
This careful, well-documented study, the third volume in the Topical Studies series of the NAHA, examines the effects of World War I on one group of Americans on the home front. It follows a controversial analysis of Norwegian-American political behavior (Jon Wefald's A Voice of Protest: Norwegians in American Politics) and a study of the debate between melting-pot enthusiasts and cultural pluralists in Norwegian America (Odd S. Lovoll, ed., Cultural Pluralism versus Assimilation: The Views of Waldemar Ager). The second work serves as a stepping-off place for Chrislock's volume; he deals with some of the same issues — acculturation and Americanization — in a new context, that of antiforeign, anti-immigrant attitudes engendered or encouraged in the Upper Midwest as a result of World War I. Looking at the subject from that wider perspective enables the author to consider the actions and reactions of people both within and without the evolving Norwegian-American community. This study, which could well serve as a model for other ethnic groups, gives us another vital piece in the puzzle of how immigrant settlers are transformed into American ethnic groups.

The first four chapters present and document information that Chrislock analyzes in a final chapter, "The Aftermath," which sheds considerable light on the course of Norwegian-American ethnicity. It becomes clear that once an immigrant group begins to manipulate its ethnicity — that is, to choose in the face of adversity what is important to preserve and what may be relinquished — a major change occurs. One example provided by Chrislock is that of differences between a tiny group willing to devote itself to the definition and perpetuation of Norwegian-American culture and the far more numerous persons wanting to focus their energies on a bang-up 1925 centennial celebration of the first shipload of Norwegians to settle in America. That schism superseded for a time some older divisions within the ethnic community; rival Lutheran sects, for example, and rural-urban differences were partially obscured during the war years by the arguments over the means of group survival. The celebrationists won, and the attendance of President Calvin Coolidge at the Minnesota festivities on Norwegian Constitution Day, May 17, 1925, drove the point home.

In 1922 cultural pluralist Waldemar Ager summarized the dampering effect that war and its domestic politics had for at least the churchgoing sector of the Norwegian-American population in its efforts to transmit old-country traditions to the first and later American-born generations: "Since 1917, maintenance of [Norwegian-language congregational schools] had seemed to be an impossibility; in the preceding sixty years, it had not even appeared difficult." But Chrislock is far too aware of the multiple currents washing the coasts of Norwegian America in those years to allow his readers to accept the simplistic explanation that the war destroyed Norwegian ethnicity. Among other influences working in the same direction he notes that "an accelerating social and geographical mobility had been heightening the exposure of children and adolescents to influences outside their ethnic group," and that neither sentimental bygdela (homeland district association) rallies nor the Norwegian-language press had much appeal for the second and third generations.

The author has used his sources well. And he is to be admired for developing his subject throughout such a wide geographical area as the Upper Midwest, for he certainly broadened the credibility of his conclusions by doing so. The region was the major Norwegian settlement area in the United States, and for the most part the juggling necessary to include the relevant legislative actions, for example, in all the states involved is deftly handled.

Ethnicity Challenged not only answers some questions and substantiates some suppositions, it also provokes further questions, such as the differences and similarities of the war's effects on urban and rural members of the community, or on recent arrivals as opposed to second-generation Norwegian Americans. The Upper Midwest's Swedes and Germans lend themselves most obviously to comparisons with the Norwegians, but at least in Minnesota a close look at the World War I experiences of groups such as the Greeks, East Slavs, or South Slavs might also be instructive.

I thought the illustrations disappointing — uninspired portraits of the prominent figures in the "challenge" referred to in the book's title, for the most part — although the Rosendahl cartoon from Frentiden was a notable exception which could have been the rule. Many excellent pictures in the Minnesota
Historical Society collections, for instance, document the massive Norwegian-American celebrations of 1914 (the centennial of the Norwegian constitution) and 1925 in the Twin Cities. The index, on the other hand, appears thorough and useful.

