

Book Reviews

Journals of the General Assembly of Indiana Territory, 1805-1815. Edited by Gayle Thornbrough and Dorothy Riker, with an introduction by John D. Barnhart. Volume XXXII. Indiana Historical Collections. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1950, pp. ix, 1106. Index, roster and sketches of members of the Territorial General Assembly. \$6.00.)

This volume is principally a collection of the *Journals* of the Indiana General Assembly which have survived from territorial days. It also includes available related documents concerning sessions for which the *Journals* have been lost such as messages of the governors, memorials, and newspaper circulars. The House *Journals* for 1806, 1807, and 1810 could not be located, while that of the 1808 session is copied from the Vincennes *Western Sun*. All of the council *Journals*, except for the session of 1813-1814, have disappeared. Part of the missing house and council journals may yet come to light, but it is almost certain that some will never be found. The publication of this volume by the Indiana Historical Bureau was "Offered in Observance of the Indiana Territory Sesquicentennial 1800-1950." It was one of the least heralded of the sesquicentennial observances but it will certainly be one of the most permanent.

The story of the surviving manuscript journals is told in the preface by Howard H. Peckham, Director of the Indiana Historical Bureau. "They were begun in Vincennes and finished in Corydon. They were moved to Indianapolis and housed in three successive capital buildings. Later some of them were lent to William H. English, congressman, banker, vice-presidential candidate, president of the Indiana Historical Society, and author, who was preparing a history of Indiana. When Mr. English died in 1896, his library passed to his son, and upon the latter's death much of the manuscript material went to a nephew who gave it to the University of Chicago. Among the items were found the territorial Journals, which, being Indiana state archives, were returned to Indiana State Library where they now rest. The other surviving Journals remained in the Office of the Secretary of State until they, too, were transferred to the State Library."

An introduction by John D. Barnhart, chairman of the

Indiana University department of history, stresses the democratization of the Northwest Ordinance when applied to the Indiana Territory. His thesis is that the substance of *political democracy* was achieved in Indiana during the territorial era and although the reviewer accepts this thesis he believes that Dr. Barnhart makes Governor Harrison and his friends more democratic than they actually were. Harrison came from the Virginia aristocracy and was originally appointed by Federalist John Adams. He exercised considerable common sense in dealing with territorial leaders who soon ushered in political democracy. With the advent of Jefferson and then Madison to the presidency, it was absolutely essential for Governor Harrison to co-operate with those who were leaders of the emerging democracy; however, the coming of popular elections and the substance of universal suffrage weakened Harrison's position and brought Jennings and his friends of leadership.

The *Journals* will not be widely read or used but they will be invaluable to the few who give serious attention to the study and writing of Indiana history. Students of seventeenth century English history will find in these *Journals* substantial evidence of the results of the political gains of Parliament over the King. They will be reminded anew that American political institutions were bottomed on those of England. Our territorial fathers were made more democratic by the conditions of frontier life, more staunchly republican by their revolutionary heritage and were heirs to a greater extent than they realized of man's struggle in modern times toward self-government. These early legislators were practical men concerned with the advent of political democracy, Indian trade and treaties, the acquisition of land, slavery, finances, defense, local government, separatist territorial movements and related problems. They consciously directed the territorial government toward the goal of statehood, with equal status in the American Union.

The preface states that: "In transcribing the *Journals* for publication the original spelling, capitalization, and punctuation for the most part have been maintained; the paragraphing has been altered somewhat to make it conform to a uniform pattern throughout the volume. The ends of the manuscript pages are indicated by asterisks. Raised letters have not been reproduced." The spelling, capitalization, punc-

uation, and paragraphing are part of the original atmosphere and content, and it is unfortunate that such has not been consistently followed or indicated. Despite this criticism even greater emphasis should be given to the editorial work of Misses Dorothy Riker and Gayle Thornbrough. They have obviously devoted innumerable hours to the tedious and wearisome process of assembling and editing the *Journals* and other documents. The bibliographical and explanatory notes are very helpful; the biographical sketches are useful; and the index is substantial. These aids are more comprehensive and helpful than frequently found in similar volumes. The preservation and publication of such documentary materials is one of the most important functions of the Indiana Historical Bureau.

Indiana University

Donald F. Carmony

A Bibliography of Booth Tarkington, 1869-1946. By Dorothy Ritter Russo and Thelma L. Sullivan. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1949, pp. xix, 303. Illustrations, index, and frontispiece portrait of Booth Tarkington.)

Booth Tarkington was probably best known as a novelist. Two of his novels, *The Magnificent Ambersons* in 1918 and *Alice Adams* in 1921, won Pulitzer Prizes. After the publication of *Presenting Lily Mars*, he was awarded the Gold Medal for fiction in 1933 by the National Institute of Arts and Letters. Theatergoers, however, also remember him fondly as the author of *The Man From Home*, *Clarence*, *The Intimate Strangers*.

This bibliography is a revelation of the great extent of his writings, and the voluminousness of his deep and affectionate probing into and depiction of the American Scene.

In both plays and novels he was particularly concerned with human beings. His many friendships, among those in all walks of life, were attributed by Erwin Panofsky to his unique insight into human nature: "Instead of respecting a man because he understands his convictions," Panofsky wrote, "Booth Tarkington respects a conviction, no matter how different from his own, because he understands the man."

The volume, a handsome example of book-making, is di-