

loss. By the 1820s, the rich produce of the state's interior usually flowed down the Susquehanna River towards Baltimore and the Chesapeake Bay or down the Ohio River towards New Orleans. Without a cheap and efficient water trade route between the Pennsylvania hinterlands and the Delaware River, Philadelphia just could not compete with New York for the wealth created by interior produce.

Meanwhile, Philadelphia banker Nicholas Biddle unsuccessfully tried to maintain his city's position through his leadership of the Second Bank of the United States (SBUS) and its state-chartered successor. Biddle's financial and political gambles and counterpoints to Jacksonian attacks rarely succeeded and further cemented Gotham's new importance as economic capital of the nation. Andrew Jackson's popular anti-SBUS policies combined with Martin Van Buren's use of New York state banks and the Safety Fund proved too much for Philadelphia to withstand, despite the severe toll that these maneuvers exacted on the national economy (see Panic of 1837). Nevertheless, the Delaware Valley still became an industrial powerhouse between 1830 and 1860 thanks in part to the successful capital markets and healthy financial institutions created years earlier.

*Harford Community College*

JAMES R. KARMEL

*Seduced, Abandoned, and Reborn: Visions of Youth in Middle-Class America, 1780–1850.* By RODNEY HESSINGER. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005. 255p. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$45.)

*Seduced, Abandoned, and Reborn* is aptly subtitled. This is a book about ideas—ideas middle-class urban white Americans held about youth in the early national and antebellum eras. Set in Philadelphia, this book explores the “problem of youth” utilizing a series of case studies examining the rise of seduction narratives, the establishment of colleges and Sunday schools, advice literature for urban clerks, and antimasturbation literature. While these subjects have been explored by specialists concerned with religion, education, sexuality, and gender, Hessinger brings these topics together under the rubric of exploring bourgeois culture—and posits the overarching thesis that middle-class cultural identity was forged through the struggles to guide and control youth—thus placing the “problem of youth” at the center of antebellum cultural development.

Hessinger's exploration of these topics reveals that middle-class moralists and reformers depicted the transition to adulthood as fraught with perils in order to encourage young men and women to turn to their elders for guidance. By characterizing youth as changeable and unstable, adults claimed the power to establish their authority at a time when the forces of democracy, market revo-

lution, evangelism, and urban growth threatened it. Hessinger contends that it was through the struggles to control and direct youth that the middle class forged its defining cultural attributes: meritocracy, chastity, domesticity, conscience, and respectable piety. In their attempts to win over youth, adults, paradoxically, often adopted the very strategies of self-interest, competition, and materialism that they spoke against. He shows, for example, that moral advice literature aimed at tempering the quest for individual gain in young men held out the promise of economic success as a reward for making proper moral choices. Likewise, anti-masturbation texts sought readers by employing erotically charged language.

Hessinger is at his best when he deviates from his strict cultural-history format by bringing young men and women into the story as actors, as he does in his discussion of control over antebellum college life. Here, one can see the interplay of youth and their would-be reformers and gauge the power granted to each in Hessinger's analysis. At times, however, the choice to focus this study on ideas leaves one wondering how important adults' concerns over youth really were and what impact they had on the lives of young men and women. The study also overemphasizes the early national and antebellum era as the genesis of the trends he traces. Concerns over courtship and the intellectual development of the importance of self-control and self-regulation for the middling classes were not new in the early nineteenth century, nor do they need to be for Hessinger's argument to hold up. Greater attention to the eighteenth-century intellectual history of Philadelphia would have allowed him to explain with greater precision why these ideas were particularly salient in antebellum Philadelphia.

Nevertheless, *Seduced, Abandoned, and Reborn* succeeds in making an important contribution to our understanding of antebellum bourgeois culture and the dialectical power plays enacted by its youth and their elders.

*University of Maryland*

CLARE A. LYONS

*Harry, Tom, and Father Rice: Accusation and Betrayal in America's Cold War.*

By JOHN HOERR. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2005. xii, 3llp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$29.95.)

Two of the three protagonists of this triple biography, Thomas J. Quinn and Charles Owen Rice, are well-known to historians of post-World War II Pittsburgh. The third, however, was completely forgotten in both history and memory until the appearance of this book. Harry J. Davenport (1902–77) was the author's uncle. From 1948 to 1950 he was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, having won by nearly ten thousand votes as a New Deal Democrat in a district whose boundaries were drawn up to be safely Republican. At the time, Representative Davenport may have had higher name recognition