

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

no signs of resentment surfaced in his writings. His political fortunes ended abruptly with the fall of the emperor. His material fortune however, a by-product of his services, was salvaged, though not without some shrewd maneuvering, as the Bonapartes were prohibited from owning land in Europe. Further maneuvering, involving disguises and false names, put considerable funds in Joseph's hands and enabled him to purchase several properties in the United States. His favorite, Point Breeze in New Jersey, became the place where the former king, who styled himself Count of Survilliers, could indulge his taste for landscaping and collecting art. The estate was developed as an Enlightenment garden modeled upon the Ermenonville park of marquis de Girardin, best known at the time as Rousseau's last friend. The mansion housed several outstanding paintings, most strikingly David's heroic representation of Napoleon crossing the Alps, the first sculptures by Antonio Canova ever seen on American shores, and exquisite pieces of Empire furniture. Awed American guests were either thankful for the opportunity to visit this small museum, or shocked by the daring works they were invited to admire, as was the case with two Quaker ladies unable to avert their eyes from Canova's nude representation of Joseph's sister Pauline. They were probably even more shocked by the count's quasi-open extramarital affairs, which produced several illegitimate children. Artistic tastes and romantic indiscretions were, however, the only areas that could raise eyebrows in his new homeland. As he expressed in letters to his brother Lucien, he liked America and got along well with practically all the Americans he met, who in turn appreciated his warmth, his generous hospitality, and his sincere desire to fit in. On American shores Joseph may have lived the happiest years of his life, the life of a good-natured and learned country squire, free from the obligation to lend a hand to the making of history. Thanks to Patricia Tyson Stroud's extensive research and fluid narrative American readers will be glad to make the acquaintance of Napoleon's older brother.

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Slavery and the Peculiar Solution: A History of the American Colonization Society. By ERIC BURIN. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 2005. xiv, 223p. Tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$59.95.)

Renewed interest in American abolitionism has prompted new questions about one of the most controversial racial reform movements of the antebellum era: the American Colonization Society (ACS). Was it a front for slaveholders or a legitimate antislavery group? Eric Burin's fine new study offers one of the most insightful treatments of colonization in years. His cogent and provocative book makes a substantial case for colonization's centrality to antebellum political and