

## BOOK REVIEWS

*The Americans: The Colonial Experience.* By DANIEL J. BOORSTIN. (New York: Random House, 1958. xii, 434 p. Bibliography, index. \$6.00.)

Publishers really should be taken to task for the extravagance of their claims on behalf of innocent authors. Not so long ago even the usually cautious Harvard University Press was caught with its promotion copy showing, when claiming a "new" perspective and "new" facts on the part of a scholar who had failed to consult recent writing in his own field. This rather naturally proved embarrassing to the author whose work was the more harshly reviewed, and irritating to the scholars whose work he should either have known or at least acknowledged. Random House can be complimented on a handsome book in Daniel J. Boorstin's new volume, *The Americans*, but the dust jacket is another matter. Indeed, the publisher has made over the jacket into one protracted commercial for the book embraced, proclaiming "The First Major Reinterpretation of American History Since Turner, Parrington, and Beard." Dr. Boorstin is, to be sure, a brilliant and productive scholar, but he is also a modest man, indeed a realistic one, and it is hard to picture his endorsing the assertions of his overly enthusiastic publisher. And if he should be so inclined, then, with all respect, he should contemplate qualifying such claims before his next volume appears.

However, with this reservation entered, Dr. Boorstin's new study of *The Colonial Experience* should be widely welcomed. The first of a projected trilogy, the completed study will constitute Professor Boorstin's personal and most scholarly appraisal of America's past as a key to understanding the American present. In other words, *The Americans* is not intended to be just another multivolume American history and should not be judged as such. Dr. Boorstin is instead concerned with reviewing and discussing the various forces and factors which have contributed to the emergence of the distinctively different American national character of today, and he has chosen for his format a series of sometimes discursive and even overlapping essays of a very subjective sort.

This first volume, *The Colonial Experience*, will probably afford equal parts of delight and irritation for colonial specialists, who will be obliged to admit that the author enjoys an impressively intimate acquaintance with colonial historiography. Dr. Boorstin has chosen to divide his book into four main sections: the first treats the nature of colonization in Massachusetts Bay, Pennsylvania, Georgia and Virginia; the second discusses the translation of learning to the new colonies and the impact of colonial needs upon

English habits; the third section takes up the emergence of colonial culture, with special attention to reading and publishing inclinations—and this must be commended as particularly lucid and informed; the final topic treated is the character of colonial warfare and diplomacy. Inevitably, the content of these sections varies in originality and value, but the quality of the writing is such that only the most carping critic will fail to be carried along. Dr. Boorstin has a flair for phrasing as well as freshly formed ideas; and even when the ideas are honestly borrowed he has a gift for refurbishing them in a new and attractive garb. He is willing to deride nurtured myths without the derision of the dedicated debunker; as he has recently written elsewhere, "As a nation of immigrants, all of us have had to suffer cultural amnesia—to forget ancient images and break old molds. Our nation was born without nationalism. It was created by reluctant rebels, often more eager to be authentically English than to be ambiguously American. . . . Americans thus acquired their 'Americanness' less from a desire to be American than from an inability to be as English as they wished."

But it seems to this reviewer that Dr. Boorstin is actually presenting his personal adaptation of Turner's frontier-environmental interpretation of emergent Americanism; certainly there is frequent emphasis on the impact of American physical geography upon American colonists. While Dr. Boorstin readily concedes that immigrants bring ideas with them and that their transplanting involves moving European concepts and prejudices as well as newly stimulated hopes to North America, he yet seems enormously anxious to discover a distinct American character even in early colonial history, and frequently suggests that it is the American environment that produces and forms a unique American nation. For example, in looking for democratic tendencies in colonial Virginia (a rather dangerously anachronistic concept in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries), Dr. Boorstin is more inclined to give credit to the native "tobacco-soil" of the Old Dominion than to the optimistic and daring intellectual concepts of men like Thomas Jefferson.

The fact is that Dr. Boorstin's generalizations do not always coincide with his detailed comment on American colonial institutions and attitudes. While on firm ground in reviewing colonial cultural activities in the light of colonial needs—educational trends undoubtedly reflected the pragmatic people so served—Dr. Boorstin seems to exert too much effort in tailoring the colonial culture to the assumed requirements of its circumstance. There was a far greater intellectual lag than *The Colonial Experience* seems to suggest, and Dr. Boorstin's generalizations might apply with finer force to nineteenth- and twentieth-century America.

For this and other reasons, the succeeding volumes of *The Americans* will be eagerly awaited. Here is a well-written yet scholarly series of essays on American life and developing nationalism, which while sometimes glib remains healthily stimulating, often unusually informative, and always supported by useful notes and an excellent albeit subjective bibliography.

*The Americans* is suitable reading for both the ubiquitous general reader and specialists in the American past. For the very real enjoyment supplied, Dr. Boorstin well deserves the Bancroft Prize which his volume has been recently awarded.

Pennsylvania State University

H. TREVOR COLBURN

*Thirty Thousand Miles with John Heckewelder.* Edited by PAUL A. W. WALLACE. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1958. xviii, 474 p. Illustrations, maps, glossary, index. \$7.50.)

The Moravian missionary John Heckewelder whose accounts of the men and manners of the American Indians are classic also left about three dozen short diaries and journals of his travels in western and northern lands. These documents cover the years from 1743 to 1800, although not continuously, and present in this volume an episodic picture of life on the western frontier when the New World was opening. Here we see America moving from colonial containment to continental status. Here we have a peekhole through which we can see, perhaps on wide-screen cinemascope, the passage of persons and events in the years when the foundations of continental America were being made—the hustling, surging, courageous vitality of an expanding world.

This exciting gathering of these diaries and journals into continuous narrative lets us see the wilderness becoming civilization, giving us not only objective events but also insight into the motives and reasons for the westward surge. The old frontier hypothesis needs to be again revised: it was not simply the misfit and antisocial rebel who opened America's hinterland; it was rather the peace-seeking, religious-minded settler looking for a better world. Surely the frontier was escape—but not escape *from* intolerable respectability, but *to* peace and security, not doom but hope.

All this these journals let us see—vignettes of life in an expanding world. The continual retreat of the redmen, their bitterness with the whites who were displacing them, the tensions which resulted. The apocalyptic haste of the settler to get his parcel of rich bottom land and keep it. The astonishing courage of men who ventured long journeys, fending for themselves in forest and river, living off the countryside far from well-stocked larders and full markets. The native intelligence of the frontiersmen, their hunger for news and their intellectual inquisitiveness, their open-hearted hospitality, curiosity, and fair-mindedness—far from the usual picture of the louts of lubberland, as the narrower view suggests. Here, in truth, is the whole kaleidoscopic panorama of the American frontier told by perceptive minds with vivid pens.

Documents like these are the bedrock of history, and we can be grateful to the editor for making these available in this attractive and useful form. At

last the great storehouse of materials in the Archives of the Moravian Church in Bethlehem are beginning to be made known; it is only hoped that more such works will follow, bringing to the light of historical consciousness the part that the Middle Atlantic area played in the formulation of the American mind.

