

The work's importance may rest upon what it contributes to an awareness that each side in the northern "war within a war" was sustained by a sense of righteousness, that each version of patriotism not only held elements of inexcusable partisanship, hysteria, and violence but also contained a valid perception of national values. Sound historical scholarship does not convert readily into an unambivalent morality play. Tredway's scholarship is sound even though his righteous indignation is out of place in its company.

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Indiana Historical Society Lectures, 1972-1973: 1876, The Centennial Year. By Lillian B. Miller, Walter T. K. Nugent, and H. Wayne Morgan. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1973. Pp. 58. Illustrations, notes. Paperbound, \$1.50.)

This is a pleasant trio of lectures about the centennial celebrations of the United States in 1876. Two are about the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia; the third is a report on the state of American society on its hundredth birthday.

The most substantial lecture is by Lillian B. Miller, historian of the National Portrait Gallery, and is called "Engines, Marbles, and Canvases." According to Miller, nobody has ever denied the splendor of the engines in Machinery Hall, but the marbles and canvases have been dismissed as products of America's "Dark Ages." The American contributions may have been too numerous and too indiscriminate, but Miller maintains that they do not deserve the sneers they have received. While admitting that the *Iolanthe* carved in butter and some other offerings were "ridiculous" (p. 6), she finds many paintings worth attention. Americans excelled in landscape painting, and if they painted only the surface of life, it was good to record that beautiful surface before it grew ugly. In short, the centennial artists were perfectly respectable representatives of a developing tradition.

Walter T. K. Nugent, the author of a previously published, short, lucid explanation of the debate over gold, silver, and paper money (*The Money Question during Reconstruction*, 1967), is just the person to paint a portrait of America as the first centennial arrived. Congress was already wrangling

over monetary standards and would do so for twenty turbulent years. The country was in a depression, and in some places unemployed men had used the gun and the club to intimidate their betters. Professor Nugent cites one surprising cause of social disturbance: people moved a lot more then than now. About one half of all Americans changed their place of living each year in the 1870s. Moreover, a large part of that moving population was poor and not going anywhere but down. The problems of the modern world had begun. Depression, corruption, and violence afflicted the country. The discredited administration of Ulysses S. Grant presided over the republic. Despite this somewhat sordid picture Nugent throws no stones at the leaders of the Gilded Age.

The last contributor to this volume, H. Wayne Morgan, professor of history at the University of Oklahoma, takes an equally kindly view of the period. His assessment of the lasting cultural effects of the great Exposition may fill his readers with chagrin. The false starts and futile fumbblings of the Bicentennial Commission for 1976 do not indicate that Americans have lost the ability to organize a colossal show but do suggest that they no longer know what they have to celebrate or what they need to learn. Americans of 1876 were pretty sure about both. The Corliss Steam Engine, the telephone, the typewriter, and the electric light bulb on display at Philadelphia would clearly make life more comfortable, but leaders of thought wanted Americans to go after the higher things of life. The simple words with which President Grant opened the fair are enough to make one weep with envy: "Whilst proud of what we have done, we regret that we have not done more" (p. 48). Humility in the White House! The glory of it!

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The Unbounded Frame: Freedom and Community in Nineteenth Century American Utopianism. By Michael Fellman. *Contributions in American History*, Number 26. (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, Inc., 1973. Pp. xx, 203. Notes, selective bibliographical essay, index. \$10.00.)

In the first half of the nineteenth century America was brimming with people searching for utopia. Communitarians