from the states will discover a bulky list of references in the Index (pp. 363–364).

In the Summary (pp. 349–353) the author attempts to estimate the fate of the immigrant bands from the East in respect to assimilation of white “blood” and ways of life. Indian population decline is shown as due to introduced diseases and alcoholism, the latter persistently encouraged “by predatory white men utterly devoid of conscience or principle.” Only the names of some of the tribes have survived. Cultural assimilation is almost complete.

An analysis of the contents of such a book is beyond the scope of a review. It is a book of reference for students of politics and economy, especially an
indispensable source of reference for the American historian. The period narratives of dealings between Indian tribes and the state and federal governments are one of the rapidly growing interests in research, as the wealth of production within the last decade or so of literary activity shows. To this subject Grant Foreman’s works will stand forth as momentous contributions.

University of Pennsylvania

Frank G. Speck

Walks in Reading Town. By J. Bennett Nolan. (Reading: published under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, 1945. vi, 216 p. Illustrated. $2.50.)

Here is an intimate book about the Reading that was, woven into the story of the Reading that is. It is an excellent sequel to a series of local histories given to us by Mr. Nolan during the last decade. We are grateful for General Benjamin Franklin, George Washington in Reading, and other accounts from the Nolan pen, but none of the earlier works is as comprehensive in scope or as chatty as Walks in Reading Town.

In company with an imaginary companion, "Uncle Peter," the reader is led to stroll along the main arteries of the two-century-old city on the banks of the Schuylkill. The "walks" extend east and west on Penn Street and north and south on Fifth, formerly Callowhill, Street. Step by step the progress of the walker is measured in terms of historic events which marked the area he treads. Two hundred years are made to live again. This building was once the home of a Mannerchor; that one was the site of a saddler’s shop; here Dr. Jonathan Potts lived and there Mammy Fricker operated a tavern from 1820 to 1830.

The Biddies, Birds, Muhlenbergs, Weisers, Hiesters and many of the great and near-great move through the scenes of yesteryear. The gaiety of old taverns, the clinking of coins in stores and counting houses, and the solemnity of old churches, all are mingled in resurrection for the modern observer who ambles along with peripatetic Peter.

It is safe to say that there is new information, even for the best-informed on the history of the city which sprang up on Widow Finney's pasture. Details crowd each other through page after page. And yet these relatively unimportant details blend into a well-rounded picture as the "walks" progress.

The illustrations are very well-chosen and strategically placed in the text. In some cases one may wish for captions or legends to identify them more readily, but usually the pictures tell their own story.
It is possible that the author has stressed some matters beyond their due. His apparent acceptance of the story of the incubation of the Conway Cabal in Reading is open to question in the light of recent studies. Then, too, there is a strong legalistic flavor hovering about much of the text. This, probably, was unavoidable if we consider that the *quellenkunde* most readily available were court records. These are indeed minor considerations when set against the over-all value of the work. With the approach of Reading’s 200th anniversary celebration in 1948, it became necessary that someone should reconstruct a living past for those living now. Mr. Nolan has done just that.

*Philadelphia*  

ARTHUR D. GRAEFF


*Princeton Past and Present* is republished as a revised edition of the guidebook and historical sketch written by the late V. Lansing Collins, Secretary of Princeton University. Practically every building and landmark of the University is attractively illustrated and each is historically described in the text. This little volume should find a welcome in the homes of alumni and friends of old Nassau.

N. B. W.