

theatrical, situation-centered play to the psychological, character-centered drama. As a successful playwright in the Old School (*The Man from Home*, 1908) and faced with the new attitude, Tarkington, as comic dramatist, eventually arrived at his own answer: the shaping of an actor into a dramatic character. *On Plays, Playwrights, and Playgoers*—as edited by Professor Downer—successfully describes Tarkington's dramatic approach. The following actors formed the bases for plays created during this period from 1918-1925: Alfred Lunt, *Clarence* (1919); George Arliss, *Poldekia* (1920); Helen Hayes, *The Wren* (1921); Billie Burke and Lunt, *The Intimate Strangers* (1921).

In addition to Tarkington's growth as playwright, the collection reveals a dynamic image of Tarkington the man: trenchant, shrewd, witty. Now and again he aptly described the various techniques of the novel, stage play, film; and he rarely hesitated to flay his critics. For example, H. T. ("Hell-To-Pay") Parker of the Boston *Evening Transcript* was "that horrible self-puffed bag of noise in Boston" (p. 36). Although he understood the necessity of audience appeal—"a play's got to be popular or it's only a script in a cupboard" (p. 75)—he once suggested that films were "done for morons" (p. 92). Throughout the collection, Tarkington's acute observation extends even to himself and demonstrates his innate sense of proportion and humor. When Helen Hayes visited the Tarkingtons in Maine during the writing of *The Wren*, the playwright described his own behavior as that of "a nervous old hen with a young and irresponsible duckling—especially when she went in the surf" (p. 78). Thus, *On Plays, Playwrights, and Playgoers* provides an informative and entertaining study of Booth Tarkington, Indiana playwright.

Indiana University

Eugene K. Bristow

The Republican Party and Wendell Willkie. By Donald Bruce Johnson. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1960. Pp. ix, 354. Bibliography, index. \$5.50.)

No greater enigma has appeared on the twentieth-century American political scene than Wendell L. Willkie, "the barefoot boy from Wall Street." A registered Democrat as late as 1938, this outspoken utility president found himself two years later the Republican presidential nominee. Donald Bruce Johnson, political scientist at the State University of Iowa, in an absorbing analysis of Willkie and the Republican party explains this remarkable phenomenon—the political emergence of this dynamic Hoosier, the "miracle" of his nomination, his subsequent unsuccessful election campaign, and the critical period which followed. The volume is not a biography in the usual sense, but rather an account of the basic conflict between "liberalism" and "conservatism" within the Republican party from 1939, when Willkie first appeared on the national political scene, to his death in 1944. It is the story of the impact of a man upon his party and upon his times.

The author credits Willkie with three major contributions to his party—the adoption of international cooperation, the acceptance of a more "liberal" domestic policy, and the inception of a strong civil rights

program. Such widespread influence might be seriously questioned. Though titular head of the opposition party for four years, Willkie was at no time its effective leader. His role was more that of a stepping-stone between two eras of Republicanism than that of a bridge as Johnson characterizes it.

In 1940 Willkie gambled upon a "me-too" program. Confident that he could hold conservative Republican voters, he set out to attract those who had supported Roosevelt four years before. To accomplish this he accepted the New Deal program in large measure, objecting only to some of the means employed to bring about the necessary social ends. The result was, as one columnist put it, a hopeless attempt to "out Santa Claus, Santa Claus." A widely accepted notion among Republicans is that Willkie lost the election because his acceptance of New Deal reforms and the Roosevelt foreign policy prevented the American people from voicing their opposition to either. When faced with the necessity of choosing between two individuals of almost identical views, the choice of the more experienced man was inevitable. Others hold that Willkie's refusal to accept the golden rule of politics—unswerving party loyalty—cost him the election. Johnson disputes these arguments, asserting that because he faced the master politician of the age in a time of growing international crisis, he was destined for defeat regardless of the course he followed.

Wendell Willkie's leadership was hailed by President Roosevelt as a decisive force during World War II and in the establishment of the United Nations. Willkie's book, *One World*, although it envisioned a world too full of idealism to become a reality, became the bible of internationalism and cast its author in the role of prophet. Ironically Willkie is almost universally acclaimed by Democrats today as a man of courage and vision, while many Republicans still consider him an anathema.

The Republican Party and Wendell Willkie is a well-written and satisfactorily documented volume. Although the narrative is occasionally too heavily laden with details and not always free from trivial errors, it is the work of a competent political scientist. Based primarily on secondary works, Johnson's research has, however, disclosed nothing new. There is no mention of the Willkie papers, if such exist, or of the correspondence of the Associated Willkie Clubs of America, which remains closed to public scrutiny. Perusal of both these primary sources will be essential before a truly definitive work on Willkie and the period, 1939-1944, can be written.

Indiana University

Herbert J. Rissler

Cumulative Voting: An Effective Electoral Device in Illinois Politics.

By George S. Blair. *Illinois Studies in the Social Sciences*, Volume 45. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1960. Pp. xi, 145. Tables, maps, bibliography, index. Clothbound, \$3.50; paperbound, \$2.50.)

"This study is devoted to an analysis of the system of cumulative voting and the effects of this system as reflected in the membership of the Illinois House of Representatives for the period 1872-1954" (p. v).