

and racism. Even more important was Debs' achievement in blending European socialist theory and tradition into what appeared to many of his contemporaries to be an "Americanized" program of peaceful, evolutionary change.

The selection of material from Debs' contemporaries ranges from the warm regard for him held by a Terre Haute (non-Socialist) attorney, who counted "his friendship among the blessings of a lifetime" (p. 89), to the frenzied estimate of Theodore Roosevelt who described Debs as a "mere inciter to murder and preacher of applied anarchy" (p. 132).

Scarcely more consensus regarding Debs has developed among leading historians. Most of them have been attracted by Debs' warm humanity but are badly divided on such questions as his effect on unionism, his understanding (or misunderstanding) of Marxism and capitalism, and his niche in history as "liberal democrat" or De Leonite revolutionary. In an "Afterword" Radosh offers his interpretation of the conclusions regarding Debs reached in the essays by Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., H. Wayne Morgan, Ray Ginger, Bert Cochran, David Herreshoff, and James Weinstein. In doing so Radosh contributes his own conclusion that "Ray Ginger has written what *will remain* the classic biography of Debs" (p. 175), a curious pre-empting of the field and, one would think, a prophecy that Ginger would hesitate to endorse.

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Kentucky Bourbon: The Early Years of Whiskeymaking. By Henry G. Crowgey. (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1971. Pp. xiv, 171. Notes, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$9.75.)

As the title indicates this brief volume examines the early years of whiskeymaking in Kentucky. In addition to the development of distilling in the state, Professor Crowgey also discusses technological advances in whiskey production, the personal and social drinking habits of frontier settlers, the Kentucky reaction to the federal excise tax on whiskey, the utilization of distilled spirits in both home remedy and patent medicine, whiskey traffic on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, liquor purchases by the military for its own use and for distribution to the Indians, and the use of whiskey as commodity money. In attempting to derive the facts from a host of myths and legends, many of which were initiated by local historians, Crowgey combed newspapers, journals, court records, and personal

diaries of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The extent and depth of his research into such sources is impressive.

Distilled spirits and the knowledge of their production moved westward with each advance of the frontier and in Kentucky distilling spirits from native fruits and grains began with the first permanent settlements in the 1770s. Early distilling constituted a home industry and those who practiced it employed whatever materials and ingredients were available. By the 1790s coppersmiths in Kentucky were producing stills and the corresponding apparatus necessary for local production. Although a temperance movement swept the state in the 1830s, a number of early distillers were also prominent members of the clergy.

As a commercial enterprise, stills were frequently operated by a pioneer entrepreneur as one of many investments. Slowly the pot-still gave way to the steam process in whiskeymaking, but not until the nineteenth century did distillers systematically employ a distinctive grain mixture or did the name "bourbon" become well known. Several crude formulas were developed for determining the proof of a particular lot of spirits prior to the widespread use of hydrometers, but for many years consumers and distillers alike disregarded age and color as definite characteristics of quality.

Students of Kentucky history and those interested in the historical development of distilling will find this book informative and enjoyable reading; scholars concerned with the broader implications of such a study will be less satisfied. The forces behind the movement of distilling from the cottage to the factory and the impact of a nationalizing market on a local industry, evident in Kentucky by the middle of the nineteenth century, needs further amplification and analysis. In one section of the work the historical objectivity of the author appears to falter. Crowgey's apparent sympathy for the Kentucky distillers in their belated opposition to the excise tax on whiskey in 1791 shows through in several places. For example, in explaining the early apathy of many Kentucky distillers toward the new tax he sees them living in "an age of happy ignorance of the galloping ways of federal coercion" (p. 86). "The triumphant march of bureaucracy began without delay . . ." (p. 85) in establishing the agencies necessary to collect the tax. And those responsible for collection are "Bluegrass bureaucrat[s]" (p. 95) or "swooping revenue agents" (p. 89).

Such criticism, however, should not cloud a carefully researched monograph which in numerous instances replaces fiction with historical fact.