Well-known events reappear, seen through the eyes of the diarist: the Indian uprisings of 1763-1765 when Philadelphia was under arms; the Revolution and the efforts of both sides to capitalize on the Indian prowess at arms; the migrations down the Ohio; the populating of the West; and the movement of discontented pacifists to Canada. All these important aspects of the American scene pass before our eyes, seen by a perceptive writer whose pen at times is quite facile. The collection of these diaries into one volume is a major event in the development of American historiography. Much more such publication is needed before the total documentary evidence for this era now in the several Pennsylvania archives is known.

The editor has added a historical introduction dealing with the history of the Moravian Church, under whose benign auspices John Heckewelder journeyed into the western lands. Here the work is marred by overemphasis on the Bohemian and Czech background of the Moravian Church and underemphasis on the part that German Pietism played in the eighteenth-century development of this denomination. The work also is marred by startling anachronisms like the one on page 125 where we are taken short by the comparison of the death ray of current science fiction with the "deadening substance of the Indian sorcerers." This is needless popularizing. On the whole, however, we have here solid foundations on which American history rests.

Norristown

JOHN JOSEPH STOUT

*Drums in the Forest.* By ALFRED PROCTOR JAMES and CHARLES MORSE STOTZ. (Pittsburgh: The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 1958. viii, 230 p. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$3.50.)

This attractive book commemorates the bicentennial of the British capture of Fort Duquesne, on the site of Pittsburgh, in 1758. As the foreword points out, it completes the forty-first volume of the quarterly magazine issued by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. It is composed of two essays: "Decision at the Forks," by Professor Alfred P. James, who has edited the *Writings of General Forbes*, and "Defense in the Wilderness," by Charles Morse Stotz, an architect who has made a special study of early forts and their restoration.

Dr. James's essay is in the form of an academic lecture, ranging over the nature of history, the conflict for the North American continent, the frontier, and finally the situation at Fort Duquesne in 1758. It is concerned with opinions and judgments and has little room for detailed narrative. George

Washington's "greatly famous trip" is dismissed briefly as being well known. While the author's judgments seem sound and in accord with the best scholarship, there is an occasional lapse, as when mention is made of the intercolonial strategy conference at Alexandria, Virginia, in April, 1755. There is no suggestion that Braddock's campaign was but one phase of a four-fold attack on the French which was then planned. In fact, one wonders at the emphasis on the details of Forbes's campaign, and the title "Decision at the Forks." What was the decision, and by whom was it made?

Mr. Stotz has made a genuine contribution in his detailed study of eighteenth-century forts, their construction and use, and the methods of defense which were then employed. He is very informative on ways and means of building, on the transportation of men and supplies, and on life at the forts. He has made a thorough study of contemporary plans and documents relating to the five forts constructed on the site of Pittsburgh, and his own drawings and plans are very helpful in clarifying their relationship. The five forts were Fort Prince George, 1754, Fort Duquesne, 1754, Mercers' Fort, 1759, Fort Pitt, 1761, and Fort Fayette, 1792. Illustration 24 locates these on an aerial photograph of "the Forks" today.

Since this treatise should be of service to persons studying eighteenth-century forts and their restoration elsewhere, it is regrettable that the author is not as familiar with their historical setting and with other forts of the period. In speaking of the British reverses prior to 1756, the comment that "the only bright spot was the conquest of Fort Beau Sejour" (p. 72) overlooks William Johnson's victory at Lake George in 1755. Reference to Sir William Johnson as "the New York Indian agent" (p. 177) is a misconception, for Johnson was Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Northern Colonies, including Pennsylvania. Nor was Fort Detroit "taken by Rogers' Rangers in 1760." Major Robert Rogers merely accepted the fort for the British after the general capitulation.

The end-papers map of "Forts of the French and Indian War" shows Fort Saratoga and Fort Half Moon, which were not then in existence, whereas Fort Frederick at Albany, an important defense center, is omitted. Similar errors occur on the map of "Forts of New France in 1754." The following dates for the construction of forts may be given for those in error. Fort Edward was built in 1755 (not 1756); Fort Oswego in 1727 (not 1722); Fort Ontario in 1755 (not 1763); and the name of the French fort at Crown Point was St. Frederic (not Frederic). The French name for Lake George was Lac St. Sacrement (not Lake Sacrament).

Illustration 29, "The Perspective View of Fort Ontario," has a caption, "built at Oswego in 1763, of the same size and layout as Fort Pitt." The author (p. 161) compares this with Fort Pitt as "slightly smaller," and implies that it followed the plan of Fort Pitt. On the contrary, Fort Ontario, built in 1755, was captured by the French in 1756, and rebuilt in 1759 by the English. The "Perspective View," drawn by Lieutenant Pfister, is dated 1761, but the date is not legible on the reproduction.

In spite of the above criticism, this is a scholarly and useful book, which pioneers in a field where the talents of the architect and historian are both needed.

*New York Division of Archives and History*  
*Albany, N. Y.*

MILTON W. HAMILTON

*The Papers of Sir William Johnson.* Volume XII. Edited by MILTON W. HAMILTON. (Albany, N. Y.: The University of the State of New York, 1957. viii, 1124 p. Illustrations. \$8.00.)

This volume, here belatedly reviewed, is the third issued under the editorship of Dr. Hamilton and contains 537 documents, many never before printed, covering the years 1766 until Sir William's death in 1774. Its publication completes the second chronological series in this impressive set, supplementing the material published in Volumes V-VIII. An addenda volume is promised, and, the best news of all, an index volume will conclude this mammoth work.

Having reviewed other volumes of the *Johnson Papers* there is not much more that I can say about the most recent one. Only those who have worked with the set know how valuable it is, what an enormously useful source it comprises not only for the life of Johnson, but for an understanding of Indian, military, religious, social, and a wide variety of other colonial affairs. For any student of colonial times there is bound to be something of interest in the *Johnson Papers*. For certain specialists it contains more of their research material than they might want to admit.

The care of the editor in collecting from many sources the documents contained in Volume XII, his careful transcriptions of them, and his meticulous identification of names mentioned in the manuscripts deserve the highest praise.

*The Historical Society of Pennsylvania*

NICHOLAS B. WAINWRIGHT

*Rhode Island Politics and the American Revolution, 1760-1776.* By DAVID S. LOVEJOY. [Brown University Studies, Vol. XXIII.] (Providence, R. I.: Brown University Press, 1958. [viii], 256 p. Map, bibliographical essay, index. \$4.50.)

Most American historians have by now accepted the conclusions of Sir Lewis Namier with respect to British politics in the age of the American Revolution; the conclusions, namely, that purely local issues, not broad questions of national or imperial policy, dominated Parliamentary thinking, and that there were no parties in our sense of the word (certainly no political associations devoted to anything as lofty as principles), but only

transient coalitions of selfish and local interests. Yet they have been slow to apply Sir Lewis' method of structural analysis to American colonial politics in the same period. At last, however, someone has tried it with respect to the politics of one colony. The results are highly illuminating.

Mr. Lovejoy finds the key to Rhode Island's reception of Parliamentary taxation in the intricate maneuvering for power of two local factions—the Newport-centered party of Samuel Ward and the Providence clique managed by Stephen Hopkins. Neither group, he contends, was animated primarily by concern for home rule (Rhode Island already had it), or for democracy at home (Rhode Island had a good measure of that, too); both were out for selfish, local advantage, for the control of lucrative offices, for the power to shift the tax burden to the opposition's bailiwick. It was "ward politics"—or "Ward-Hopkins politics"—that got Rhode Island into the Revolution.

