

William Jennings Bryan: Missionary Isolationist. By Kendrick A. Clements. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1982. Pp. xvi, 214. Tables, illustrations, notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$19.95.)

In an excellent example of revisionism Professor Kendrick A. Clements has made an important contribution with this book on William Jennings Bryan and foreign policy. Bryan scholars and diplomatic historians will find much of use. Arguing that Bryan's foreign policy record deserves additional study, the author notes that "Bryan's attitudes mirrored those of millions of Americans . . . as they faced an increasingly unstable and dangerous world" (p. i). Bryan combined an evangelical sense of Christian—and American—mission with a practical idealism that sometimes remained in harmony and sometimes conflicted. As an evangelical Christian and highly ethnocentric American, Bryan believed in America's obligation to "moralize" the world, thus causing him reluctantly to support annexation of the Philippines and intervention in Latin America. Yet he also evidenced ability to compromise, work with potential foes and allies, and view realistically a world hurrying to war.

Clements's contribution is enhanced by excellent research and good writing. Certainly the author was exhaustive with his research, and he employs a lively and interesting style. Photographs and charts are a useful addition. There are, however, some minor flaws. Clements overlooks the 1908 election while mentioning those before and after. He excuses Bryan's lack of concern with or knowledge of economic imperialism. He may be too lenient with Bryan over relations with Japan, and, lastly, he may be too forgiving of Bryan's stewardship of the State Department, his staffing the Foreign Service with "deserving" Democrats, and his role in the Sullivan scandal. Perhaps, in performing a useful and necessary revision of Bryan and foreign policy, Clements slightly overstates his case; nonetheless, this book is necessary reading for scholars of the period.

Metropolitan State College, Denver

Charles M. Dobbs

Sport and American Mentality, 1880-1910. By Donald J. Mrozek. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1983. Pp. xx, 284. Illustrations, notes, selected bibliography, index. Cloth-bound, \$24.95; paperbound, \$12.95.)

Although Donald J. Mrozek is a historian with a number of sport history contributions to his credit, readers who are looking for a general history of sport in his new book, *Sport and American*

Mentality, will be disappointed. The focus of the text is not on the evolution of sport but, rather, on the analysis of the meaning and significance of sport in the United States in the decades at the turn of the century. Mrozek's selection of the time period for study is, in itself, significant. "Sport remained complex and confusing . . .," he notes, "but it enjoyed a generally higher moral tone . . . because of a new interpretation of its utility to society" (p. xiv).

Chapter headings suggest the essence of the "new interpretation." "Strategies of Regeneration" considers sport in relation to renewal, physical as well as spiritual, suggesting, even, that sport offered a "means to fulfill . . . the needs that religion had difficulty in meeting" (p. 4). In "Social Efficiency and the Spirit of Victory" the attitudes and ideas about sport held by political leaders such as Theodore Roosevelt and military officers such as Leonard Wood are explored. "Winning and the Regulated Life" speaks to Americans' insatiable interest in sport, the approaches developed to ensure winning teams, and the differing view of sport as espoused by physical educators, coaches, and trainers. The influence of the ultra rich on sporting attitudes is explored in "Sporting Life as Consumption, Fashion, and Display," and chapter five, "From 'Swooning Damsel' to Sportswoman," examines the role of sport in women's quest for emancipation as well as the "reciprocal impact that women had on sport" (p. 136). The chapter, "From Playing Fields to National Parks," is perhaps one of Mrozek's best as he attempts to analyze sport in relation to a developing concern for and interest in American nationalism. The increasing interest in sport as a means of achieving health is examined in a chapter aptly titled "Toward a New Image of the Body."

In spite of Mrozek's "wizardry with words" (one suspects at times that he has even coined new words), he has accomplished a task that few authors on the topic of sport have attempted; that is, an effort to analyze the meaning and significance of sport in the lives of Americans. While he does consider the role of women in his analysis, the role of blacks is conspicuously absent from the treatise. As he noted with regard to another topic, however, that may be another story. And, while one may or may not agree with his conclusions about sport and American mentality, he must be given credit for examining sport in American life from a different perspective during one short time period. As Mrozek concludes, "The complex and sometimes countervailing forces within sport militate against explanation. Yet . . . they suggest the importance of sport as a part of the ongoing cultural development of America" (p. 234). His efforts to provide insight into the sport phenomenon as a part of that culture are commendable.