

BOOK REVIEWS

American Labor History and Comparative Labor Movements. By JAMES C. McBREARTY. (Tucson: University of Arizona Press. 1973. Pp. ix, 262. Index. \$7.50.)

In this bibliography of American labor history and comparative labor movements, James C. McBrearty of the University of Arizona has listed over 3,000 references to books and articles published in scholarly journals and periodicals through 1972. The references to the articles are divided into seventeen chronological periods and into specialized topics and are arranged alphabetically according to author; the section on comparative labor movements, divided into books and articles, is arranged by country designations. In addition to a section on general labor histories, there is a special section on novels, in which McBrearty offers brief summaries identifying the historical event, the time period, or the geographic setting of the novel. His inclusion of comparative labor movements is an attempt, as McBrearty states in the preface to *American Labor History and Comparative Labor Movements*, "to recognize the latter-day trend toward teaching American labor history in reference to the similarities and contrasts of labor history in other countries." While foreign language references are omitted, there are enough items listed to provide considerable help to the student of comparative labor movements.

A section on "Recent and Current Problems and Practices of Labor" includes references on such topics as union membership, collective bargaining, internal union affairs, and labor's role and activities in recent foreign policy, among many others. This section can be particularly useful because the journals and periodicals in which the listed articles appear are often not the more traditional ones with which the historian is more generally familiar.

Perhaps no single state is as well represented here as is Pennsylvania. There are numerous articles dealing with labor in the Keystone State which have appeared in *Pennsylvania History*, *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, and *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, along with such journals as *Labor History* and *The Journal of American History*, among others. The compilation includes references to articles on minority, ethnic, and labor groups in Western Pennsylvania; workers and unions in early Philadelphia; the Molly Maguires; Pittsburgh iron, steel, and glass workers; labor confrontations, including the strikes in the anthracite-coal fields in the 1920s; and the drive for union membership and recognition of the United Mine Workers and the steel workers in the 1930s.

In the section on special topics, there are many references to articles on labor leaders and individual unions, including the less well known in both cases. There are numerous listings on communal groups — agrarian, as well as industrial labor movements, biographical accounts, labor legislation, and others. By including articles on civil-service reform, protest and folk songs, religious groups, and on such contemporary topics as Pennsylvania nurses and the state's Public Employee Bargaining Law, McBrearty's compilation is not only essential to the labor historian but could be very useful to students in others areas as well.

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The History of Wisconsin: From Exploration to Statehood. By ALICE E. SMITH. (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1973. Pp. 681. Illustrations, appendix, essay on sources, index. \$15.00.)

This is the first volume of a projected six-volume history of Wisconsin and marks an auspicious beginning for an ambitious undertaking. Assigned the task of relating two and a half centuries of history, Alice Smith sensibly compresses the "early years" — to the close of the War of 1812 — into a general narrative. Yet even this summary is impressive: well written and precise in tracing the main themes of Wisconsin's early development. Indians, trappers, traders, and missionaries all receive ample attention, and she has clearly outlined the influence of French and British settlement in the region.

The author's main emphasis is the growth of the territory from 1815 to 1848, when it achieved statehood. Neither biased nor narrowly provincial, this history relates the story of Wisconsin to that of national growth. Indian affairs, political and financial problems, population shifts, even social and cultural developments find their place. This is more than a state history and as such stands as an example of how state histories should be written.

If there is a central theme, it is the role of the federal government in promoting western expansion. Through a variety of devices — Indian agents, the army, internal improvements, and land policy — Washington influenced Wisconsin's growth at every point. Smith's recognition of this indicates that Wisconsin territory was no different