Probably close investigation à la Namier into the structure of Pennsylvania politics would lead to similar conclusions. Someone ought to undertake such an analysis—someone who could report his findings, as Mr. Lovejoy does, in clear, lively, idiomatic English. Still, one wonders if the method of structural analysis, fruitful as it is, will ever yield the full story of the decision for revolution, whether in Rhode Island or Pennsylvania. If we ask Namieresque questions, aren't we almost certain to get Namieresque answers? And didn't something beyond narrow personal and local self-interest—something that can honestly be called principle—enter into the momentous decision of 1776?

*Swarthmore College*

FREDERICK B. TOLLES

*Henry Knox, General Washington's General.* By NORTH CALLAHAN. (New York: Rinehart and Company, Inc., 1958. xii, 404 p. Frontispiece, index. \$6.00.)

One of the great men of the Revolution and in the administration of the new United States was Henry Knox, all two hundred and eighty pounds of him. If he was not of the first magnitude in terms of ability and contribution, he was, at any rate, a man whose service at times was of the utmost value and who has been a greatly neglected figure. Mr. Callahan tells us that he once asked Douglas Freeman what was the biggest gap he had observed in his twenty-five years of research on Washington. The late Mr. Freeman replied, "Henry Knox," and suggested that Mr. Callahan write this biography. Students of the period therefore owe both gentlemen a debt of gratitude.

As Washington's artillery chief, Knox acquired his early knowledge of military theory and tactics from ancient and modern writers on the shelves of his bookstore in Boston and from discussions with British officers who, bored with garrison duties, entered his shop to browse. That this ponderous

young man might help drive them from Boston never occurred to the Englishmen any more than it did to Knox himself. Actually, of all the services he rendered during the Revolution—services with a high-average grade of performance except for the fatal decision to reduce the Chew House in the Battle of Germantown instead of sweeping by it—none was more valuable than his bringing the captured artillery train from Ticonderoga to the Continental Army besieging Boston. General Howe and Admiral Shulldham decided the city was untenable and evacuated it.

But for Knox this was only the beginning of a notable career in which he learned just about all there was to know about the management of heavy guns in the field. He took part in the unfortunate New York campaign, the revival of Patriot hopes in the spirited affairs at Trenton and Princeton, the defeats at the Brandywine and Germantown, the ordeal of Valley Forge, the frustrating “drawn” battle at Monmouth, and the victorious siege of Yorktown, where he was momentarily annoyed at Alexander Hamilton for using him as a shield against enemy shells. Finally, he carried out the demobilization of the army.

The end of the war brought no end to activity for Knox. He was the principal founder of the Society of Cincinnati. He was elected by Congress in 1785 to be Secretary of War and presently helped scotch Shays’ Rebellion in 1786–1787. In the new government set up under the Constitution he continued at the post of Secretary of War. It was his misfortune, however, to be absent on private business when the Whiskey Rebellion in Pennsylvania broke out, thus giving Hamilton a time of glory. Entreated many times by his wife Lucy to resign, Knox at last did so, in 1794.

Mr. Callahan develops Knox as a soldier and a statesman with deftness and understanding. His consideration of Knox the General is more rounded and possesses greater depth of treatment than his consideration of Knox the Secretary of War. Why this should be so is a little puzzling since there is no dearth of material on the latter aspect; perhaps it is simply because of Mr. Callahan’s preference for the soldier to the statesman.

In some respects, Mr. Callahan’s brief consideration of Knox the proprietor and the devoted husband of a charming but arrogant wife is the most satisfying part of the book. Land acquired in Maine brought Knox a full measure of problems with squatters and the tricky business of living in baronial splendor when heavily in debt. Lucy, moreover, never forgot that she was a Massachusetts aristocrat by birth, the daughter of the Honorable Thomas Flucker, Secretary of the Province, who, with his wife, left Boston with General Howe and never saw Lucy again. Unlike Knox, Lucy rarely attended church in God-fearing Thomaston, though she had her pew altered to accommodate her amplitude. She preferred to get wet standing in the rain while her carriage was repaired rather than accept a neighbor’s kind invitation to step inside. Such haughtiness did not endear her to the people of Thomaston despite their sympathy for her having lost six of her twelve children. Mr. Callahan’s introduction of such human details greatly



enhances his fine portrait of Knox, his family, and the times in which he lived.

*Wesleyan University*

WILLARD M. WALLACE

*Entangling Alliance: Politics & Diplomacy under George Washington.* By ALEXANDER DECONDE. (Durham, N. C.: Duke University Press, 1958. xvi, 536 p. Index. \$7.50.)

It speaks well for the book under review that it holds the interest of the reader throughout its five hundred pages. For the story which Mr. DeConde tells—the diplomatic developments of Washington's two administrations with their dramatic highpoints, the struggle between Hamilton and Jefferson over neutrality, the Jay Treaty, the Monroe embassy in Paris, the Genêt Mission—has been frequently told.

If Mr. DeConde's treatment of this well-known story arouses our interest, admittedly the main reason is that the topic has an inherent fascination. Despite the great amount of historical work done in this field, we are still inclined to regard the early years of United States history as a period of high principles and the main actors on the political scene as patterns of virtue and foresight, truly represented in the idealized marble statues by which they have been immortalized. It remains a constant surprise, therefore, when closer analysis shows the human, all-too-human, features of American politics in this time, the bitterness of individual rivalries, the lack of scruples in pursuing one's aims as exemplified in Hamilton's dealings with the English and Jefferson's dealings with the French minister, the low level of political debate with its ruthless personal attacks and slanders. But Mr. DeConde's treatment of this period is original enough to increase considerably the inherent interest of the story.

First of all, he has adopted a rather unique form of organization. Mr. DeConde does not describe events in strictly chronological order, but after a clear and penetrating analysis of the Hamiltonian system he proceeds topically, dealing in single chapters or groups of chapters with issues like the Jay Treaty, the Genêt Mission, the Morris embassy in Paris, the Monroe Mission. This topical treatment has drawbacks. The author cannot avoid a certain amount of overlapping and of retracing ground which had been covered before in the book; for instance, after Jefferson's resignation had been discussed in earlier chapters, Jefferson reappears as Secretary of State in later chapters. But this form of organization has advantages: the individual episodes and the men involved in them stand out vividly.

The chief reason, however, why Mr. DeConde's treatment of an old story inspires interest is the fundamental approach which underlies the book. The author is concerned with the impact of domestic affairs on the development of foreign policy rather than with diplomatic events per se. Because Hamilton and Jefferson, Federalists and Republicans were deeply divided

over economic policy, constitutional issues, and social ideals, they also divided over foreign policy. Because Hamilton needed commercial connections with England for realizing his "system of policy," his enemies were passionately pro-French; neither of the opposing parties examined the real issues involved, each was chiefly concerned with scoring a point over the internal opponent by means of foreign policy. Washington, who entered upon the presidency with the aim of being "above parties," became a tool of the Hamiltonians and, in his second term, directed foreign policy according to the needs of the Federalists rather than according to "national interest." Mr. DeConde's judgment on Washington's foreign policy is very critical and negative; he believes that, because of Washington's highly partisan, anti-French conduct of foreign affairs, he left to his successors an unnecessarily dangerous legacy, issuing into the undeclared war with France.

