

and should be of considerable value as a reference volume for the quantitatively oriented historian. The usefulness of the volume should be particularly marked for scholars who do not have ready access to large scale data bases and modern digital computers.

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Kinsey: A Biography. By Cornelia V. Christenson. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1971. Pp. xii, 241. Illustrations, publications of Alfred C. Kinsey, notes, index. \$6.95.)

During the past year two accounts of the life of Alfred C. Kinsey and his controversial research have appeared, both by persons who had long association with him in the Institute for Sex Research at Indiana University. This reviewer's outstanding impression of Mrs. Christenson's book is that she has presented remarkably well an enormous amount of detail, much of it highly technical. Kinsey's early work on gall wasps is described clearly, and the transition from this to the later studies on human sexual behavior blends the two into a single study of individual variation. As a lifelong resident of Bloomington, having close ties with Indiana University, the author has used her knowledge of campus life in tactful and effective ways to tell her story. Some of the best parts of the book recount the Kinsey marriage, the establishment of the Kinsey's home in Bloomington, and their relations with their neighbors.

Christenson notes Kinsey's estrangement in later years from all formal church activity—even to the family's forbidding a daughter to become a church member at the age of twelve because she was too young to make the decision. The author contrasts this with Kinsey's early experiences as a member of a rigidly religious family; his interest in Sunday School, scouting (an Eagle Scout), and the YMCA; and his more or less regular church attendance up to about the time of his marriage.

Kinsey's father, a self-made man without much formal education but a member of the teaching staff of Stevens Institute at Hoboken, New Jersey, had visions of Alfred's becoming an engineer; but at the age of twenty, after two years as a student in the institute, Alfred declared his independence and enrolled in Bowdoin College, attracted there by the program in biology. Henceforth he was practically without support from his family. Following graduation from Bowdoin, graduate work at Harvard, and a year on a traveling fellowship, he came to Indiana University as assistant professor of zoology in 1920, advanced rapidly, and remained for the rest of his life.

Kinsey is remembered in university circles for his broad interests

in living things and in hiking, camping, and other forms of outdoor life; for his gardening; his passion for good music; his unconventional garden costume; and his abrupt manner. If this biography falls short anywhere, it is in not giving an adequate picture of the flourish with which he liked to do things and of the way in which, in the words of one of his assistants, he "liked to shock people" (p. 67). This was shown by what one early acquaintance characterized as his "tempestuous" piano playing (p. 27), his exaggerated use of numbers in discussing the extent of his research, his dramatic drive across a dangerous bridge in Guatemala, and his voice from Olympus manner of stating his views.

The last years of Kinsey's life brought him much frustration. His sex research was both highly praised and bitterly condemned, and he regarded much of the criticism as unjust. He was turned down for an honorary degree at Bowdoin because of "imagined possible ridicule of his research" (p. 30), the Sex Institute was in financial difficulty, there was some attempt to identify his work with communist activities, and there was strong pressure from several directions urging the university to discontinue support for his research. As a final blow, the physical afflictions which had kept him out of military service in his early years, but which had been concealed by his active life, finally caught up with him at the age of sixty-two.

Any reader of this book should get a clearer view of Kinsey's work and a better understanding of his methods and purposes.

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