

One fault of the book is a fault of scholarship in the field generally. This is an overemphasis upon the development of the press in New York and Washington. An outstanding characteristic of the American press is its provincialism—the fact that this country, unlike Britain, France, Russia, and Argentina, for example, has never developed a national journalism. As Weisberger shows, there were the beginnings of such a national press first in Washington and then in New York, but provincialism won out. The newspapers of the provincial cities like Kansas City, Louisville, Minneapolis, Atlanta, and Los Angeles have represented more truly the pattern of American journalism than those of New York and Washington, yet relatively few careful studies have been made of the press in important provincial cities and almost none at all in lesser cities. Weisberger, like others before him, has had to depend upon the literature available.

The Indianapolis News

Sexson E. Humphreys

Professional Diplomacy in the United States, 1779-1939: A Study in Administrative History. By Warren Frederick Ilchman. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961. Pp. 254. Bibliographical essay, index. \$6.00.)

In the past decade there has developed among historians and political scientists an interest in administrative history. Warren Ilchman offers a significant contribution to this expanding field in his study of the growth of a professional diplomatic corps within the Department of State. In this initial study the author concentrates on the gradual transformation of American representatives on the secretarial level from temporary political appointees to career officers selected on the basis of competitive examinations. A future volume will examine developments on the ministerial level, compare American and British experience, and judge what influence the movement toward professional diplomacy has had on the conduct of American foreign policy.

Ilchman's research was wide, varied, and solid. Perhaps the only materials not investigated which could have added much to a study of this type were the individual, confidential records of the secretaries which the Department of State has not, and in all probability will not, open to historians. Much of the research is condensed into statistics demonstrating the increasing tenure of the secretaries after the profession was placed on a career basis, the growing number and quality of applicants taking the examinations, and the high percentage of graduates of eastern colleges appointed to the foreign service.

The statistical approach, however, does not make for easy reading; the figures are valuable, but many of them belong in footnotes and not in the text. The book is for the specialist who will use it as a valuable reference work. The general reader, however, will find little that holds his interest in a mass of figures and chapters that increase in length from forty to sixty-seven pages; long chapters written in the weak passive voice simply do not hold a reader's attention. A more serious defect is that the author is not always clear in his explanations; a good example of this failure is with regard to the awarding of bonus points

on the competitive examinations to applicants who did not receive the requisite score. This gift made it possible for some of the failures to receive appointments to the foreign service. By whose authority this policy was carried out and why is never explained. It would seem to be a rather serious defect in a system designed to produce quality candidates and certainly deserves explanation. In addition, the author on numerous occasions refers to various men by their last names only and never fully identifies them. An incomplete index adds to the confusion. The old maxim that one should spend as much time on writing as on research was apparently violated by a promising young scholar.

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The American Historical Association's Guide to Historical Literature.

Edited by George Frederick Howe *et al.* (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1961. Pp. xxxv, 962. Index. \$16.50.)

No reviewer will approach such a book as this with confidence. The volume lies heavily on his desk, familiar in its *AHR*-blue jacket, but forbidding inside with its double columns of dense print. All these monographs and narratives and biographies and collections of printed sources and atlases! How does one discover whether anything significant has been left out (beyond the small point where the book moves across the reviewer's cultivated patch) or something unworthy included? But even when omissions are found, or an occasional lack of balance noted, there is no ground for criticism in view of the vast amount of material which has been assembled between the covers. Better to examine the principles governing selection and arrangement and test the book by its success in meeting the challenge of its own purpose.

As stated by the editors, this new bibliography is to be not merely an aid to students and fledgling specialists but a demonstration of the vital part played by the historical craft in our interpretation of mankind's collective experience. One turns with greatest interest, therefore, to the initial section on "History and Related Studies," where the whole scale of problems concerning scope and method and meaning of history is taken up. The very first impression is disappointing. An unfortunately self-conscious essay pleads the historian's case to be taken seriously as viewer of the world, and does it in a ponderous style which will not persuade many readers that history can be an attractive subject. But the listings that follow are excellently chosen and, in many cases, aptly characterized. The only major omission occurs among the list of journals devoted to general historical problems: *History and Theory*, the first number of which appeared in 1960. It would be nice to think that our colleagues will encourage their students to make their way through a sampling of these books on the nature and theory of history, but that is perhaps an unrealistic hope.

The brief introductory essays to the sections that follow are appropriate and serve to hold otherwise centrifugal material to the vital center of historical concerns. There is a useful account of "General