Mr. DeConde's book is so well documented that it cannot be denied that he has made a convincing point for the prevailing of influences of domestic policy over considerations of *raison d'état* in the early years of the republic. One has the feeling, however, that Mr. DeConde somewhat overplays his hand; he seems to neglect the factors which suggest that behind—and perhaps because of—the partisan passionateness about foreign policy, a reaction was evolving which led from an ideologically determined attitude toward foreign policy gradually to a more realistic approach. Thus, although Mr. DeConde has made an interesting contribution with his story on the early years of American foreign policy, it can be safely guessed that his book will not be the final word on this issue—but probably no book ever will.

*Bryn Mawr College*

FELIX GILBERT

*The Nation Takes Shape, 1789-1837.* By MARCUS CUNLIFFE. [Chicago History of American Civilization.] (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1959. viii, 223 p. Bibliographical note, index. \$3.50.)

This brief, perceptive analysis of American development in the first half-century under the federal government is well worth reading. Professor Cunliffe, senior lecturer in American history and institutions at the University of Manchester, is the author of a book on American literature and of a recent biography of Washington. He brings to this book a wide knowledge of American history and writings, the detachment of an English observer of the American scene, and a superb style marked by clarity and an easy rhythm. The book is a "chronological" volume in the Chicago History of American Civilization, a series intended to bring the insights of historical scholars in a compact and readable form to the general reader.

The chronological scope of the book is broad, and the coverage is necessarily lacking in depth. After a brief introduction, the author has four chapters on government, politics, and law; foreign policy; territorial and

agricultural expansion; and commerce and industry. The three final chapters are analyses of what the author labels American "principles": nationalism and sectionalism, conservatism and democracy, and the American character. These constitute the real heart of the book and exhibit Professor Cunliffe at his analytical best. He points out the simultaneous development of a strong nationalism and a threatening and opposed sectionalism; he describes the curious interrelations of democracy and conservatism in American politics, noting the fluidity of our politics and the lack of "enduring identity between policy and party"; and he attempts to describe the American character in terms of shifting group allegiances to pairs of contradictory concepts, such as agrarianism-capitalism, aristocracy-democracy, centralization-state rights. The utility of his diagrammatic scheme of presentation may well be doubted, but the author's discussion of these pairs of opposites does constitute a welcome recognition that the American national character is often filled with contradictions and is not to be described in hasty generalities.

To this reviewer, the most delightful portions of the book were Professor Cunliffe's shrewd comments on historical interpretation. Referring to the conduct of foreign policy under Jefferson and Madison during the Napoleonic wars, he observes that, considering all the circumstances, "it is easier to show where they erred than what they should have done instead." Speaking of the tendency to disparage the significance of past issues, he says: "We have to be on guard against our own generation's historiographical preference for methodology rather than ideology, for studying the blunders or intrigues of past history rather than its underlying ideals. . . . We must reckon with the possibility that, whatever historians say about the era from Washington to Jackson, Americans alive at that time may have seen things differently. Deprived of the advantage of hindsight, they may not have realized that the quarrels and problems in which they were immersed could all be explained away as mere myths and subterfuges."

The reviewer does have a certain skepticism as to the unity of the period selected. Despite Professor Cunliffe's persuasive reasoning on this point, one is still left wondering if the author is not rationalizing a previous decision of Professor Boorstin, editor of the series. Despite my reservations on this point, I have none in recommending this book wholeheartedly to all who have an interest in American history.

*Pennsylvania Historical and  
Museum Commission*

S. W. HIGGINBOTHAM

*The Jacksonian Era, 1828-1848.* By GLYNDON G. VAN DEUSEN. [New American Nation Series.] (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1959. xviii, 291 p. Illustrations, bibliographical essay, index. \$5.00.)

One by one appear volumes of the New American Nation Series, not as rapidly as the original ones, but already in sufficient number to fill a

moderate-sized shelf. The newest is *The Jacksonian Era, 1828-1848*, by Glyndon Van Deusen, whose previous studies make him particularly qualified to survey this period.

The comparable work in the earlier series is William MacDonald's *Jacksonian Democracy* (1906). But whereas MacDonald took 315 pages to describe only the years from 1829 to 1837, Mr. Van Deusen has to cover them in a mere 112 pages and, required to include also much of what was originally assigned to Hart and Garrison, has only 266 in all to get as far as 1848. The remarkable thing is that Mr. Van Deusen never seems hurried in a narrative which skillfully conceals how highly compressed it actually is. Simply as a technical feat of condensation, therefore, the book is outstanding.

What readers will be most anxious to learn is how the interpretation of the Jacksonian era differs after half a century. In the years between the publication dates of these two books occurred Beard's stimulus to the economic interpretation, the rise of social and intellectual history at the expense of political, constitutional, and military, the attack upon the Turner thesis, the major re-evaluation of *The Age of Jackson*, and the subsequent revisions of Schlesinger by scholars like Bray Hammond and Joseph Dorfman. Furthermore, the editors' introduction leads us to expect the incorporation of all these newer viewpoints.

Actually (as has been noted in the case of nearly every volume in the new series which has appeared so far), this is not nearly as different from its predecessor as one would expect. There are two reasons for this. The first is the editors' decision to relegate cultural history to separate volumes, thus confining the book to political history to an extent that does not properly reflect the past generation's shift in historiographical interest. To be sure, Mr. Van Deusen's admirable opening chapter shows a clear awareness of all this other material, but it is necessarily limited to an excellent summary. The second reason is that the fifty-year interval has been long enough for revision of the revisionists, so that nowadays in many respects we find ourselves right back where we started, especially playing down economic determinism and showing a renewed appreciation of political history.

Nevertheless, there are substantial differences between Van Deusen's and MacDonald's treatments. Even their concepts of political history are somewhat different. Thus Jackson as an individual loomed much larger in MacDonald, receiving two chapters devoted to his early life and personality alone. MacDonald also placed far more stress on constitutional history, especially the debate over states' rights, and on administrative history, particularly the developments in the power of the President (understandably of interest during the Theodore Roosevelt administration). He viewed Jacksonianism as a democratic movement of a vague mass simply called "the people," whose nature and objectives probably did not seem to require more searching analysis during the Progressive Era.

On the other hand, despite his limited space, not only do Mr. Van Deusen's previous investigations of Weed and Clay result in a far more

expert handling of political rivalries and maneuverings, but he also reveals a much more sophisticated awareness of the economic forces underlying them. Moreover, no matter what one's opinion of *The Age of Jackson*, one can no longer write about Jacksonianism without reflecting its impact. Hence there is far greater emphasis on the Loco-Foco element in the Democratic Party and on the significance of the hard money philosophy, including attention to the ideas of William Gouge, an individual who was conspicuously absent from earlier treatments of this period. Yet Van Deusen is no adherent of a simple eastern labor thesis, but rather takes the Dorfman-Hofstadter approach of Jacksonian Democracy's being a middle-class movement for equal opportunities. Following Bray Hammond's interpretation of the financial aspects of the period, he is therefore far friendlier to Nicholas Biddle and the Bank than Schlesinger and, as might have been expected from his earlier biographies, also considerably more sympathetic to Henry Clay and the Whig Party.

