

it seeks to "describe things in action [and] to analyze them as parts of cultural scenes where actors can be identified" (p. xi), the book also calls on Americans to examine past and present values and to grasp hold of those which provide personal, communal, and social meaning and guidance for the future.

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The Transplanted: A History of Immigrants in Urban America. By John Bodnar. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1985. Pp. xxi, 294. Maps, illustrations, appendix, notes, selected bibliography, index. Clothbound, \$27.50; paperbound, \$8.95.)

The Transplanted is an impressive effort to bring together the extensive research that American historians have conducted since the 1960s on European immigration to the United States. John Bodnar demonstrates an impressive knowledge of the secondary literature, both on the old world background and the immigrant experience in America. He examines a wide range of topics, including the family, the adjustment process, religion and other immigrant institutions, the impact of the newcomers on unionism and radicalism, the rise of an immigrant middle class, attitudes toward education, and immigrants in urban politics. This book has much to commend it. However, one might conclude from reading *The Transplanted* that American immigration history stopped when the flow of European newcomers ended because of World War I and restrictive legislation in the 1920s.

Even before the 1920s America experienced immigration from Asia and from elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere. Bodnar ignores these sources. Even more significant is his silence concerning the fact that the United States is at present experiencing another wave of immigration, one as momentous as the earlier movement from Europe. One result of this current immigration is that by 1983 Los Angeles could be described as the new Ellis Island. Since 1968, when the 1965 immigration law went into effect, the character of American immigration has undergone dramatic changes. Prior to that date Europe was the principal (although not the only) source of immigration; since then the predominant sources are the Third World nations of Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Asia.

From 1971 to 1979, 3,962,675 immigrants entered the United States, 39.2 percent from Latin America, 34.1 percent from Asia, and only 18.3 percent from Europe. In addition to legal immigration estimates of undocumented aliens entering the country range from one-half million to one million annually. The post-1968 immigration represents a watershed in the ethnic composition of the United States. Congress has wrestled for years with the problem of illegal immigration, particularly from south of the border. Right

now would appear to be a time when immigration historians could offer guidance or at least perspective on a current problem of major importance. *The Transplanted* reflects the fact that we historians fix our eyes firmly on the past, glorying in the accuracy of our hindsight and avoiding involvement in the problems of the present.

Bodnar has done an effective job in dealing with the problems that he has identified and therefore accomplishes what he set out to do. *The Transplanted* is not, however, a comprehensive history of immigration to the United States; the title is misleading. It is a history of European immigration up to the 1920s, and as such, it is effective and thorough.

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Plains Woman: The Diary of Martha Farnsworth, 1882–1922. Edited by Marlene Springer and Haskell Springer. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986. Pp. xxv, 322. Illustrations, notes, map, index. \$27.50.)

If Martha Farnsworth was typical of the women living on the Kansas prairie in the latter part of the nineteenth century, then there were a lot of very spirited women in mid-America. The fact that she kept such an informative and literate diary for forty years, however, makes Farnsworth atypical.

Farnsworth was born in Iowa, but moved to Kansas at age five. She began her diary in 1882 at age fifteen and continued it until two years before her death in 1924. We follow her through her disastrous first marriage, the death of her only child at age five months, and the death of her abusive, consumptive husband. Blessed with a firm religious background that gave her the inner strength to cope with her afflictions, Martha entered a second marriage with Fred Farnsworth that lasted twenty-nine years. During these happy years she was active in women's clubs, politics, and the long struggle for women's suffrage. Never able to have more children, Martha acted as a surrogate mother for years, and conducted a Sunday School class for boys that was especially rewarding for both her and her husband.

The diary provides a chronology of events, including the coming of the telephone, the electric light, indoor plumbing, the talking motion picture, the airplane, and the automobile, along with the San Francisco earthquake and her association with many political and social figures of the day.

Editors Marlene Springer and Haskell Springer are to be commended for their selection of entries from the four thousand pages of Martha Farnsworth's original sixteen handwritten volumes. Only when events were repetitious or fragmentary do they give a brief summary. The Springers' introduction to the diary is a superb explanatory essay that complements Martha's writing. At the end of