Despite all the newspapers he must have perused, Professor Chrislock maintains a dry sense of humor as to which he treats his readers on occasion. He notes with some irony that after about 1930 "Many participants in May 17th observances celebrated without having a clear idea of what they were celebrating, and as often as not, festival orators failed to enlighten them."

 Reviewed by DEBORAH L. MILLER, assistant editor in the MHS publications and research division, who holds a master's degree in Scandinavian studies and has recently served as ombudsman and research co-ordinator for the society's new book, They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups (1981).


HENRY ADAMS recognized the importance of an active opposition in a time of change. In his notable work, The Education of Henry Adams, he stated that the "duty of an opposition is to compel government to prove the propriety of its measures."

The Democratic party, as a conservative force, tried to check and challenge the course of reconstruction during the 1865–68 era. Since the cause was a losing one, it has been ignored by nationalist historians who lauded the Radical Republicans and their reconstruction policy. Edward L. Gambill, it seems, understands the meaning of Henry Adams' observation and has given time and attention to an ignored facet of history.

Democrats experienced an "ordeal" in the post-Civil War era. In part, they were an ineffective opposition because they built a tower of Babel of their own. They spoke in many tongues on every important issue of the 1865–68 period. They could not agree upon the party's "wartime legacy." Some opposed and some favored forging a new conservative party and discarding old labels. Some endorsed and some opposed the Philadelphia Convention of 1866. Some thought that the impeachment and conviction of Johnson might rebound to their party's advantage; others disagreed. Some supported Greebackism; others opposed soft money. Nor could they agree upon a presidential candidate in 1868.

Gambill deals with Democratic hopes and problems of the era, event by event, month by month. The theme seems to be "Northern Democrats and Negro Suffrage." He recognizes that a constant "internal struggle" existed between "the apostles of principle and the advocates of expedience." To the discredit of the democracy, many members appealed to racial bigotry to check the Radical Republican program.

This book, evolving out of Gambill's doctoral dissertation, is both stolid and solid and is based upon extensive research. The author perused 16 northern Democratic newspapers, from the St. Paul Pioneer to the Boston Post. He consulted, it seems to this reviewer, every relevant manuscript collection and most of the published primary sources. The long, long list of secondary sources includes many articles and seven doctoral dissertations. In many ways, Gambill's book is authoritative, presented in organized and readable fashion, and replete with quotations and citations.

Although it may seem petty, some errors mar Gambill's work. For example, Matthew Hale Carpenter of Wisconsin did not serve in the United States Senate during the Civil War; Clement L. Vallandigham's failure to win re-election to Congress in 1862 was due not to "dovish tendencies" which eroded his support, but to the fact that a Republican-dominated state legislature changed the boundaries of his district. Names are misspelled or inconsistently cited and indexed, and the author has an irritating propensity for dropping middle initials. Petty criticism aside, this book adds to our understanding of early reconstruction history. Perhaps the current conservative trend will prompt more attention to a "conservative ordeal" of an earlier era.

 Reviewed by FRANK L. KLEMENT, professor of history, emeritus, at Marquette University, whose article "The Abolition Movement in Minnesota" appeared in Minnesota History for March, 1951. He is the author of several books and many articles dealing with Democratic opposition to President Lincoln's policies.

**The Twilight of Progressivism: The Western Senators and the New Deal.** By Ronald L. Feinman. (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1981. 262 p. $18.50.)

THIS BOOK fills a significant gap in our understanding of recent American political history. Although excellent biographical studies of several western progressive Republican senators are available, the over-all role of the progressive Republican senatorial bloc in the evolution of the New Deal has been a neglected area. On the whole, Feinman fills the gap very effectively: his research is extensive, his reasoning persuasive, and his prose readable.

