termed the "argument ad nauseum." Nevertheless, even if readers remain unpersuaded by the argument, they will enjoy the creative sleuthing.

GEORGE C. RABLE is professor of history, Anderson University, Anderson, Indiana. He is author of The Confederate Republic: A Revolution Against Politics (1994), a History Book Club selection.


Eugene H. Berwanger's The British Foreign Service and the American Civil War describes a neglected aspect of Civil War history. And unlike many Civil War books, there are no larger than life heroes and few heroics in this study of British diplomatic and consular activity during the Civil War. The international history of the Civil War, except for the Trent affair, recognition of the Confederacy, the Union blockade, and privateering matters, has been largely ignored.

Berwanger describes the functions of consuls and diplomats in the mid-nineteenth century and the strained efforts to preserve British consular officials in the seceding states without allowing their authority to rest in any way upon the U.S. State Department or even with British diplomats in Washington, D.C. Some intriguing topics of Berwanger's book include the diplomatic and consular reactions to arbitrary arrests; questionable practices used to conscript, even shanghai, immigrants; and the improper enrollment of resident British subjects. The index does not serve the book well. It has few subject references, and this makes it difficult to reconstruct the book's treatment of diplomatic matters generally or such important specific topics as belligerency and mediation.

Berwanger has examined the British consular and diplomatic records thoroughly, but he has overlooked several good studies of the diplomatic and consular corps in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that might have shaped his judgments and supplied standards for evaluation. For example, he notes the standard work by Graham Stuart, American Diplomatic and Consular Practice (1952), but not the equally standard studies of Warren F. Ilchman, Professional Diplomacy in the United States, 1779–1939 (1961), and Elmer Plischke, United States Diplomats and their Missions: A Profile of American Diplomatic Emissaries since 1778 (1975). He devotes considerable space to William Henry Seward but does not mention either Walter LaFeber's The New Empire: An Interpretation of American Expansion, 1860–1898 (1963), or Ernest Paolino's The Foundations of the American Empire: William
Henry Seward and U.S. Foreign Policy (1973). Omissions such as these reflect the narrow parameters of Berwanger's research.

Berwanger is at his best in the chapters that describe the world of "bounty-brokers," agents who managed enlistments of drugged or kidnapped "conscripts" in order to keep all or most of the bounty. For dramatic effect he uses language which indicates callous, widespread conduct but then notes that there were at most hundreds of cases. A modest number of complaints may be expected when any populous society builds up a huge military force in the midst of a crisis.

Berwanger has no need to exaggerate the role of the British agents. His story reveals an intriguing aspect of the oft-forgotten international side of America's Civil War.

THOMAS SCHOONOVER is professor of history, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette.


This book includes nine papers on President Abraham Lincoln's leadership delivered in September, 1992, at Louisiana State University in Shreveport in a conference cosponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Association. The speakers were political scientists and historians familiar with the literature and well qualified to assess current interpretations and make suggestions. Ethan Fishman declared that when Lincoln opposed the extension of slavery but realized that it could not be abolished overnight, he was practicing the classical prudence of Aristotle and acting with the highest moral virtue. Ronald D. Rietveld related how emancipation delivered on the promise of equality made by the Founding Fathers in the Declaration of Independence. Joseph R. Fornieri agreed that freeing the slaves restored the American creed of equality proclaimed by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

James A. Stevenson demonstrated that Lincoln's poetry made his prose more precise and rhythmic. David E. Long asserted that President Lincoln's decision to stand firm for emancipation in spite of possible defeat in the election of 1864 was "an act of unsurpassed political courage and integrity" (p. 106). Brooks D. Simpson, describing Lincoln's relationship with Grant, noted that Lincoln was much relieved to learn that in 1864 Grant was not gnawed by "the Presidential grub" (p. 119). William C. Harris found that Lincoln's prudence in dealing with white Southern Unionists paid off: restored Governor Francis H. Pierpont of Virginia stumped the