

edgeable of and at home with books and articles on material culture. They appear much less conversant with many standard secondary and written primary historical sources.

The book is useful as a primer on the material culture of southern Indiana, but not as a short social history of the region.

THOMAS E. RODGERS, adjunct professor of history, University of Southern Indiana, is the co-author, with Robert L. Reid, of *A Good Neighbor: The First Fifty Years at Crane, 1941-1991*, a history of the Naval Surface Warfare Center Division, in Martin County, Indiana.

*The Spirit of 1848: German Immigrants, Labor Conflict, and the Coming of the Civil War.* By Bruce Levine. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1992. Pp. xiv, 378. Tables, figure, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$34.95.)

In this attractive volume Bruce Levine presents a well-researched and highly detailed study of the German-American community during the sectional crisis which ended in the American Civil War. German immigrants represented a sizeable proportion of the large-scale migration entering the United States in the late 1840s into the critical decade of the 1850s. Historians have long contemplated what role this impressive immigrant population played in the economic and political conflict of the antebellum era, especially in the rise of Republican power. Levine's work contributes tantalizing new details about this and other long-debated questions.

After a careful overview of the social and economic factors spurring immigration from Germany, Levine reconstructs the place German immigrants took in American society. Although much previous scholarship has focused on the liberal intellectuals of the Forty-Eighter generation, Levine's attention is devoted most of all to those of more plebian origins, whose politics could be somewhat more radical. He devotes special emphasis to the German craft workers, particularly their labor concerns and organizations. As his subtitle indicates, the author develops how the often clashing economic interests among laborers, craftsmen, and proprietors affected the political conflict of the antebellum era.

Levine's careful research provides essential new information about the critical role German-Americans played in the political crisis of the 1850s. Although his methodology does not necessarily produce more specific knowledge about German-American voting patterns, his analysis does verify his thesis that the German community was divided on the eve of the Civil War. Beyond the traditional conflict between the immigrants of the 1830s (the *Dreissiger* immigration) and the Forty-Eighter generation, Levine demonstrates quite effectively how the opposing viewpoints of the work-

ing class (skilled or otherwise) and that of the immigrant "elite" could create dissensions within German-American ranks. Despite the nativist tinge of the new Republican party, most rank-and-file German-American voters (but not always those of higher status) eventually rallied to the party's antislavery call.

Besides developing the key differences among certain types of German immigrants, Levine's main contribution is to sharpen current knowledge of the social and political conflicts of the 1850s. For example, while detailing the German reaction to the Kansas-Nebraska Act (especially in the midwestern states) he also notes that the labor organizations had been weakened at the very moment that the Kansas crisis (along with other issues) provoked new political alignments. While his prime focus is on the antebellum era, Levine does carry the story through the war years. In the end he leaves the careful reader with a fuller understanding of the complex position those of German heritage occupied in the critical decades of the nineteenth century.

VERNON L. VOLPE is associate professor of history at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. He is the author of *Forlorn Hope of Freedom: The Liberty Party in the Old Northwest, 1838-1848* (1990). He is currently completing a study of John C. Frémont and the Civil War era.

*The Union Army, 1861-1865: Organization and Operations. Volume II, The Western Theater.* By Frank J. Welcher. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993. Pp. viii, 989. Indexes. \$75.00.)

Four years ago Frank J. Welcher and Indiana University Press produced volume one of *The Union Army, 1861-1865: Organization and Operations* (reviewed in these pages in September, 1990), a mammoth work covering the Eastern Theater of the Civil War. Now they offer its companion volume. Words like "massive," "comprehensive," "meticulous," and "detailed" filled reviews in scholarly journals for that first volume, and they remain appropriate for the second volume.

Welcher begins with the military divisions of the army (seven geographical commands) and then describes, in alphabetical order, the thirty-three departments of the army. Each department description includes a brief account of its initial organization and subsequent reorganizations and its commanders, all the districts into which each department was divided, the troops and operations within the department and the major posts. Indiana was part of the department of the Ohio in May, 1861, and remained in that department throughout its subsequent reorganizations. Following the departments are the thirty-four field armies, again in alphabetical order. Each field army has an organizational description