It is no criticism, however, to say that on the whole there are no startling new interpretations. Instead, the book does exactly what it was supposed to do. Mr. Van Deusen gives a clear, balanced, well-written summary of the current scholarship on his subject, showing a firm command of all the standard studies of recent years. As a final contrast with MacDonald, it should be noted that despite the far greater amount of secondary material which Mr. Van Deusen has had to digest, he shows much more use of the manuscripts of political leaders than did the earlier book. As a final similarity, he also ends with a first-rate bibliographical chapter.

*University of Pennsylvania*

WALLACE EVAN DAVIES

*The Haunted Palace. A Life of Edgar Allan Poe.* By FRANCES WINWAR. (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1959. viii, 408 p. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$6.00.)

The dichotomic drama of good versus evil that makes up the fabric of existence for most of us was overshadowed for Poe by the immensity of his awareness of the frailty by which man knows happiness. The tragic sense is often the culmination of an artist's development; Poe teathed on tragedy. Time after time, death assaulted Poe's acute sensitivity and took from him the only reality, the only love he knew, from the death of his mother when he was but an infant to the death of the loving young wife who was life itself to him. His imaginative genius drew him toward the mystery of death and the world beyond death and made of him, at one and the same time, the believer of the sublime and the high priest of terror. "I maintain that terror is . . . of the soul," he wrote about his tales of grotesque horror, "that I have deduced this terror only from its legitimate sources."

Because of his scorn of the world that could treat him so badly, Poe antagonized those who, incapable of understanding his needs, unconsciously

wounded him. His biographers, beset by the paradoxes of his behavior, have proceeded to range themselves from the idolatry of a Mary Phillips to the invidiousness of a Rufus Griswold. Those few who have attempted to write of Poe dispassionately have generally foundered among the contradictory aspects of Poe's life, producing books of little credibility.

Frances Winwar, author of more than a dozen historical novels and biographies, is an exception with her biography of Poe. Her objective presentation of *facts*, pleasant or damning, has become, in her hands, a life story of a believable, if tortured, human being. Particularly commendable is the account of Poe's love life after Virginia's death, made more plausible by Miss Winwar than by any biographer before her. It is with refreshing feminine insight that she explains the desperate, perhaps neurotic, search for love of the poet's last years, so baffling to most biographers. Miss Winwar has also made knowledgeable and truly perceptive use of Poe's poetry to illustrate his inner life and has ably presented some provocative hypotheses, notably the probability that John Howard Payne (the famous actor and author of "Home Sweet Home") fathered Poe's sister Rosalie.

But syllogism is interwoven with fact so skillfully that it is often difficult to separate the two. It would have been helpful, too, if sources had been given for such statements as the one that only fifty copies of *Tamerlane* were printed, or that a second edition of two hundred fifty copies of the slow-selling *Eureka* was required; also, Miss Winwar's assertion that "when he [*Poe*] grew tired Mrs. Clemm would take his place and continue to write while he dictated" in a handwriting so perfectly imitative of his that "it was hard to tell where the one ended and the other resumed."

Miss Winwar is willing to perpetuate such apochryphal legends as Poe's addiction to opium. Poe admittedly took drugs occasionally, as did many others of his day, believing it to be a cure for alcoholism. But to ascribe addiction to him because of his literary references to opium, her only apparent reason, is to overlook the equally logical explanation of these references as a literary device. The weird world of his almost overpowering imagination (he once wrote that he could "hear the sound of the darkness") was predictably more credible to the pedestrian reader if presented as an opium dream. More concretely we have the direct refutation of any addiction from the physician and alienated friend of Poe, Thomas Dunn English (as reported by Thomas O. Mabbott).

The question of Poe's virility and the nature of his relationship to Virginia, inexplicably a puzzle to his biographers, gets contradictory treatment from Miss Winwar. The early experience, when Poe frightened little Mary Devereaux (n. b., correct name, Mary Starr) by his advances, and the ardor of his pursuit of many women after Virginia's death, both vividly described, make nonsensical Miss Winwar's recital of the myth that the years between and the marriage were platonic.

But Miss Winwar's book is definitely a major step toward the perfect Poe biography. She has reduced to popular proportions the vast and indis-

pensable scholarship of men like Arthur Hobson Quinn, closing the gaps in our knowledge of Poe's life with highly interesting conjecture. The perfect biography can be written only when those gaps have been closed by facts. *The Haunted Palace* should be welcomed meanwhile for what it is—the best popular-length life of Poe available.

*Yale University*

COLONEL RICHARD GIMBEL

*Lucretia Mott.* By OTELIA CROMWELL. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1958. xii, 207 p. Frontispiece, bibliography, index. \$5.75.)

In 1884 *James and Lucretia Mott. Life and Letters*, edited by the Motts' granddaughter Anna Davis Hallowell, gave a gratifyingly full-bodied account of these outstanding Quaker reformers in mid-nineteenth century America. To be sure, Mrs. Hallowell's work was weakened by her outbursts of familial indignation when she dealt with the difficulties experienced by her grandparents at the hands of their Orthodox Quaker brethren, but the whole story of this remarkable pair was there—their ancestry and background, their life together, their involvement in the Hicksite controversy in the Society of Friends, the antislavery movement, the crusade for women's rights, the Free Religious Association. Most of the story was told in the Motts' own words, through Mrs. Hallowell's generous quotations from their letters. Lloyd C. M. Hare's biography of Lucretia Mott, published in 1937, did little more than reproduce the same material, often lifting whole sentences from the Hallowell narrative, but exhibiting far less grace than the earlier work because of Hare's remarkably inept literary style.

Dr. Otelia Cromwell, the current biographer of Lucretia Mott, has spent many years of devoted research in her study of Mrs. Mott's life and has sought data from many sources—Mott descendants, the families of their friends and associates in the many reforms and other activities in which they were involved, the manuscript and printed resources of many libraries, historical societies, and repositories of public documents. She writes with a scholarly restraint that is a great improvement over Hare's glib approach. It is the more disappointing, therefore, to find that what emerges adds but little of significance to that which is already known about Mrs. Mott. Seventy-five years have elapsed since the Hallowell *Life* was published and subsequent scholarship has thoroughly worked over the background of the "Age of Reform." How much of this entered into Dr. Cromwell's work is not known, since her bibliography lists only manuscripts and printed reports actually used as source material and the text reveals no broader knowledge of the field.

The book suffers from the author's excessive use of lengthy, detailed identification of her sources at the point of their incorporation into the text. Such data are of legitimate interest in footnotes, but when introduced into

the body of the work divert the reader's attention from the mainstream of the narrative and often leave him puzzled as to the exact chronology of what he is reading. Verbatim quotations of listings in such sources as the Philadelphia City Directory should not appear in the text at all. Lack of proportion is felt in the relatively extended treatment given in the account of the Motts' visit to Great Britain in 1840, even though it was doubtless inspired by the availability of Mrs. Mott's highly interesting diary of that journey. On the other hand, although Philadelphia was the scene of a major part of Mrs. Mott's active life, comparatively little of its flavor is found in Dr. Cromwell's account. From the 1820's until the Civil War the City of Brotherly Love was torn by racial and religious violence equaled in few American cities before or since, but aside from a few brief references to specific instances of disorder this exciting and dramatic setting for Mrs. Mott's labors is left shadowy and undeveloped. Most surprisingly of all, the Civil War comes and goes practically unnoticed in this biography of one of America's most active abolitionists.

