

Undoubtedly many persons have helped pave the way for Purdue University's current status of greatness, but this biographical account provides convincing evidence that Dean A. A. Potter was among those at the forefront of this development. And although this account is not a model of biographical scholarship, it does provide interesting insights about Purdue University as an evolving institution and the role that personal leadership has had in this development.

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Banks or No Banks: The Money Issue in Western Politics, 1832-1865. By William Gerald Shade. (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1972. Pp. 328. Tables, maps, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. \$15.95.)

As Shade notes in his introduction, historians have presented conflicting interpretations about "western banking" in the United States. He suggests that Frederick Jackson Turner viewed currency inflation and wildcat banking as frontier phenomenon, but later pointed out the significant increase of state banks in the thirties and the antibank movement which followed in most states. In Shade's words, Bray Hammond contended that "opposition to banks and monetary expansion typified the agricultural West and that the push for easy money was more closely related to the needs of business enterprise" (p. 13). Hammond considered western emphasis on state banking monopolies immediately preceding the Panic of 1837, its strong antibank sentiment in the forties, and the development of free banking in the fifties "as responses to the area's changing economic structure" (p. 13). More recently, Shade notes, James Roger Sharp argued "that the conflict over banks after 1837 reflected the true nature of Jacksonian democracy and the essential difference between the parties in the following decade" (p. 14).

Shade states: "Nowhere was the contest over banks more bitterly fought than in the rapidly growing states of . . . Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin" (p. 11). Suggesting that before the Panic of 1837 "neither free banking nor wildcat banks . . . were common" in the Old Northwest, Shade concludes that this panic "accelerated the polarization of attitudes on the bank issue as parties emerged more distinctly in the late 1830s" (p. 15). Then in the forties Democrats be-

came increasingly against banks and generally opposed free banking in the fifties, while the Whigs, unable to obtain a national bank, became proponents of free banking. The Republicans espoused free banking in the fifties and then secured its nationalization, against vigorous Democratic opposition, with the creation of national banks during the sixties.

Shade explains this polarization between parties in the Old Northwest on the basis of underlying social and cultural cleavages. Though considering economic influences, he insists that the basic "conflict" was "between the Yankee-Protestants in the Whig and Republican parties" versus "an ethnically and religiously diverse" Democratic party which "combined enthusiasm for cultural pluralism with vicious antiblack racism" (p. 253). But Shade's evidence for this thesis is not substantial enough to be convincing. To credit the triumph which free banking gained from the Indiana Constitution of 1851 and the free banking law of 1852 to the Whigs and Republicans is surprising in view of the lopsided dominance which the Democrats had of the convention and legislature which authorized same. Though Indiana Whigs and Republicans were doubtless more homogeneous than their Democratic rivals, no Hoosier party could then have garnered a viable majority from "Yankee-Protestants" nor did the Democrats have any monopoly on "vicious antiblack racism." Nevertheless, this volume adds much useful information and important perspectives about banking in the Old Northwest.

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Henry B. Fuller of Chicago: The Ordeal of a Genteel Realist in Ungenteel America. By Bernard R. Bowron, Jr. *Contributions in American Studies*, Number 11. (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1974. Pp. xxvi, 278. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$12.50.)

Henry Blake Fuller (1857-1929) was a writer of considerable interest to anyone concerned with the development of American fiction in the decades around the turn of the century. In addition, Fuller's divided allegiance to Europe and America—particularly to a "refined" but decadent Italy and a "raw" but vital Chicago—typifies the American artist's ambivalent attitude toward the values of the old world and the new. Literary critics and historians like Van Wyck