

has made it unnecessary for Lincoln's biographers to repeat the painstaking research that has gone into this study. Both purposes are served by an excellent bibliography and index.

*Congressman Abraham Lincoln* is a continuation of an earlier work, *Lincoln Runs for Congress*, published in 1948. In the earlier work Professor Riddle presented a study of Lincoln's campaign for nomination and election to Congress as a report of an episode in western history, rather than as a chapter of Lincoln biography. The book tells briefly the story of Lincoln's two attempts and successful third campaign, 1843-1846, to win election to the House as a Whig.

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*Education of an Historian.* By Halvdan Koht. (New York: Robert Speller and Sons, 1957. Pp. xv, 237. Frontispiece, illustrations, notes, index. \$6.00.)

Since Halvdan Koht moved from his birthplace in Tromsø to southern Norway some seventy-two years ago, he has never allowed himself to be rooted in one spot or limited to the narrow confines of one field of historical specialization. Although he was thoroughly trained in Norwegian and medieval history in Norway and abroad by such masters as Sophus Bugge, Karl Lamprecht, and Gabriel Monod, his intellectual curiosity and almost universal interests soon led him to such diverse fields of scholarship and practical activity as literature, mythology, politics, and linguistic controversy. Accordingly, his publications treat a wide variety of subjects ranging from old Norse sagas to Bismarck, from Ibsen and Wergeland to Norwegian social and economic history, and from the history of the United States to modern Scandinavian diplomatic history. While writing articles and books on these and other topics, he was active, at various times during his life, as a journalist, editor of the *Dictionary of Norwegian Authors*, professor of history at the University of Oslo, and a prominent figure in the Norwegian Labor Party (he was Norwegian foreign minister in 1940 when Hitler attacked Norway).

Two threads of thought run throughout his works: Norwegian nationalism and the role of class conflict in history. From an early date in his life Koht became interested

in the *landsmål* movement, which aimed at replacing the artificial Dano-Norwegian language spoken among educated Norwegians at the time with a more national form of speech based on the language of the people. His interest in popular dialects and the life of the common people turned his attention more and more to the historic struggle of the Norwegian peasant for national independence from Denmark. His trip to the United States in 1908-1909 made him aware that the struggle of the Norwegian peasant was not the only example of social conflict in history. This new awareness gradually brought him to the conclusion that class struggle was one of the prime movers of history and to the conviction that the socialist program of the Norwegian Labor Party was the one which most nearly corresponded to the needs of Norway in the twentieth century.

Although the American reader will not always agree with Koht on socialism and the role of class conflict in history, every historian can read this work with profit. United States historians will be particularly interested in Koht's often penetrating remarks concerning this country in his thirty-six page chapter on the America of Eugene Debs, Samuel Gompers, William Jennings Bryan, and Oliver Wendell Holmes. However, the major contribution of Koht's book does not lie in the light it sheds on United States history but rather in his skillful analysis of the training, forces, and life experiences that made him a historian and in his subtle demonstration of a point that historians in all countries can well learn: if one is to study the history of his own nation intelligently, "he must have broad perspectives outward, so that he can compare and understand" (p. 73).

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Edward C. Thaden

*The Territorial Papers of the United States.* Compiled and edited by Clarence Edwin Carter. Volume XXII, *The Territory of Florida, 1821-1824.* (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1956. Pp. xiv, 1129. Preface, illustrations, index. \$8.25.)

This is the first volume of the *Territorial Papers of the United States* to deal with the Territory of Florida. Several more volumes pertaining to the same territory are to follow. Since 1931 the publication of this series has continued with