

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

Reference Resources," a generous list of universal histories and of histories of religion. The arrangement of the sections on "Historical Beginnings" and on Middle Periods shows the influence of Toynbee, but the items listed include the most recent works on archaeology and anthropology. In accordance with one of the stated purposes of the book, the student finds his native parochialism attacked by frequent confrontations with the nonwestern world. This restoration of *Weltgeschichte* to its proper proportions is justification enough for the new bibliography. But it gives us much more besides. There is a strong argument in favor of mastering the scholarly languages; the mere itemizing of the best choices in historical reading shows why linguistic training must precede, not follow, serious occupation with history. For every major topic there is an excellent selection of the most important collections of printed sources and sometimes a paragraph on libraries and museums. The brief comments on individual books vary considerably in quality; some (as in the section on Greek historiography) are apt and informative, others jejune. A number of English translations have not been caught up with, Marrou's *History of Education in Antiquity*, for instance. But so much is presented that one cannot really notice gaps. The history of science is represented, and so are the military arts. The modern period, especially, is bewildering in its richness, with sections on the Americas, Africa, Australasia and Oceania following upon Europe and its adjacent areas.

The final section is a lengthy survey, miscellaneous in character, of "The World in Recent Times." There is a good index of names and topics. Perhaps the best thing that can be said about this book is that, in addition to its practical usefulness, it makes good reading for anyone who wants at least to sample with his eyes the sumptuous feast of mankind's historical tradition. It is to be hoped that those who use the book do so not only to consult, but also to browse.

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America's Polish Heritage: A Social History of the Poles in America.

By Joseph A. Wyrwal. (Detroit, Mich.: [Endurance Press], 1961. Pp. xxxi, 350. Maps, bibliography, appendix, index. \$6.50.)

Despite the subtitle, this is not a social history of the Poles in America. Instead it is largely a laudatory account of the part played by individual Poles and those of Polish descent in American life. That the study is not entirely historical is indicated by the emphasis placed on contemporary personalities. If the author's objective was to satisfy the pride of Polish-Americans, he did his job well. The depth of his scholarship is also indicated by the fact that he covers the period from 1608 to 1960 in only 294 pages.

Dr. Wyrwal inserts much superfluous material in this study. Pages are devoted to phases of Polish history, particularly in the years before 1870, which have no connection with Polish emigration to America. Gilda Gray and her "shimmy" dance are given almost a page. Also, is it necessary to present a long list of baseball, football, and golf stars, many of whom are active today, merely because they are of Polish