

an occasional lapsus linguae, such as calling the Pickett attack at Gettysburg a cavalry charge.

All facets of Pennsylvania life, spiritual, as well as material, are treated by the authors with charm and personality. Artistic end papers showing their travels furnish a fine map for readers who wish to see for themselves the shrines, shops, forests, parks, colleges, and other interesting Pennsylvania features so enthusiastically portrayed. All Pennsylvanians as well as others who wish an attractive, informative travel-historical book should welcome this volume to their libraries.

Pittsburgh

HENRY OLIVER EVANS

*The Rivers of America: The Ohio.* By R. E. BANTA, with illustrations by EDWARD SHENTON. (New York and Toronto, Rinehart & Company, c1949. 592 p.)

The *Rivers of America* series, inspired and at first edited by the late Constance Lindsay Skinner, was designed to tell not only the story of the rivers but of the valley regions influenced by the rivers. In the case of the Ohio there must have been something of a problem of delimitation, for the Allegheny, Monongahela, Wabash, Kentucky, Cumberland, and Tennessee all have histories of their own yet are tributaries of the Ohio. The problem has not always been successfully solved—nor could it be—for we find the author following the fortunes of George Rogers Clark on the Wabash, the New Harmony settlement on the Wabash, and the Civil War on the Cumberland and Tennessee.

*The Ohio* covers such an enormous mass of detail that one may well marvel at the successful organization and flow of narrative. Its interest may well depend upon the reader, for it is necessarily a rehash of the material long familiar to students of the river. Those to whom it is a new story will find it entrancing. Here, incidentally, is the Achilles heel of the entire *Rivers of America* series, and its publisher must have counted confidently on a large and uninitiated reading public.

More serious are questions of proportion. The Indians and their prehistoric antecedents occupy about 200 pages, the pioneers and the Civil War 300 more, which leaves less than 100 for the tremendously significant developments of the last eighty-some years. No one knows better than this reviewer that certain exigencies can dictate proportion, but it does seem shameful that the amazing industrial development on the banks of the Ohio receives so little attention. Here indeed is one of

the basic facts of modern Western Civilization, a fact which has changed world history, yet the author seems to have no knowledge or appreciation of it. Indeed he shares the shortcoming of practically all of the authors in the *Rivers of America* series in viewing history as drama rather than process.

All of this may be mere carping on the part of a professional historian—a member of a notoriously hard-to-satisfy craft. *The Ohio* will give a week of satisfying evenings to the general reader. The illustrations of Edward Shenton—apparently scratchboard—are pleasantly done even though they show some failures in technical knowledge of river craft.

One curious omission. Though the author acknowledges indebtedness to the University of Pittsburgh he does not in his bibliography list a single one of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey's historical series, sponsored by the University and the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, even though some of them would considerably have enriched his views.

*University of Pittsburgh*

LELAND D. BALDWIN

*Understanding History—A Primer of Historical Method.* By LOUIS GOTTSCHALK. (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1950. xxii, 294 p. Index vii p.)

From the days of Ernst Bernheim's *Lehrbuch der Historischen Methode* and of Charles Langlois and Charles Seignobos' *Introduction to the Study of History* (English translation), American writers have published books on historical methodology. The roll of such writers is a distinguished one. Offhand, one thinks of John M. Vincent, Fred Morrow Fling, Homer C. Hockett, Allen Johnson, and Allan Nevins. Works of definite merit were produced, but none of them succeeded in matching the value of the nineteenth century works of Bernheim and of Langlois and Seignobos.

In this volume of Gottschalk is found the latest conspicuous effort in this field, with however a difference in that he deals not only with historical criticism and methodology but also with historical research and writing, or with what may be called real historiography as distinguished from a study of the history of historical writings. Has Professor Gottschalk written a manual which will displace the commonly used but very old work of Langlois and Seignobos?