of the black vote, soon became indifferent to black aspirations. In exasperation, Vann withdrew his support, but unlike 1932, this time he failed to influence a change among black voters.

A study of one of black America's most outstanding twentieth-century editors has been long overdue and Andrew Buni has filled this lacuna admirably. Buni's study is biography at its best. It is never an easy task to write history around an individual, much less when it is a character like Vann, who because of his insistence on privacy in his personal life, left few records. In spite of this, Buni has managed to set Vann in the context of local and national developments. The study is more than biography; it uses Vann as a window through which the author surveys black economic, social, political, and cultural activity in the first four decades of the twentieth century. If there is a criticism of Buni's book, it is its lack of philippetism. Although Vann was in many ways a very frustrating man, and almost amoebic in his political and ideological positions, Buni's admirable determination to maintain objectivity may have cost his study that element of "worship" so necessary in any biography. Nonetheless this is a fine study.

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Perhaps the only criticism one can make of this volume that presents thumbnail biographies of the presidents of the United States and descriptions of historic sites associated with them is that it is far too heavy. Because it is such a literally weighty tome, it belies its useful brief guidebook contents.

The first part of the book deals with the historical background of the presidency and then it contains a brief biography amplified with many fine illustrations and a reproduction in color of the portrait of each of the presidents through Gerald Ford. Not only is it terse, but it also succeeds in giving one a very good and quick view of the personality and development of each of these men. A brief summary precedes the biography for each man, which are excellent little indexes
to the essential character and life of the men and are good guides for browsing.

The book is not a glossing over or a romanticizing of the lives of the presidents but is quite clear and forthright. The description of the resignation of Richard Nixon indicates how fair and candid the book is. It does not stoop to scandal nor does it apply cosmetics.

The last half of the book describes and illustrates each of the historic sites associated with the presidents, and not just their houses. For example, included are Ford's Theater, the Jefferson Memorial, the Octagon House, Pennsylvania Avenue, Lincoln Tomb, and the Roosevelt National Memorial Park. The various birthplaces and houses where the presidents spent a substantial part of their lives are also included.

The illustrations throughout the book are faultless and profuse. But if only one could carry it on a trip!

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Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.