

monism and nineteenth-century evangelical Protestantism. Shipps supplements historical method with a phenomenology that emphasizes the continuities between Mormon experience and patterns of religious activity that long antedated the nineteenth century. The methodological issues are complex. Because Shipps explores them with insight and judgment her book should receive careful attention from historians of religion in America.

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*To the Halls of the Montezumas: The Mexican War in the American Imagination.* By Robert W. Johannsen. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985. Pp. ix, 363. Illustrations, map, notes, index. \$25.00.)

Once the United States reached the Civil War, Americans had difficulty seeing the Mexican War in its own right. Given the events of 1846, 1848, and 1850 there seemed to follow naturally if not inexorably the Kansas-Nebraska Act, Bleeding Kansas, the Harper's Ferry Raid, and worse. The Mexican War appeared as dress rehearsal for notable individuals such as Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee, and more importantly as catalyst and accelerator for the sanguinary struggle between North and South. This regrettable myopia has been exacerbated in recent times by the ritual and tropistic spirit of cultural confession whereby our clash with Mexico has been depicted as disgraceful expansionism, pure and simple.

Robert W. Johannsen gives us a salutary historical reminder and embroidery of what the Mexican War meant to Americans in the setting of that war. He provides a spirited description and analysis of the impact the struggle had upon American attitudes and American thought. Working by and large with published sources such as books, newspapers, and magazines, Johannsen reconstructs the aura of pride and exhilaration that swept most if not all of the land as Scott, Taylor, and others swept through parts of Mexico. Here it might be noted that Indiana readers will encounter illustrative figures from their state's history such as General Joseph Lane and almost common soldier Benjamin F. Scribner.

The American imagination registered the war in various ways. For example, one chapter treats the travel literature which came from the Mexican experience. Another depicts the more or less self-conscious efforts at historical treatment that came during and just after the conflict. Cultural historians may be especially interested in a chapter on "A War-Literature" because of the rather concerted attention given there to Romanticism. Per-

haps more significant if not more interesting are chapters dealing with the emergence of national patriotism in a society dedicated to the proposition that locality and state laid primary claim upon the citizen's loyalty. This analysis appears in an early chapter titled "The True Spirit of Patriot Virtue." Almost inevitably, such discussion turns late in the book to "The War and the Republic," an examination of the contentions of those who did and those who did not consider the war to be in keeping with republican institutions. In volume at least, the former far exceeded the latter, but time would cast a different light upon the matter. The last line of the book speaks of the untoward consequences, "unanticipated, baffling, and fraught with peril for the republic" (p. 312). Unanticipated consequences stalk us ever, and Johannsen provides an admirable depiction of the outlook of mid-century America just before the glow receded and the consequences came home to roost.

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*Dark Lanterns: Secret Political Societies, Conspiracies, and Treason Trials in the Civil War.* By Frank L. Klement. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1984. Pp. xiii, 263. Notes, illustrations, bibliographical essay, index. \$25.00.)

Frank L. Klement has devoted most of his illustrious career to the study and reinterpretation of Civil War Copperheadism. His forays into this intriguing historiographical territory have led consistently to conclusions that, in his own words, "run counter to the orthodox or accepted interpretations" (p. xi). Now Klement focuses his revisionist glasses upon the era's secret political societies, the conspiracies they allegedly hatched, and the treason trials which government leaders used to portray all Democrats as disloyal traitors.

Once again the Marquette University scholar has combined careful research with cogent argumentation to counter historians' misrepresentations of Lincoln's opponents. According to Klement, consensus historians, failing to differentiate fact from fantasy, have elevated Republican wartime propaganda to the stature of historical truth and have thus transformed conspiracy theories into "a part of accepted history." This "marriage of myth and history" (p. 6) needs correction, and Klement performs that task admirably.

At the same time, he tells a fascinating story in a lively manner. Klement discusses four secret societies: the Knights of