Dr. Cromwell writes out of great devotion to the memory of Lucretia Mott, but the breath of life is curiously missing from her work. She admires Mrs. Mott from afar. She never comes to speaking terms with her. Lucretia Mott was gentle, modest, and unassuming in her personal bearing, but she was also adamant in her demands for social justice and indomitable in her pursuit of freedom and dignity for all men. Of this Dr. Cromwell is keenly aware. She fails, however, to convey to the reader Lucretia Mott's tremendous personal magnetism and charm, those magical gifts which won for her the ardent admiration of a vast host of her contemporaries, ranging all the way from the professional thug hired to break up her meeting to the austere Philadelphia clergyman who declared that her presence in a room made it "luminous to my soul with a celestial light." Dr. Cromwell's biography brings together an impressive array of quotations and references to sources, but they do not recreate the vibrant human being who was Lucretia Mott. The book is further weakened by infelicities of style found in such sentences as the following: "Evincing no effort to shun the blurring of issues the opposers of justice for women welcomed reactionists in other fields, the sure target being the advocate of freedom in religion, freedom of conscience, freedom for the slave."

Much was hoped for in this biography, a hope unfortunately not realized.

*Lebanon Valley College*

ELIZABETH M. GEFFEN

*Gardner's Photographic Sketch Book of the Civil War.* By ALEXANDER GARDNER. (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1959. [216 p.] Illustrations, index. \$6.00.)

Alexander Gardner came to America in 1856. The famous photographer Mathew Brady paid his fare and Gardner worked for Brady until 1863, when he went into business for himself. Gardner had assisted Brady in



photographing the Civil War, and, after the two parted company, Gardner continued this work, taking some of the better-known photographs of battles and their aftermath. It was Gardner who later took the celebrated pictures of Lincoln's funeral procession, the prison studies of the Lincoln conspirators, and of the trial and execution of Wirz, the Andersonville prison commander.

In 1866 Gardner published his *Photographic Sketch Book of the War*. Containing one hundred mounted pictures, this was the first published collection of Civil War photographs, and was accompanied by an interesting text describing each scene. Unfortunately for Gardner, the public in 1866 recoiled from photographs of corpses and the ruin caused by the war. The memory of the great conflict was still too painful, and Gardner's publishing venture was consequently a commercial failure. It is probable that only ten sets of Gardner's work survive. The last one to be sold brought \$425.00 in 1952.

Gardner's photographs contain so much of interest that their republication is a real service. Modestly priced, the new edition is handsomely done and reproduces as faithfully as possible not only the one hundred illustrations in large, glossy form, but also the text. Leafing through the pages of the book, the reader will find the picture of a business house with the sign "Price, Birch & Co., Dealers in Slaves." Attached to the house is the jail-like slave pen. There are many pictures of the fortifications at Manassas and Yorktown, scenes at Antietam, the horrors of Gettysburg, and many pictures of the quick and the dead of both armies. The photographs are remarkable not only for their details of interest, but for their clarity.

The text, too, is informative and well merits attention. To quote an example: "Among the unburied on the Bull Run field, a singular discovery was made, which might have led to the identification of the remains of a soldier. An orderly turning over a skull upon the ground, heard something within it rattle, and searching for the supposed bullet, found a glass eye." Dover Publications is to be congratulated on Gardner's *Sketch Book*, which, if offered too late to benefit Gardner financially, should find the popularity the photographer had hoped would meet his original publication.

*The Historical Society of Pennsylvania*      NICHOLAS B. WAINWRIGHT

*The Republican Era, 1869-1901. A Study in Administrative History.* By LEONARD D. WHITE, with the assistance of JEAN SCHNEIDER. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1958. x, 406 p. Index. \$6.00.)

The writer of this book was a man of many talents: author of several outstanding volumes of research, editor and coeditor of joint volumes, a prominent professor at the University of Chicago, a public servant on city, state, and federal commissions, and a successful textbook writer (his *Introduction to the Study of Public Administration* began in 1926 three decades of

successive editions). This unceasing activity was in his special field of public administration and allied undertakings. His most outstanding contributions were the four studies in public administration by which he placed political scientists and historians much in his debt: *The Federalists*; *The Jeffersonians, 1801-1829*; *The Jacksonians, 1829-1862*; *The Republican Era, 1869-1901*. It will be noted that he left a seven-year hiatus between the last two, presumably in the opinion that significant changes in the trend of public administration were relatively lacking in the years of Civil War and rabid reconstruction. At any rate, each successive volume, appearing through the past decade, earned unstinted praise.

Many Americans little realize the advantages accruing from the fact that their administrative institutions have enjoyed a high rate of continuity. Actually, they have survived through such potentially disruptive developments as transformation from an agricultural to an industrial economy, strong political shifts, and civil and international warfare. Their continuity contrasts sharply with the discontinuity presently plaguing less stable governments in this hemisphere and beyond.

United States administrative history, 1869-1901, was not marked by great experimentation or innovation; it evolved around two major problems: predominantly the old problem of relations between the President and Congress and the relation of each to the administrative system; and the comparatively new issue of civil service reform. Therefore, this three-decade survey allots the initial 70% of the space to the struggle for power between Congress and the President, and the relations of both to departmental business. The specific administrative problems are analyzed for the departments of Treasury, War, Navy, Interior, Agriculture and Post Office, with another separate chapter on land, pensions, and patents. White rightly finds much to admire in the departmental personnel and succinctly states their subsistence problem: "the Committee on Appropriations is the natural antagonist of all Departments" (p. 62).

The remaining one hundred and twenty pages are given over to the struggle for reform, for political neutrality, and for ethical standards in the public service. In these three decades Jacksonian theory and practice, with all its faults and virtues, reached its highest point before it began to retire before reform pressures. Hamiltonian doctrine, meanwhile, was regaining repute through a union with democratic concepts, although the proposition that government should be used as an emphatic social force had not yet won endorsement by a major political body.

Well cognizant of the fact that institutions cohere because they are an amalgam of the environmental ideals and ideas with the human operators of the institutions, Mr. White is able to avoid an arid, unreal presentation. Administrative institutions stand forth as man-made, man-manipulated, man-adjusted, albeit laggardly. The product of each administration is repeatedly demonstrated to be determined by its moral climate, its technological capacity, and its executive talent.

Against so soundly based and thoroughly meticulous a presentation little serious criticism can be registered. However, this reviewer cannot go along with White's high evaluation of Garfield, for study of the Garfield manuscripts indicates the inner warfare continually waged between his high moral principles and his attractive political opportunities. White suggests this conflict indirectly (in his bare mention of Garfield's changing position on the Tenure of Office Act, p. 29 [note 31], and p. 32), but makes no effort to explain it. Also, White's views of government personnel prospects seem optimistic in these days when diplomatic appointments are of a first importance too little regarded by some key figures within the appointing circle.

Inasmuch as death cut off White's series at the year 1901 we must look to other authors for detailed analysis of our burgeoning public administration in the twentieth century. It would seem that one who might well help to fill this gap would be Jean Schneider; her long career as research associate in White's project won from him paeans of praise in successive prefaces, and in the last volume he inserted on the title page under his own name the words "with the assistance of Jean Schneider." He had indicated that while she had the sterling endowments of a "heaven-sent research associate," she had also such valuable scholarly attributes as capacity to spot inadequate presentation, perceptive powers of analysis, and critical skill in the art of writing. It would be no small achievement to add a worthy sequel to volumes which through the past decade have earned unstinted praise.

