

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.

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*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

thy are Charles B. Strozier's and George B. Forgie's psychological interpretations of Lincoln's personality and William Hanchett's painstaking and judicious examination of the circumstances surrounding Lincoln's murder.

*The Historian's Lincoln* undoubtedly fulfills its purpose as a compendium of current scholarship, familiarizing the reader with a diverse field without forcing him or her to read the full body of literature on which it is based. It fails, however, as a unified discussion of some central questions concerning the railsplitter and his place in American history. The contributions are too disparate, for example, to shed much light on the question posed by Boritt as to "whether Lincoln's ultimate commitment was to union or to liberty" (p. xv). One would suppose that Lincoln thought the two inseparable, as his fellow Whig and rhetorical role model Daniel Webster did, but even this supposition could not be tested in a forum where participants were asked to discuss their own past work rather than a set of common questions. The same consideration may also limit the book's usefulness to the general public. Though organizers hoped to make it a vehicle for transmitting the best of recent scholarship to the large lay audience for Lincolniana, it is doubtful that such an unfocused collection will have much appeal to readers who are not already immersed in historians' tribal discourse.

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*Banners in the Air: The Eighth Ohio Volunteers and the Spanish-American War.* By Curtis V. Hard. Edited by Robert H. Ferrell. (Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1988. Pp. xiv, 147. Illustrations, maps, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. \$22.00.)

The Spanish-American War of 1898 represented a turning point in America's relationship with the rest of the world. It foreshadowed the United States' expanding role in international affairs in the twentieth century and represented a new national self-confidence. Curtis V. Hard's personal account of the war, *Banners in the Air*, captures the enthusiasm and patriotism of thousands of National Guardsmen who rushed to join the colors after the sinking of the *Maine* in Havana Harbor. Robert H. Ferrell recently discovered Hard's unpublished manuscript in the archives of the Western Reserve Historical Society and has done a masterful job of editing the journal.

As commander of the 8th Ohio Volunteers, Hard led his men from mobilization in Ohio to eventual deployment in Cuba, where they arrived too late for action at Santiago. Nonetheless, 72 of the