

category of Mark Twain's "old-man" figures to include young Satan of *The Mysterious Stranger* papers—"he is actually 16,000 years old" (p. 61)—Tom of *Tom Sawyer Abroad*, and David Wilson, the fingerprint expert of *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, who functions as both an "old-man" figure and the representative spokesman for community values. Much of the critics' difficulty with late Mark Twain lies, of course, in the heavy handed conception of his truth tellers as only pieces of "machinery." Even Blues' admirable reading of "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg" cannot make that story better than the moralistic bore it is.

Although his general conclusions about both the progressively bitter views of Mark Twain and the mixed success of his fiction offer nothing significantly new, Blues' imaginatively sustained and substantiated thesis does. And in going against the practice of even the best scholars, he is to be praised for insisting on the use of the full *Mark Twain* rather than the illogical *Twain*. Finally, the graceful execution of the text is complemented by a handsome format.

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Poles in American History and Tradition. By Joseph A. Wytrwal. (Detroit: Endurance Press, 1969. Pp. 485. Notes, bibliography, index. \$6.75.)

This is an amateur, popular history of the role some Poles have played in American history, with heavy emphasis upon the activities of individuals—some well known (such as Pulaski) and some not—in America's wars from the war for national independence through Vietnam. It is filled with a marvelous variety of information, some relevant and some not. It breathes a patriotic spirit not fashionable these days, even among Americans of Polish origin, and it has an old fashioned reverence toward the old heroes, such as Kosciuszko, to whom twenty-six pages are devoted. It is remarkably fair and objective in its treatment of Russian rule over Poland and of the conflict between Irish Catholics and Polish Catholics in this country. The brief treatment of the Polish National Catholic Church is also remarkably objective.

Poles in American History and Tradition is the product of an unskilled but devoted historian. It is badly organized and lacks coherence except for the concentration upon military conflict. It provides almost no political or social analysis, and it concentrates upon outstanding or prominent individuals such as Mojeska, Sophie Tucker, and Barney Balaban. It confuses the history of the Poles who remained under foreign rule with those who immigrated to the United

States. Thus, Krasinski, Chopin, Sienkiewicz, and Paderewski are treated as though they were Americans. The bibliography is alphabetical and uncritical; it lumps together books of all kinds with journal articles and newspaper articles, and it is by no means complete.

In short, this is an unsatisfactory volume even for the popularization function for which it was designed.

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