The study focuses on the careers of a dozen senators: William E. Borah of Idaho; George W. Norris of Nebraska; Hiram W. Johnson of California; Charles L. McNary of Oregon; Arthur Capper of Kansas; Peter Norbeck of South Dakota; Henrik Shipstead of Minnesota; Robert M. La Follette, Jr., of Wisconsin; Lynn J. Frazier and Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota; James Cowens of Michigan; and Bronson M. Cutting of New Mexico. In the senate these 12 were not members of an organized caucus: the notion that they constituted a bloc is a Feinman concept. Nor were they all cut from the same ideological cloth. Borah, The Spearless Leader, was inconsistent and unpredictable in responding to major policy issues. McNary, Capper, and Norbeck had the reputation of being moderate.
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Feinman accepts the "progressive" status of all 12 (with suitable qualifications). In explaining his decision to do so, he points to two guiding criteria: the labels assigned to the senators by journalists and historians; and the legislators' own perceptions of themselves.

In the 1920s the progressive Republican bloc "kept reform sentiment alive in its period of declining fortunes." During the Hoover presidency, the bloc championed proposals to combat the Great Depression which later were "in many particulars" assimilated into the New Deal. In the 1932 presidential campaign only two of the 12 (Capper and McNary) actively campaigned for Hoover's re-election. Of the remaining ten, six endorsed Franklin D. Roosevelt (Norris, Cutting, Johnson, La Follette, Frazier, and Shipstead), and four maintained a more-or-less neutral stance.

Given the extent of progressive Republican support of his candidacy, it is not surprising that Franklin Roosevelt sought such representation in his administration. The appointment of Harold Ickes as secretary of the interior and Henry A. Wallace as secretary of agriculture rewarded this quest. However, negotiation to bring one of the progressive Republican senators into the Roosevelt cabinet failed. During the 'First Hundred Days' — the opening phase of FDR's administration when overwhelming popular approval of his policies was forthcoming — the president discovered, moreover, that he could not take progressive Republican support for granted. Of the many measures enacted during the hundred days, only the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and unemployment relief commanded the bloc's unanimous backing. Capper and McNary alone voted for the National Recovery Act (NRA), "the most significant piece of legislation of the First Hundred Days," on final passage.

If rapport between the New Deal and Republican progressivism was uncertain through 1933 and into 1934, it improved in 1935 when the administration shifted to the left by sponsoring such legislation as the National Labor Relations Act, Social Security, the Wealth Tax Act, the Public Utility Holding Company Act, and the Banking Act of 1935. Another factor endearing FDR to reformers of nearly all stripes was the implausible opposition of big business to his administration. Any president who evoked such extreme hatred from the nation's "economic royalists" could not be all bad. In the presidential campaign of 1936, Roosevelt again received the support of six of Feinman's 12 progressives — Norbeck, Couzens, Johnson, Shipstead, Norris, and La Follette.

This repaired relationship failed to survive the vicissitudes of 1937. The president's court-packing proposal precipitated a more-or-less permanent break on this issue. Only Norris and La Follette supported FDR, the former reluctantly, the latter with more enthusiasm. Other administration measures, particularly those that enhanced presidential power, encountered a similar reaction. By the end of 1938, "writes Feinman, "Roosevelt had lost the support of all members of the progressive Senate bloc except George Norris." Occasionally La Follette backed administration domestic policy initiatives, but, along with the other bloc members (George Norris excepted), strongly resisted what was perceived as a tilt toward interventionism in foreign policy. By the end of World War II the bloc was an extinct species: the defeat of Shipstead and La Follette in 1946 removed its last members from the senate.

Feinman's concluding chapter summarizes the main points of his argument. The most interesting problem addressed is why the bloc failed to establish a permanent working relationship with the New Deal, given the compatibility of progressive Republican goals with those of the Roosevelt administration. The author suggests several answers. First of all, most of the 12 senators were confirmed individualists with a limited capacity for coalition politics; secondly, a residual loyalty to the Republican party precluded full harmony with a Democratic administration; thirdly, and most importantly, bloc approval of some administration policies did not extend to the New Deal as a whole. The western progressives were deeply suspicious of excessive presidential power, a stance that determined their stand on the court-packing issue. As individuals who had nurtured the values of small-town and rural America, they found accommodation to the urban orientation of the New Deal to be difficult. Finally, all except Norris opposed the interventionist thrust of FDR's foreign policy, and hence compromise was impossible.

