

tan theology, and rambunctious American entrepreneurship form the first section of the book. Stoll then devotes the remainder of the volume to a series of brief biographies that trace the lineage of these contrasting views from the Middle Ages into the late twentieth century. From Anne Bradstreet and Edward Johnson in the seventeenth century, to Joseph Smith and William Gilpin in the nineteenth century, to James Watt, Annie Dillard, and Dave Foreman in our own time, Stoll presents a fascinating summary of the transmission of a set of attitudes and their consequences. These short biographies, which form the backbone of the book, are fascinating and well written. They also allow the reader, once past Stoll's initial thematic overview, the freedom to browse at will.

The sweep of Stoll's book is both its strength and its weakness. Its breadth demonstrates clearly the persistence of certain core ideas in both western and American intellectual history. Yet such coverage in just under two hundred pages forces oversimplification that Stoll recognizes and acknowledges. This book also cuts very much against the grain of contemporary scholarship. Against the current focus on race, class, gender, and ethnicity in a social context, Stoll writes of the intellectual history of mostly dead, white Protestants. In an age whose radical denizens malign the western intellectual tradition, Stoll derives an important piece of contemporary radicalism from that very tradition. Finally, where today's scholars prefer "thick description" of small social groups or brief periods, he lays a cable over two thousand years, linking modern beliefs to the Old Testament, Neo-Platonism, and the Puritans. This book's most important contributions, as a result, are to reintroduce balance to contemporary historiography by reminding readers of both the value of intellectual history and the persistent importance of Protestantism in shaping some of the predominant issues of an age that many perceive as purely secular.

DANIEL H. JONES, a businessman who lives and works in Louisville, Kentucky, is currently rewriting his dissertation on religion and science in the writings of John Wesley Powell for publication.

A Handful of Emeralds: On Patrol with the Hanna in the Postwar Pacific. By Joseph C. Meredith. (Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1997. Pp. xii, 216. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$32.95.)

This tidy, often lyrical, memoir of life aboard the destroyer escort *Hanna* as it plied the relatively uncharted islands of the "South Seas" is published by the Naval Institute Press. Joseph C. Meredith, who joined the navy in 1943 and subsequently served during the Korean War and as a liaison to NATO forces, has written a stylish evocation of a brief tour of duty in the Pacific.

Captain Meredith and the *Hanna* were assigned to "conduct surveillance and reconnaissance" of the Carolines, Marianas, Volcanos, and Bonins during 1953 and 1954 (p. 2). Along the way they charted the seas, took part in search and rescue missions, and kept an eye out for fishermen poaching in restricted waters.

But this is no dry recitation of sea duty, no mere travelogue. Meredith's sense of history enlivens this gentle book. Obviously already smitten with the romance of the Pacific, Meredith cast a careful eye over the tiny islands he visited. The lore-tinged pieces of coral, barren rock, and often incandescent greenery were more than stopping places to him. He sensed that they were not mere backwaters, but places connected, albeit tenuously, to a larger world that came and went from the islands as its wonts and political considerations necessitated. Although scrabbled over by a succession of missionaries, imperialists, hardbitten seamen, and traders, the islands remained. The author provides vivid thumbnail sketches of the places, people, and history of many of the islands.

Such is the case with the Bonins, once called the "Japanese islands of mystery" (p. 54). Meredith recounts the history of Chichi Jima. He describes the 1839 British-sponsored settlement eventually led by the American Nathaniel Savory, the annexation of the island by the Japanese after the Meiji Restoration, the execution of downed American pilots during the war, the American occupation, and its return to Japan (a move fought by Savory's descendants). Similar stories are told about the other islands and their histories, involving explorers, missionaries, and rascals such as "His Majesty O'Keefe" of Yap.

That Meredith still holds affection for the people he met is obvious. The book is filled with reminiscences of the gentle, amicable natives. Sprinkled along the way are delightful anecdotes such as that of a "barefoot baseball game" on Lukunor between a missionary-trained native team and the *Hanna's* crew (p. 128), sailing lore such as "A ship is perfectly safe [from grounding], as a rule, over anything darker than dark green [water]" (p. 99).

Like most memoirs, *A Handful of Emeralds* can seem selective and idyllic at times. Some may hope for a harder edge, perhaps the casting of a harsher eye on superpower posturing or the drudgery of day-to-day naval life, but it is the pleasure of the memoirist to tell the reader what he wishes. Those are small prices to pay for a fine work like this. One hopes that Meredith has more such books to follow.

TIMOTHY R. CRUMRIN is a historian at Conner Prairie Museum, Fishers, Indiana, and on the adjunct faculty at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. His article "Holding a Course: Professor John J. Schlicher's Dismissal from Indiana State Normal" appeared in the March, 1992, issue of the *Indiana Magazine of History*.