

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.

Indiana University

Gerald Strauss

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

descent? The author was apparently concerned with the sale of his book. Otherwise, the listing of the names of at least 150 delegates of Polish descent to the Democratic national conventions of 1956 and 1960 and to the Republican convention of 1960 in the same footnote is hardly justified.

The most scholarly portions of this volume are those chapters devoted to the numerous fraternal organizations for Polish-Americans. The objectives of these orders were to satisfy the longing of the bewildered immigrant for security in a strange land, to protect his economic interests, to preserve a degree of Polish culture as well as to retain contact with the mother country, and finally to fit the immigrant into the American pattern of life. The largest and most important of these organizations were the Polish American Catholic Union (PRCU) and the Polish National Alliance (PNA). The former was dominated largely by the clergy while the latter was more under secular control.

This study is based almost entirely on secondary material such as Polish-American publications and the works of writers of Polish descent. There is an excellent bibliography, and the index is adequate.

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Powell A. Moore

History of South Dakota. By Herbert S. Schell. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1961. Pp. xiii, 424. Maps, illustrations, list of supplementary reading, index. \$5.50.)

Many remember well the drab, lifeless state histories produced as recently as the 1930's. In appearance they were as unexciting to the reader's eye as their texts were to his mind. Fortunately mid-century examples of the genre are things of beauty to both eye and mind; to this list, including John W. Caughey's *California* (1940) and—best of them all, perhaps—W. L. Morton's *Manitoba* (1955), must be added Dean Schell's centennial volume, *South Dakota*.

In this tightly packed volume are included most of the facts pertinent to the story of the state. Even more important are inferences and judgements based on the record. A few of them are: that the vested interests of the towns objected to attempts to keep land transactions honest; that speculators received the most advantage from the homestead law; that lax administration of land laws "retarded social progress" by speeding the development of farm tenancy. And, writing in a time more bedeviled and generally troubled than Americans of World War I could have imagined, Dean Schell is forthrightly critical of the Council of Defense and of overzealous patriots in the years 1917-1919. In a fine chapter on pioneer life he advances the view of Gilbert C. Fite (a native of Wessington Springs, S.D.) that frontier life while hard was not so drab and dull as usually pictured. The work is uniformly good, but the chapters on the range cattle industry, immigration, and the fortunes of the Indians are especially interesting and filled with graphic detail and insight.

This reader misses a map showing not only towns but also identifying rivers and railroads mentioned in the text. He regrets the comparative