133 pages of biography can be forgiven as insuring the subscription list necessary to pave the way to publication, especially since it occupies less than one-sixth of the book. Miss Leahy modestly lays no claim to having written history yet she has done something fully as important in thus publishing in one volume so many of the valuable sources from which the history of the Ohio is drawn. Her work deserves a large sale and a wide use.

*University of Michigan*  
LELAND D. BALDWIN

*Norwegian Migration to America, 1825–1860.* By THEODORE C. BLEGEN, associate professor of history in the University of Minnesota and assistant superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society. (Northfield, Minnesota, The Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1931. xi, 413 p. Illustrations, maps.)

A potential talent for international research as yet dormant in American scholarship is heralded by the publication of this volume. Following the method of translating from original source material used by W. I. Thomas and F. Znaniecki in *The Polish Peasant*, Dr. Blegen pioneers with a book that presents material derived directly from Norwegian sources in the United States and abroad.

Chronologically arranged from 1825 to 1860 and topically interpreted under headings such as “Emigration Causes and Controversy,” “Norwegian Government and the Early Emigration,” “‘America Books’ and Frontier Social and Economic Conditions,” the material presents a picture of Norwegian emigration to the United States that is absorbing in its human interest. The trials of these Norwegian settlers correspond so closely to the experiences of German and Irish immigrants chronicled in Edith Abbott’s *Immigration* that they go far to establish the universality of human experience in migrating from an old world to a new world civilization.

With privilege still in the hands of urban and official classes, the Norwegian countryside in the early decades of the nineteenth century was seething with discontent. Demands for political and religious reform at home were accompanied by a fever of emigration among the younger people, for whom the unfertile valleys
held little hope for the future. Dr. Blegen has translated passages from quaint guide books on America; he has culled the arguments for and against emigration from Norwegian newspapers of the time; from old letters he has copied verbal descriptions of the struggle to get a footing on the prairies of Illinois or to clear the timber land of Wisconsin.

The chapter on "Oleana: A Colonization Project in Pennsylvania" is a direct contribution to the history of western Pennsylvania. The great Norwegian violinist, Ole Bull, dreamed of creating a paradise in the new world for his fellow countrymen. This talented but impractical genius was led by a group of American land speculators to purchase a vast tract of virgin wilderness in Potter County not far from Coudersport in Pennsylvania. "We are to found a New Norway, consecrated to liberty, baptized with independence, and protected by the Union's mighty flag," declared Ole Bull. "There is nothing but big woods, high mountains, and narrow valleys; I have not seen such ugly land in Norway; so God help the poor Norwegians who come to Ole Bull's colony." Such was the reaction of one disillusioned member of the colony. The ultimate discovery that the land did not belong to the speculators led to the crash of an already tottering enterprise and Ole Bull's final concert tour with Adelina Patti was taken for the benefit of the stranded colonists.

Through the use of his knowledge of Norwegian, Dr. Blegen has made a unique contribution to the field of historical research. He is one of the few American historians who, as a descendant of an early group of non-English-speaking pioneers, has recognized a research tool of great value in the language of his ancestors. Masses of valuable historical material essential for the scholarly understanding of the development of Illinois and Wisconsin have long been buried in the collections of scattered Norwegian societies in this country and in the official archives of the Norwegian government. Unknown and useless as far as the average American student was concerned, the publication of this volume has made them available for students of sociology as well as of history.

Dr. Blegen's volume has much of significance in it for a state whose industrial development since 1880 has been basically affected by the immigration of hundreds of thousands of men
and women from non-English-speaking European countries. Much of the history of coal-mining towns, of steel-mill communities, is still buried in letters written in Hungarian, Polish, Slovak, and Lithuanian and in official documents of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. It is to be hoped that students of history in western Pennsylvania who have facility in the use of one of the central European languages as part of their heritage will be challenged to undertake this type of research. In this way only can there be obtained a fundamental grasp of the human factors involved in the social and industrial development of the state.

University of Pittsburgh        RUTH CRAWFORD MITCHELL


Washingtoniana has increased tremendously in bicentennial times until it is almost impossible to say new things about Washington. There still remain, however, those authors who wish to say the old things in a new way. Judge Ritter presents the business side of Washington's character, generally neglected by most biographers, while M. Fay and Mr. Young interpret George Washington from French and English points of view, respectively.

The Ritter *Washington* discloses how successfully the great Virginian carried his private business along with his many public duties. Haworth's farmer Washington has stood alone for years as the only unromantic approach to his business genius. Judge Ritter reveals Washington as a shrewd investor, a successful