What is needed to complete this study (if one admits, as does Broehl, that the private lives, ambitions, fears, and hates of the individual participants are vital to the story) is to determine just what groups and organizations in American society felt about the Mollies and why. Then we might know better the audience(s) to which Gowen and Pinkerton were playing.

In spite of the failure to make strong conclusions (and the professional historian can easily make them based on the evidence presented) the book is a good example of the historian's craft. It should definitely appeal to a very broad reading audience (perhaps this was the reason for putting the footnotes at the back). There is no bibliography, but this is more than compensated for by the remarkable list of characters which follows the last chapter. Broehl has written what will easily become the standard work on the Mollies, and deservedly so.

University of Pittsburgh

Monte A. Calvert


This publication is in many respects a distinct success. It is a fine example of portraiture in language, an excellent example of biography as basic history. The biographical thread and emphasis give the volume much of its significance and historical value. Upon this line, steadily maintained, are hung wider subjects of national and international scope, though many of them are, probably unavoidably, general and sometimes cursory.

It might be said that the title is incomplete in that the earlier role of Matthew Elliott as fur trader is not included though it is well handled in the context. A valid excuse for the title would be that the last thirty-five years of Elliott's life were far the most important historically and much more fully documented.

Much geographical territory is touched upon in the eleven chapters. Various items deal with Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and other regions of the United States. And Canadian affairs receive much attention. British government and politics, centered at London, are brought into the picture.
The reviewer was impressed with the revelation of the provisions furnished the Indians by the British. Probably the Americans, as they were called at an early date, have no record of such humane bounty.

Years ago Milo Quaife, in Detroit, said Western Pennsylvanians were guilty of underestimating the ability of Alexander McKee and Matthew Elliott, though he had nothing to say in defense of Simon Girty.

Quaife, a great regional scholar, was familiar with the documentary material covering much of the contents of this volume.

The scholarship of this volume is indicated in the Bibliographical Note and demonstrated in the Notes (really footnotes). The technique of the footnotes is definitely superior.

The great defect of this work is found in its printing. Much of the typography is bad. Word spacing is often poor (p. 1, line 20; p. 83, line 37). Line spacing is sometimes unsatisfactory (e.g., p. 4, lines 13-14; p. 69, lines 16-17; p. 101, lines 19-20). Another defect is the lack of maps. The excellent map (opp. p. 23) is not enough.

The price of the book is little short of appalling to a "senior citizen," but it is doubtless worth its price in inflated money. It has much historical value.

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Alfred P. James


Each generation of Americans develops its own views of the Declaration of Independence. It follows that there will be a series of disagreements about it. What Professor Hawke has done in the present volume is a study of the differences between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. Obviously it was part of his task to consider those matters upon which they were not at variance. In both phases of his work he has taken into account the findings of other writers of recent times. Thus he quotes George Santayana as insisting:

The Declaration . . . was a piece of literature, a salad of illusions. Admiration for the noble savage, for the ancient Romans (whose republic was founded on slavery and war) mixed with the quietistic maxims of the Sermon on the Mount, may inspire a Rousseau, but it cannot guide a government. The American