She is wholly original and belongs to her own race. Her art expresses her nation, young, full of new force; she is without prejudice, vital; although she is familiar with the culture of the old world, there is the freshness of a new nation in her art. Her inspiration is from her own race. She expresses the character of the American people, a people awakening to all that is best in art and eager to possess it in abundance.

The philosophy reflected here may be seen at its noblest in Young Woman Sewing in the Louvre Musée in Paris and in Young Women Picking Fruit in the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh. Both pictures are true and beautiful.

The background of Mary Cassatt, meanwhile, is identical with that of the two Pittsburghers — H. C. Frick and A. W. Mellon — who, each in his own time and way, made her dream of art for the people come true. In any case, these books in tribute to her were earned and deserved.

The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

JAMES WALDO FAWCETT


William Henry Seward is a thorough biography of Lincoln's controversial Secretary of State, by Glyndon G. Van Deusen, Research Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Rochester. The study is based largely upon the Seward Papers, a collection of some 150,000 items which Professor Van Deusen helped the University of Rochester to acquire.

He has written a book that will appeal both to laymen and to professional historians and students. The book at times, however, burdens the layman with mounds of unnecessary detail that tend to obscure Seward. For example, the average reader may object to the minutiae of political campaigns, fly-by-night political parties, and the clever maneuvering in smoke-filled rooms of Thurlow Weed, New York state political mentor and friend of Seward.

Professor Van Deusen paints Seward, Cromwellian "warts and all," pointing out that the Secretary of State was a vain politician who loved to sway crowds, an equivocator or at least a stretcher of the truth when he was sparring for time, a man who could modify his beliefs for his career, an egotistical man who loved to run the show.
himself. On the other hand, he records Seward's charm, his sincere attempts to avoid civil war, his emphasis on the Union, his avoidance of extremism which earned him radical enemies, and his years of hard work for his country. He emphasizes Seward's being imbued with the American Dream, even in the midst of war — but Seward's dream is too concerned with territorial aggrandizement for modern American taste. It seems incredible that he once coveted Canada, Mexico, and Central America!

In Chapter I is a description of the kitchen of his boyhood home: "... the kitchen in the chimney corner of which I spent my winter evenings had two doors opposite each other, through which the horse passed when he drew in the back log... There was a slave bunk for the people who were the lawful proprietors of the kitchen... the black people now have homes and kitchens of their own." The biography ends with the emergence of the United States as an infant world power, taking for granted the Atlantic Cable, transcontinental railroads, and steamships.

What a collection of strong men in this era, magnificently right or tragically shortsighted: Lincoln, Greeley, Sumner, Salmon P. Chase, Douglas, and Seward himself, to name a few. They are unlike many of our leaders today, who by contrast seem colorless conformists, "men in gray flannel suits."

There were many facets to Seward's personality; to some he was an iron-willed man who seemed to work day and night trying to keep England and France from recognizing the Confederacy, especially after Northern defeats; to some he was the man who influenced Lincoln and helped him draft important documents; to his enemies he was a clever opponent; to his friends and the diplomats of other nations, he was the charming host; to his family he was an absentee in Washington. Many watched with interest what he wrote and what he said when he spoke, spoke, spoke with an eye on the Presidency. He is high on the list of "also-rans."

Today we still struggle with Seward's problems. Rivalry with France: Seward had Napoleon III in France and his Maximilian in Mexico. We have Charles de Gaulle. Seward, forcibly foisting the United States on Japan, looked forward to the United States' taking an aggressive role in the Orient. Today we have the war in Vietnam, and the memory of World War II with its Pearl Harbor. We keep a wary eye on China, and everywhere we face the "Yankee go home" slogan.

But our most tragic legacy from the Civil War period includes
the Negro problem and the distrust between North and South. After Lincoln’s assassination the extremists sowed the wind and we are now reaping the whirlwind; the moderate Seward and Johnson were hated so badly that all their ideas were opposed. Seward himself favored reconciliation of Southern Whites and a strong Union. Yet although he had always been interested in Abolition, he still clung to belief in the inferiority of the Negro. Moreover, the country could not decide what to do with four million freed men, “themselves confused, anxious lest they be returned to slavery . . . . Countless Negroes wandered aimlessly . . . . The Freedman’s Bureau had to reduce rations to get Negroes back to work.” It was an impossible situation. The easiest thing for most people to do was to sweep the race problem under the rug. Now facing up to the Negro problem is our moral responsibility for years to come.

The question of Negro suffrage was politically explosive. Republicans generally were inclined to favor some form of Negro voting in the South, but were hesitant about it, or opposed to it in the North. Color prejudice was prevalent in the North. Sound familiar?

Southerners knew that Northern radicals wished to punish them for the war. In the South, bled of men, King Poverty ruled, not King Cotton. “The old conception of the Union as an institution for reverence had been badly damaged. There were few who could escape some measure of distrust and bitterness.” And the distrust and bitterness, in many quarters, are still with us.

No review of this biography should neglect Seward’s plans for the future of his country, among them forty-nine treaties, one-third with the countries to the south, especially Mexico. Welles called the treaties “entangling alliances.” In looking to the future, Seward prodded New York capitalists into an interest in a Panama Canal, to come years later. Many of his attempts to pave the way for world leadership collapsed, for, as in the Wilson Administration after World War I, there was little popular interest in world affairs. Return to normalcy had priority.

Soon Seward began to study island outposts for coaling the Navy. St. Thomas: his negotiations with Denmark ended in disaster after an earthquake. Semana Bay in Haiti: no deal. He eyed Cuba and Greenland and Iceland. Ben Butler described Seward as “one insane enough to buy the earthquakes of St. Thomas and the Icefields of Greenland.” The British were cool to the idea of the United States acquiring Tiger Island as a coaling station in Honduras. Seward wanted a shift to American influence of the Sandwich, later the
Hawaiian Islands, believing that "an influx of Americans would eventually lead to annexation." But American sugar and rice interests blocked his reciprocity treaty with Hawaii. There was a popular reluctance to assume new obligations. He was successful, however, in acquiring one island, Midway, so important in World War II.

Ask the average American today what he associates with Seward, and he may reply, "Alaska," for in 1867, the purchase of Alaska was finally completed.

*Pittsburgh*

Florence C. McLaughlin


This is a sourcebook of the Pennsylvania German Baptist denomination officially titled The Church of the Brethren, or unofficially, The Dunkers or Dunkards. It is a collection of original sources, mostly translated from the German by the editor, so organized as to tell the story of these German Baptists in America from their emigration to these shores in 1719 and the two decades following through the period of the Revolutionary War. It is a sequel to an earlier volume titled *European Origins of the Brethren*, edited by the same author and published in 1958. It relates the story of The Brethren to other religious movements, especially among the Pennsylvania Germans, and to the general historical events of the period.

The volume was published in 1967 by the denominational publishing house, The Brethren Press, at Elgin, Illinois, and copyrighted by them. It is a cloth bound, well-printed volume of 639 pages. It is documented as to sources with four hundred fifty-eight footnote entries, and has an index of twenty-five pages.

The editor, Donald F. Durnbaugh, is the able young historian of The Brethren Church. He has been Associate Professor of Church History in The Bethany Theological Seminary, the denominational seminary, since 1962. He holds degrees in history from Manchester College, B.A. in 1949; University of Michigan, A.M. in 1953; and University of Pennsylvania, Ph.D. in 1960. From 1958 to 1962 he was Professor of History at Juniata College, a Brethren institution, at Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. In addition to these two edited volumes