

*Validating Bachelorhood: Audience, Patriarchy, and Charles Brockden Brown's Editorship of the Monthly Magazine and American Review.* By SCOTT SLAWINSKI. (New York: Routledge, 2005. ix, 128p. Notes, bibliography, index. \$65.)

In the wealth of studies on the work of Charles Brockden Brown, scholars have largely overlooked the periodical contributions of America's first great novelist. Scott Slawinski seeks to remedy this oversight in his study of the *Monthly Magazine and American Review*, which Brown edited from 1799 to 1800. Slawinski focuses on issues of gender in the publication, specifically masculinity. Building on the work of Mark Kann and others, Slawinski notes that bachelors in the early republic "were typecast as socially disruptive" (p. 9) and demonized for unpatriotic selfishness. Being a bachelor himself during his editorship, "Brown attempted to establish a space where single men could find validation of their unmarried status" (p. 14) in the pages of the magazine.

Slawinski breaks down the material printed in the *Monthly Magazine* into fiction and nonfiction and notes that the latter far outweighed the former. Regardless of the subject matter, there was much in the magazine for a single man to like. Slawinski argues that the periodical's abundance of "science, business, and social commentary" (p. 25) discouraged a female readership (who preferred fiction), as did stories depicting women as heartless gossips and luxurious wastrels. By including so much "masculine" literature, Brown provided not just a safe haven for single men but also lessons for how bachelors could make themselves useful and thus prove their critics wrong. The new nation needed ambitious young men to study science and math, build public improvements, and help their fellow men, and the *Monthly Magazine* encouraged bachelors in these pursuits. Although stories took up considerably less space in the periodical, it is in the works of fiction that Brown's own voice can be heard most clearly. Accordingly, Slawinski dissects four stories written by Brown: "Thessalonica," "The Trials of Arden," Mary Selwyn's "Memoirs," and a serialized version of *Memoirs of Stephen Calvert*. Each of these stories includes self-sacrificing bachelors who resist their baser passions in order to protect good women and work for the benefit of the community. In short, Brown's periodical contributions succeeded in "raising of the bachelor as an acceptable, noble, and honorable alternate form of masculinity" (p. 81).

Slawinski's book is well written and intelligent, useful both for the lesson it provides in how to derive meaning from the often-ignored late eighteenth-century periodical literature and its call for greater attention to masculinity in history and literature. In constructing his paradigm, however, Slawinski too readily concedes Kann's point that bachelors in the early republic were ostracized and that Charles Brockden Brown was a rare objector. Yet the number of writers and readers for the *Monthly Magazine* suggests that Brown was part of a larger

ideological challenge to the dominant masculinity of the day. By focusing so heavily on Brown, Slawinski misses an opportunity to directly challenge Kann and craft a new framework for understanding manhood. Nevertheless, this book should push scholars toward seeing early American masculinity as more contested and less hegemonic now that Slawinski has effectively demonstrated that at least one bachelor did not accept vilification quietly.

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*The Man Who Had Been King: The American Exile of Napoleon's Brother Joseph.* By PATRICIA TYSON STROUD. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005. xii, 269p. Illustrations, notes, appendices, bibliography, index. \$34.95.)

Joseph Bonaparte was a good man, generous and jovial, a patron of the arts and a lover of good conversation. He possessed enough business acumen to increase his fortune without overexerting himself. The money thus earned he used to secure the future of his children, help his friends, and beautify his property. Had he been born in a different family, his destiny would not have taken him farther than a comfortable life, most likely divided between a barrister study and the quiet pleasures of a country gentleman. His destiny was determined, however, not by his personal choices, but by the overwhelming personality of his younger brother Napoleon Bonaparte. Indeed, while Joseph was not a mediocre man, his own accomplishments would have hardly justified a sturdy biographical study. Whenever he left a mark on the history of his time he did so because he felt obligated to satisfy the demands of his brother, the general and the emperor. The very title of this book underscores this point. Without attempting to unduly elevate her subject, Patricia Tyson Stroud offers us a sympathetic portrayal of the man who had been king, much against his own aspirations and inclinations.

The book dwells on the seventeen years Joseph Bonaparte spent in the United States, but it is the connection with Napoleon that stimulates the curiosity of historians. Joseph's forays into the high politics of the times were meant to serve the policies devised by Napoleon. Most notably Joseph had been in charge of negotiating treaties with the United States (1800), Austria (1801), England (1802), and the Holy See (1802), before becoming the commander in chief of the Army of Naples and subsequently king of Naples. In 1806 Napoleon gave him, or rather forced upon him, the throne of Spain, the most recalcitrant of all of Napoleon's conquests. Although Joseph toiled the best he could at the thankless job of enlightened ruler both in Naples and in Spain, he received nothing but scathing criticism from his brother and hardly a begrudging word of appreciation from his unwilling subjects. To his credit, he seems to have taken all in stride, as