

the author's rigid adherence to chronology, which sometimes leads to the sudden introduction of topics that are just as quickly dropped and repetitiously picked up later. This makes for some awkward transitions and is especially annoying in the discussion of Johnson's advocacy of homestead legislation. All in all, however, Trefousse has written a superior biography—one that should remain the standard work on Andrew Johnson for some time.

GEORGE C. RABLE, professor of history and director of American studies, Anderson University, Anderson, Indiana, is the author of *Civil Wars: Women and the Crisis of Southern Nationalism* (1989). He is currently working on a book dealing with the political culture of the Confederacy.

*The Frontier, the Union, and Stephen A. Douglas.* By Robert W. Johannsen. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1989. Pp. xiii, 311. Notes, index. \$34.95.)

This volume contains nothing new concerning the frontier, the union, or Stephen A. Douglas. It is a collection of earlier works by Robert W. Johannsen, dating from the 1950s through a lecture delivered in 1986. Part I consists of four essays concerning the Pacific Northwest frontier from 1848 through the Civil War; Part II is comprised of six essays which present different aspects of Douglas's career; Part III provides four essays on the vision of Abraham Lincoln; Part IV is a lone essay describing the "Young America" spirit of mid-nineteenth-century America.

Although thirteen of the fifteen essays were previously published, having them all together in one volume provides a clear picture of the Douglas whom historians frequently ignore: the visionary who believed that popular sovereignty was a constitutional right of territorial residents, not merely a pragmatic way to avoid the question of slavery. As late as 1860 he claimed that "popular sovereignty was the single, crucial issue of the campaign" (p. 166). The eleventh essay, "In Search of the Real Lincoln, or Lincoln at the Crossroads," shows Lincoln's struggle to define "equality." The Douglas essays in Part II indicate that Douglas had equal difficulty in finding a universally acceptable definition of "popular sovereignty." In his preface, Johannsen suggests that although the martyred Lincoln has come to be revered "as a representative American . . . a better case might be made for Douglas" (p. xvii). Both the content and the placement vis-à-vis one another of these essays builds on that theme.

The fourteenth essay, "Sandburg and Lincoln: The Prairie Years," besides presenting an interesting bibliographic review of Carl Sandburg's works on Lincoln, suggests that Sandburg brought to the American people a view of Lincoln's life as "the life of the people" (p. 280). The following essay, "America's Golden Midcentury," shows a nation that reflected not only the Lincoln portrayed

by Sandburg, but equally the Douglas described in the essay, "Stephen A. Douglas and the American Mission."

Some repetition of material is unavoidable. Generally this is not bothersome, but careful editing of material that has been fully covered in earlier essays could lessen reading time. Reading any of these essays, however, is time well spent. They clearly demonstrate that the popular view of the principled Lincoln contrasted to a pragmatic Douglas could easily be reversed. Douglas was as principled in his dedication to popular sovereignty as a constitutional right of territorial residents as was Lincoln to the idea of equality of opportunity. Conversely, Lincoln acted as pragmatically in persuading Illinois Republicans not to support Douglas for the Senate seat in 1858 as did Douglas in refusing to compromise on the 1860 Democratic campaign platform.

HELEN JEAN M. NUGENT is associate professor of history and director of Canadian studies (a program she began in 1984) at Franklin College. Currently she is researching the Canadian background of Indiana settlers.

*The Historian's Lincoln: Pseudohistory, Psychohistory, and History.*

Edited by Gabor S. Boritt; associate editor, Norman O. Forness. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1988. Pp. xxviii, 423. Illustrations, notes, index. \$24.95.)

*The Historian's Lincoln: Rebuttals; What the University Press*

*Would Not Print.* Edited by Gabor S. Boritt. (Gettysburg, Pa.: Gettysburg College, 1988. Pp. 43. Illustrations, notes, index. Paperbound, \$3.70.)

These two volumes are the products of a conference of leading Lincoln specialists held at Gettysburg College in 1984 to commemorate the 175th birthday of the sixteenth president. Authors of important recent books on Lincoln presented summaries or extensions of their works and an equally prominent set of critics offered their comments. The papers and comments have been published by the University of Illinois Press while the replies of some authors to their critics are available in the pamphlet published by Gettysburg College.

The results are the usual mixed bag of conference fare. The contributions run the gamut from P. M. Zall's minor but diverting piece "Abe Lincoln Laughing" to Dwight G. Anderson's absurd attempt to explain Lincoln's presidency as an oedipal assault on the legacy of George Washington, to LaWanda Cox's significant and persuasive defense of Lincoln's dedication to emancipation and equality. Editor Gabor S. Boritt's own contribution is a useful discussion of Lincoln's Whiggish economic views, particularly his notion that true liberty implied the "right to rise" (p. 92) in a growing market economy fostered by government action. Equally noteworthy