

which will most certainly become the standard reference work on the history of higher education in our State.

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Amish Society. By JOHN A. HOSTETLER. (Baltimore, Maryland: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1963. 347 pp. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. \$6.50.)

This excellent work, here belatedly reviewed because of schedule pressures, represents far and away the most objective, definitive and comprehensive work on the Amish written by anyone since the inception of this religious body in Switzerland in the 1690's.

Having known Dr. Hostetler since his college days, having traveled with him and Mrs. Hostetler through southern Germany during a period of European research, and having herself been reared in an Amish community, the writer can speak with conviction concerning the authenticity of this volume.

Four distinctive factors contribute to this authenticity: Dr. Hostetler's background as a boy reared in an Amish home; his thorough training as a sociologist, with a doctorate in the field; the spiritual sensitivity which enables him to feel the great issues at stake in the Amish struggle for survival in an era of rapid secularization and standardization; and finally his extensive and penetrating research among Amish communities across America, as well as among the descendants of Amish families in Europe.

The book is divided into four parts, with 15 chapters. Part I is on "Foundations." This contains a brief history of Amish origins in Europe at the end of the 17th Century, as well as a discussion concerning extinction in Europe and survival in America. Part II concerns "Stability and Fulfillment," discusses the Amish charter, the close-knit symbolic Amish community with its resources, family system, life ceremonies and total integration, all of which are presented with a wealth of detail unprecedented in any previous publications on the Amish.

In Parts III and IV, entitled "Change and Stress" and "Directions of Development," Dr. Hostetler discusses tensions and crises in the Amish community, arising from resistance to modernization and standardization. The inner struggles of young people who break with

the Amish church and tradition are depicted with a candid yet sympathetic touch.

Paramount in the Amish charter are non-conformity to the world; adherence to the old and tried rather than the new in the total way of life; agrarian, rural pursuits and avoidance of urban involvement; a strong philosophy of work and thrift, involving not only the adult but the adolescent as well; accent on self-sufficiency and mutual aid with no assistance from Federal Government, and non-resistance to violence in any form.

The strongest weapon for keeping the Amish church and community intact is the practice of the ban (avoidance of shunning) of members who defect from the faith. This practice has been followed since 1693 when Jakob Ammann, the founder of the Amish group, broke away from the main stream of Swiss Brethren or Mennonites and obtained a following throughout Switzerland, Alsace, and Southern Germany.

The Amish live in approximately 60 geographic settlements in North America, with each settlement as well as each church district within the settlement differing from all the rest. By far the largest settlements are found in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana, with scattered communities westward.

The book includes a ten-page bibliography, an excellent set of photographs, a series of maps, charts, and tables, and an invaluable ten-page index. The sturdy-faced patriarch on the dust-jacket effectively sets the tone for a careful reading of this unique and objective work from the pen of a scholar who himself sprang from a long Amish lineage.

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The Holy See and the Nascent Church in the Middle Western United States 1826-1850. By ROBERT FREDERICK TRISCO. (Gregorian University Press, Piazza Della Pilotta, 4-Roma, 1962. xii, 488 pp. Bibliography. Index. \$5.80.)

The relationship of title to content in historical writing is a matter of interest and importance. Often selection of the topic or theme seems to precede the research. At the opposite extreme, the nature of the research and the data thereby accumulated seem to involve the