*University of Pennsylvania*

JEANNETTE P. NICHOLS

*Charles Kingsley's American Notes: Letters from a Lecture Tour, 1874.* Edited by ROBERT BERNARD MARTIN. (Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Library, 1958. [x], 64 p. Illustrations, index. \$3.00.)

A. Edward Newton describes a picture in *Punch* of a callow youth rushing into his mother's drawing-room exclaiming, "Rejoice with me, Mother! My novel has been accepted at last"; her retort: "Splendid my boy; now you can go to America and lecture." Although Charles Kingsley came to America a man of fifty-four, Canon of Westminster Abbey, and an established author whose first book had been published more than twenty-five years earlier, the prospect of a ready supplement to his income was as attractive to him as it would have been to the tyro.

Kingsley, with his daughter Rose, sailed from Liverpool on January 29, 1874, and landed in New York on February 12. In the succeeding six months he lectured from Salem to Washington on the east coast, at Montreal and Quebec, and from New York to San Francisco. Mr. Martin gives an amusing account in his introduction of the competition for audiences Kingsley encountered, including, in Boston, *Ten Nights in a Bar-Room*, "Adela

Dauncey Maskell, the English Elocutionist," and, as his successor at Tremont Temple, Brigham Young's nineteenth wife, set free by divorce to relate "A Woman's Story of Polygamy." Since Kingsley was troubled by a stammer which he was able to avoid in public speaking only by deliberate effort, it is not strange that some of the reviews were unflattering. Even the most unflattering cited by Mr. Martin admits the spell of Kingsley's eloquent thought and tender feeling. Painfully sensitive to criticism as he was, it is surprising to find in the letters only a passing reference to the reviews: "Some of [the] least insane notices in the papers Rose will keep for you."

The twenty-four letters to his wife printed here are the only account Kingsley wrote of his American travels. He wrote to no one else and took no notes, not intending to publish anything on his return. The best passages in the letters are those descriptive of scenery—the Adirondacks, the falls of Montmorency, Niagara, and Council Bluffs—"30 years ago the palavering ground of trappers & Indians (now all gone)—& to that very spot—which I had known of from a boy, & all about it, I meant to go—if I had not met you—as soon as I took my degree. . . . Oh how good God has been to me." One could wish for impressions of more of the remarkable men Kingsley met—Longfellow, Whittier, Mark Twain, Asa Gray, Grant—but must be grateful for the survival of this record. As a clergyman of the Anglican Church he seems to have missed few of the Protestant Episcopal bishops along his route, but his interest was not so broad as to include Brigham Young, whose offer of the tabernacle in Salt Lake City "to lecture or preach in" was ignored. If by June, Kingsley was tired of "the Everlasting yang-twang of the Natives," and of American cooking, he could still write of the unbounded generosity and hospitality with which he had been received. And yet, the special lesson the trip had taught him was "to thank God that I am an Englishman, & not an—well, it is not the fault of the dear generous people, but of their ancestors & ours."

Extracts from these letters were published by his widow in *Charles Kingsley: His Letters and Memoirs of His Life* in 1877, only two years after his death. The romantic story of the rediscovery of the originals is told in Wilfred Partington's "Westward Ho! with Charles Kingsley," *The Colophon*, Part 11 (September, 1932). In 1950 they were added to the Morris L. Parrish Collection of Victorian Novelists at Princeton through the generosity of Robert H. Taylor and the Friends of the Princeton Library. A re-editing of the letters was clearly called for. Mrs. Kingsley's devotion to the memory of her husband, and to Victorian standards of editing, had at best robbed the letters of some of their most revealing passages, and at worst produced complete confusion. As a result of Mr. Martin's work they stand as an interesting record of Kingsley's tour, supported as they are by a lively introduction, notes, and appropriate illustrations. Mr. P. J. Conkwright has given them the neat dress one has come to expect in the occasional publications of the Princeton University Library. The book would have

pleased Morris Parrish, an exacting judge of editing and bookmaking, and makes one eager for the completion of Mr. Martin's biography of Kingsley.

*The Free Library of Philadelphia*

HOWELL J. HEANEY

*In Defense of Yesterday. James M. Beck and the Politics of Conservatism, 1861-1936.* By MORTON KELLER. (New York: Coward-McCann, Inc., 1958. 320 p. Frontispiece, appendix, index. \$6.00.)

Morton Keller is quoted on the jacket of this biography as holding that the story of James M. Beck "is in large measure synonymous with that of twentieth century American conservatism." Many a sincere conservative of 1959, however, might wince at the implication that his beliefs are similar to those of this highly successful corporation lawyer from Philadelphia. For, despite the author's judgment that Beck was not an "ultra-reactionary," the image portrayed by the book seems to fit the reactionary label.

Although Keller meticulously seeks objectivity in evaluating his subject, one does not have to dig deeply between his lines to realize that Beck is hardly a hero to the biographer. But Keller, like the reader, cannot help being impressed with the lawyer who for three decades displayed such courage and sincerity in standing by the principles in which he believed.

Until his mid-thirties, Beck was an active Cleveland Democrat, and was anticorporation in outlook. But "political ambition led him toward the Republican party," until in the late McKinley and early Roosevelt administrations he served as assistant attorney general of the United States. While acting in this capacity, ironically, he won some of his court cases by the use of reasoning which was later adopted by the Supreme Court in approving expansion of the power of the national government under the New Deal of Franklin Roosevelt. By about 1907 Beck's political philosophy became set in a permanent conservative mold. As one of the most eloquent speakers of his generation, he consistently pleaded the case for constitutionalism, individualism, *laissez faire*, and reverence for the American past.

Beck's beliefs "did not allow him to adjust easily" in the 1920's to either postwar Republicanism or postwar America. Although he served with distinction under Presidents Harding and Coolidge as solicitor general, he found himself sometimes in the awkward position of defending laws, such as one on child labor, with which he was not in sympathy. Indeed, Beck's antagonism to the trends in the "rapidly changing" society probably contributed to his inability to obtain a political position of greater eminence. Although at various times he entertained sincere hopes for a cabinet post, an ambassadorship to England, or a justiceship on the Supreme Court, someone else always got the appointment.

The lawyer did serve four terms as a member of Congress. With the blessing of William S. Vare, he was first elected in 1926 by a landslide vote to represent a district including most of South Philadelphia. His terms of

office, Keller maintains, revealed how far out of tune he was with the times. Although his constituents were hit hard in the depression by unemployment and poverty, Beck was concentrating on preaching constitutionalism.

Nominated for a fifth term in 1934, the disillusioned lawyer finally declined to run because of his opinion that Congress had become a rubber stamp of President Roosevelt. "I am profoundly pessimistic," he had lamented in 1933. "All that I have battled for in the last fifty years in the matter of government seems to me hopelessly lost."

Beck dedicated the remainder of his private life to resisting what he feared was an onrushing American socialist state, but in less than a year and a half he had passed away. Perhaps no person had better epitomized a longing for the "good old days." As Beck had said in the 1920's, "the average man" in the 1880's was "incomparably a better citizen, father, husband and worker than he is today."

Dr. Keller tells a highly interesting story and tells it well.

