

But the importance and attraction of Lincoln is the effect he had on the events of his time and the influence he has had on others since his death. These effects are the measure of the man's greatness, and this is the measure taken by Mr. Stern in his voluminous collection. The more than two hundred memorial sermons after the President's assassination, for instance, are one indication of the nation's sense of loss. "Works about Lincoln, the Civil War, Etc." include more than 4,400 titles. The quantity is not surprising when two such popular topics are combined. Then there are broadsides, sheet music, cartoons, half a dozen letters, stamps, coins, medals, sculpture, and various ephemera. Finally, there are the Volk bronze casts of Lincoln's head and hands.

Almost every entry contains an explanatory note of identification and provenance. The corresponding number in Jay Monaghan's monumental *Lincoln Bibliography, 1839-1939*, is cited. By the use of three sizes of type the entries are clear and easy to read. An informal photograph of Stern forms the frontispiece, undoubtedly over his protest, for he has been a most self-effacing collector and donor. The nation stands in his debt.

William L. Clements Library
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Howard H. Peckham

The Trumpet Soundeth: William Jennings Bryan and His Democracy, 1896-1912. By Paul W. Glad. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1960. Pp. xii, 242. Illustrations, notes, bibliographical essay, chronology, index. \$4.75.)

William Jennings Bryan has stood in need of re-evaluation and reinterpretation for almost a generation. He was a master orator and lecturer, spokesman for millions of midwestern Americans, and three times the Democratic standard-bearer as well as the acknowledged leader of his party. Yet many Americans remember him only as the "ludicrous anachronism" at the Scopes evolution trial. In this timely and well-written monograph Paul W. Glad re-examines a portion of Bryan's career and attempts to assess his contributions within the context of his own time and culture.

The McGuffey Reader, evangelical Protestantism, and the circuit Chautauqua are found as the keys to Bryan's system of values and moral convictions. Growing up in the midst of the agrarian unrest of the late nineteenth century, Bryan unquestioningly championed the embattled farmers with the same moralistic fervor that he had observed at rural camp meetings. To these people he became a symbol and the prophet of their faith. He expressed their hopes, shared their fears, and denounced their foes.

In this atmosphere of political revivalism Glad discusses and evaluates Bryan's principles and objectives during his years as leader of the opposition from 1896 to 1912. In order, he examines Bryan's relation to the leading questions of the period and his reaction to the policies of the McKinley, Roosevelt, and Taft administrations. Overriding the specific issues was Bryan's insistence on a moral view of public affairs and a deep faith in popular democracy.

The author experiences some difficulty in organizing the book topically according to ideas, for Bryan was not a logical thinker. As a result, some of the sections are a bit repetitious. Bryan was the popularizer and evangelist for the cause, carrying the message to the grass roots of the population. The major issues of the Progressive era, such as direct elections, honesty in politics, tax reform, antitrust legislation, conservation, and labor reforms, were all common currency in reform circles and not identified with Bryan. The four causes that he espoused most fervently—free silver, anti-imperialism, federal licenses for great corporations, and public ownership of railroads—were not adopted. Nor was Bryan in a position to make his opposition to Republican policies effective, for he held no public office during the years between 1896 and 1912. In comparison to Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, or Robert La Follette, Bryan represented a narrower segment of the population, was less original in his thinking, and had less opportunity to influence positively the course of reform. Nevertheless, as Paul Glad concludes, Bryan played a major role in the Progressive movement. He dominated his party and largely dictated the party platform in four elections. Many of the reforms he advocated eventually became law. And above all, he expressed to the general public the convictions and ideals of millions of residents of the Middle Border.

This is a welcome book. It is well-designed, attractively printed, and copiously illustrated. Unfortunately the footnotes are placed at the end of the text where they will be lost to all but a few readers. It is hoped that Mr. Glad will follow this study with a new full scale biography of the Great Commoner.

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On Plays, Playwrights, and Playgoers: Selections from the Letters of Booth Tarkington to George C. Tyler and John Peter Toohey, 1918-1925. Edited by Alan S. Downer. *Occasional Publications Sponsored by the Friends of the Princeton Library.* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Library, 1959. Pp. vi, 100. Illustrations, index. \$3.00.)

Representing Princeton's 1957 acquisition of Tarkington's letters to Toohey interspersed with selected letters to Tyler, *On Plays, Playwrights, and Playgoers* provides an excellent case history of the professional playwright as well as remarkable portrait of the lively Gentleman from Indiana—Booth Tarkington.

Ranging from March, 1919, to November, 1921, the major portion of the collection was sent to John Peter Toohey, who worked as publicity agent for George C. Tyler, producer of many of Tarkington's most successful plays. Toohey was just beginning his career as a fiction writer, and the collection not only presents Tarkington's friendly advice to a young author but also covers the period of his most significant development as playwright. During the war years, demands for a "new realism" in the American theatre motivated the change from the