

to economic downturns. Newman is at his best when he narrates the actual rebellion and its aftermath. His description shows that *Kirchenleute* were not quite as peaceful as he otherwise suggests—only sheer luck, bad aim, and the intoxication of would-be shooters prevented human casualties. Newman blames overzealous, order-obsessed Hamiltonians for sending federal troops, although Fries's and his followers' actions amounted only to "non-violent obstruction of one law and vocal constitutional opposition" of the Federalist agenda (p. 185). Adams's pardon of Fries contributed to Federalists' political abandonment of Adams and led *Kirchenleute* to support Jefferson in the election of 1800. Still, *Kirchenleute* remained critical of both political camps and continued to concentrate on local and ethnic concerns to strengthen their political voice as German Americans. Newman's work (including nine photographs and a map) tells us how ordinary people understood the Revolution and its heritage.

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The Enlightened Joseph Priestley: A Study of His Life and Work from 1773 to 1804. By ROBERT E. SCHOFIELD. (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2004. xv, 461p. Illustrations, notes, appendix, bibliography, index. \$55.)

This book is the second and final volume of Robert E. Schofield's forty-year effort to write a complete biography of Joseph Priestley, the English radical, chemist, dissenting clergyman, and philosopher. Schofield presents an intellectual biography, which seriously engages Priestley's science, theology, and metaphysics so that it is as much a book of Priestley's ideas as it is of his life. To this end, Schofield "consulted and described every published writing of Joseph Priestley and attempted to place every bit of it in its historical context" (p. xi), introducing the reader to the various political, philosophical, theological, and scientific controversies to which Priestley was a party. Schofield explicitly writes for "historians of science, chemists, and theologians as well as intellectual and cultural historians" (p. xiii), making the book rather demanding of its readers. Schofield's goal is to show that Priestley was "more than a lucky empiricist in science, more than a naïve political liberal, more than an exhaustive compiler of superficial evidence in militant support of Unitarianism" and to elevate him to his rightful place as "a leading luminary of the Enlightenment" (p. xii). Schofield succeeds brilliantly.

Although Schofield clearly sympathizes with Priestley, he criticizes his subject when the occasion demands it. He faults Priestley's intellectual idiosyncrasies, his penchant for controversy, and his discursive style of composition. Of course, Schofield treats Priestley's stubborn refusal to adopt the "New

Chemistry” of Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier. Priestley’s fame for discovering seven gases, including most famously oxygen (1774–75), is almost overshadowed by his notorious dedication to phlogiston theory. Schofield defends Priestley from the charge that he was a bumbler in the lab by noting, “it ill behooves those who are not discoverers retrospectively to criticize the methods of those who were” (p. 103). In fact, Schofield describes the “brilliance” of Priestley’s experimental defense of phlogiston theory (p. 179), but notes that the antiphlogistians refused to allow the experimental anomalies identified by Priestley to undermine the overall coherence and utility of their theory. Schofield frankly admits that by 1790, the New Chemistry had “left Priestley behind” (p. 189), reducing his subsequent science to anticlimax.

Readers of this journal will naturally be most interested in Priestley’s residence in Northumberland, Pennsylvania, from 1794 to 1804. In this regard, Schofield’s biography nicely supplements Jenny Graham’s *Revolutionary in Exile* (1995). Priestley fled England three years after a “Church and King” mob destroyed his Birmingham house and laboratory on July 14, 1791. Even in remote Northumberland, Priestley’s support of the French Revolution and his unorthodox religious views attracted instant notice in the supercharged partisan atmosphere of the early American republic. Despite being an acquaintance of President John Adams and an outspoken supporter of American independence, the Federalist press attacked him with savage ferocity. Many Federalists regarded Priestley as a French spy. During the Franco-American Quasi-War, Priestley immodestly entered the political arena by publishing *Maxims of Political Arithmetic*, which criticized the Adams administration and its Hamiltonian economic program. Secretary of State Timothy Pickering wanted to deport him under the Alien Act, but Adams demurred. When Thomas Jefferson, another of Priestley’s acquaintances, became president in 1801, the English radical lived the last three years of his life under a friendly government.

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Beyond the Founders: New Approaches to the Political History of the Early American Republic. Edited by JEFFREY L. PASLEY, ANDREW W. ROBERTSON, and DAVID WALDSTREICHER. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004. 435p. Illustrations, notes, index. Cloth, \$59.95; paper, \$24.95.)

Beyond the Founders is a valuable collection of essays that introduces a new way of looking at the political history of the early republic. The editors set out their framework by arguing that historians need only scratch the surface of postrevolutionary political history, recently dominated by “founders chic” (p. 1),