*Pennsylvania State University*

M. NELSON McGEARY

*The Ephrata Cloister. An Introduction.* By EUGENE E. DOLL. (Ephrata, Pa.: Ephrata Cloister Associates, Inc., 1958. 32 p. Illustrations. Paper, \$.65.)

"It was the glory of Penn's colony that men of many nations forsook their homes and allegiances to join in establishing in the New World a state dedicated to God." Among these were thousands of Germans, many seeking freedom from religious persecution. Early in the eighteenth century a group of German religious recluses, both men and women, gathered around Conrad Beissel in Lancaster County and the community of the Seventh Day German Baptists at Ephrata came into being. There they erected the buildings which today represent the finest examples of continental medieval architecture in America.

The Ephrata Community was a remarkable one, and Eugene E. Doll has presented its many-faceted story in an interesting, well-written account. The leadership of the group, its religious philosophy, way of life, accomplishments in printing, education, music, illuminated manuscripts, and its ministrations outside the Cloister are all ably and succinctly described. At its peak of influence in the mid-eighteenth century, the Ephrata Community had spread widely and had attracted many prominent visitors. "From a single hut it grew into an institution of international reputation, comprising hundreds of acres and numbering hundreds of souls." With the death of Beissel, however, it gradually declined; the congregation itself ended in 1934.

Those interested in Pennsylvania's early history will find this pamphlet rewarding reading, and those who plan to visit the Ephrata Cloister will

certainly want to have it. The pamphlet is well illustrated with photographs and with charming drawings by Ralph D. Dunkelberger. A list of suggested readings on the Ephrata Community is also included.

*Fort Delaware.* By W. EMERSON WILSON. (Newark, Del.: University of Delaware Press, 1957. 32 p. Illustrations. Paper, \$.25.)

In 1859 Fort Delaware was constructed on Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River as a major stronghold in the defense of the river. When the Civil War came, however, the need for such protection had not made itself felt, and the fort became a prison for Confederate troops and political prisoners. The story of Fort Delaware as a prison camp is recounted by W. Emerson Wilson in this fourth publication in a series sponsored by The Institute of Delaware History and Culture.

Briefly noting the emergence of Pea Patch Island as a strategic defense point in the Delaware, and early attempts to fortify it, Mr. Wilson devotes the major part of his narrative to the Civil War years. Commanders, the dire conditions at the fort, and anecdotes of prison life are all discussed. Following the Civil War, sporadic use was made of Fort Delaware, but it eventually became prey to decay and vandalism. In 1950 the Fort Delaware Society was formed and, enlisting considerable interest and support, took steps to preserve the landmark. The fort and island were turned over to the Delaware State Park Commission in 1951, and work was begun to develop Fort Delaware into one of the East's most attractive state historical parks.

*Some Quaker Portraits, Certain and Uncertain.* By JOHN NICKALLS. (London: Friends' Historical Society; and Philadelphia: Friends' Historical Association, 1958. [iv], 20 p. Illustrations. Paper, \$.75.)

Although the Friends for many generations tended to look with disfavor upon portraiture as something conducive of pride and self-conceit, there are extant portraits, genuine and ascribed, of some of the earliest Quakers. John Nickalls has endeavored in his pamphlet to discover all he can about these likenesses, and has presented a readable, practical analysis of the portraits of James Nayler, Willem Sewel, George Fox and William Penn. Some of the questions concerning the authenticity of many of these portraits, which exist in various mediums, cannot even now be solved, but this discussion of them brings together the scattered evidence, new and old. Of particular interest to Pennsylvanians will be the section on the portraits of William Penn, three of which are owned by The Historical Society of Pennsylvania. *Some Quaker Portraits* may be purchased at the Friends Book Store, 302 Arch Street, Philadelphia.

*M. H. S. Miscellany*, No. 5 (December, 1958). (Boston: Published occasionally by the Massachusetts Historical Society. 16 p.)

The manuscript holdings of the Massachusetts Historical Society comprise one of the very important collections of American historical papers. Although these manuscripts have been well catalogued, no guide to them has hitherto been published. This issue of the Society's *Miscellany* substantially preprints the condensed listing of the Society's holdings as it will appear in the *Guide to Depositories of Manuscripts and Archives in the United States*, to be published by the National Historical Publications Commission.

The Society's summary of its manuscript collections is a useful and valuable guide. Listed are the various family papers, the most notable, of course, being the Adams papers now in preparation for publication. The personal papers of the colonial and early national period include the Winthrop papers, of which a definitive edition is also in progress. Personal papers of the nineteenth century, and collections of manuscripts dealing with business and commerce, organizations, and the like are also listed. Two helpful features of this brief guide are the index to names and the identification of those names in the listing itself. This issue of the *Miscellany* is available from the Massachusetts Historical Society without charge.

### *The Jamestown Foundation Award*

The Institute of Early American History and Culture and the Jamestown Foundation announce the establishment of a special prize competition for the best unpublished book-length manuscript about seventeenth-century America. The annual prize will consist of \$1,000 and publication by the Institute. All manuscripts submitted, whether winning an award or not, will be considered for publication by the Institute. The competition will be judged by the publications committee of the Institute Council, in association with the editorial staff of the Institute. Manuscripts should be submitted not later than December 1, 1959, to James M. Smith, Editor of Publications, Institute of Early American History and Culture, Box 1298, Williamsburg, Va.



# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

*President*, Boyd Lee Spahr

## *Vice-Presidents*

Boies Penrose  
Conyers Read

Roy F. Nichols  
William C. Tuttle

Charles Stewart Wurts  
Ernest C. Savage

*Secretary*, Richmond P. Miller

*Treasurer*, Frederic R. Kirkland

## *Councilors*

Isaac H. Clothier, Jr.  
William Logan Fox  
Penrose R. Hoopes  
Henry S. Jeanes, Jr.

A. Atwater Kent, Jr.  
Sydney E. Martin  
Henry R. Pemberton

Harold D. Saylor  
Grant M. Simon  
Frederick B. Tolles  
H. Justice Williams

*Counsel*, R. Sturgis Ingersoll



*Director*, R. Norris Williams, 2nd

DEPARTMENT HEADS: Nicholas B. Wainwright, *Research*; Lois V. Given, *Publications*; J. Harcourt Givens, *Manuscripts*; Raymond L. Sutcliffe, *Library*; Sara B. Pomerantz, *Assistant to the Treasurer*; Howard T. Mitchell, *Photo-reproduction*; Walter Lockett, *Building Superintendent*.



*Founded in 1824*, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania has long been a center of research in Pennsylvania and American history. It has accumulated an important historical collection, chiefly through contributions of family, political, and business manuscripts, as well as letters, diaries, newspapers, magazines, maps, prints, paintings, photographs, and rare books. Additional contributions of such a nature are urgently solicited for preservation in the Society's fireproof building where they may be consulted by scholars.

*Membership.* There are various classes of membership: general, \$10.00; associate, \$25.00; patron, \$100.00; life, \$250.00; benefactor, \$1,000. Members receive certain privileges in the use of books, are invited to the Society's historical addresses and receptions, and receive *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*. Those interested in joining the Society are invited to submit their names.

*Hours.* The Society is open to the public Monday, 1 P.M. to 9 P.M.; Tuesday through Friday, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. The Society is usually closed during August.