Inevitably perhaps, at least one minor error has crept into Feinman's text. The Nonpartisan League did not, as the book states, support Peter Norbeck in the South Dakota gubernatorial campaign of 1916. Norbeck may have pre-empted much of the NPL program, but from beginning to end he stoutly opposed the league's efforts in South Dakota. This lapse does not, of course, seriously mar the work. Overall, the book is excellent. It does not basically revise existing interpretations, but it does add a dimension to New Deal historiography.

Reviewed by Carl H. Chrislock, professor of history at Augsburg College, who is the author of The Progressive Era in Minnesota, 1899-1918 (1971), and of the new work reviewed on page 296.

Amherst H. Wilder and His Enduring Legacy to St. Paul. By Merrill E. Jarchow.


IN 1959, a century after Amherst H. Wilder traveled from his home state of New York to St. Paul where he amassed a fortune in merchandising, railroadIng, banking, insurance, real estate and other enterprises, the mansion he built during the 1880s on Summit Avenue's commanding heights — looted and scarred by vandals — was razed to the ground. No historic house, however, was needed to ensure remembrance of Wilder after his death in 1894, for his will directed that part of his estate be used "in such a manner as will serve to perpetuate my name, and at the same time operate as a benefit to my fellow citizens of St. Paul, where I have so long resided." His pur
poses, honored also in wills left by his wife, Fanny, and his only child, Cornelia Day Appleby, when they died nine years later, were realized as the family name became synonymous with beneficence in the Amherst H. Wilder Charity.

In writing of the man and the legacy, Jarchow has essayed a great deal, and within limitations imposed by the scarcity of personal papers, he has achieved a great deal. Using business records, files of the Charity (renamed the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation), newspapers, reminiscences, and other sources with exceptional skill, he has produced a multifaceted book, swift paced for the most part, imaginative, and cohesive. Included are accounts of Wilder businesses, some of which, like the provisioning of western posts, reveal the wide-ranging economic orbit of St. Paul, while others, like transportation (from overland freighting to railroading), illuminate important transitions in the Northwest. Included, too, are fleeting images of a family that was part of a social circle as closely interwoven as many of the fortunes that supported luxurious lives; the story of Cornelia's European tours, failing health, and marriage to Dr. T.E.W. Villiers Appleby, and the efforts of Appleby, who might be assigned the villain's role were the narrative cast as a melodrama, and others to break the wills that would provide funds for the charity.

Described in abundant and sometimes overabundant detail is the evolution from the early 20th century to the present of the Charity's programs, among them direct relief to the "worthy poor," public baths, day-care centers, a dispensary, a child-guidance clinic, and facilities for the elderly. An important aspect of the analysis is the context within which such projects were initiated, operated, and sometimes abandoned, for perhaps second only to the expert financial management of the Charity in preserving the Wilder legacy was the organization's dual capacity for leadership and sensitive response to changing needs in changing times.

Reviewed by LUCILE M. KANE, senior research fellow at the MHS and co-author of a pictorial history of the Twin Cities, to be published by the society.

**NEWS & NOTES**

TWO recent publications on agriculture in the United States include Minnesota and the Middle West in their narratives. *Farmers, Bureaucrats, and Middlemen: Historical Perspectives on American Agriculture*, edited by Trudy H. Peterson (Washington, D.C., 1980, 357 p., $19.95) is a lucid, readable presentation of a conference sponsored by the National Archives and Records Service. Covering a wide range of topics, from 19th-century tenant farmers to current marketing practices and governmental regulation, the book is wonderfully illustrated with material from the archives' holdings. *Milking the Public: Political Scandals of the Dairy Lobby from L.B.J. to Jimmy Carter* (Chicago, Nelson-Hall, 1980, 300 p., $13.95) also uses government records to advantage. In relating the saga of the still-powerful and secure dairy lobby, authors Michael McNamara and Walter McNamara detail the ways in which special interest groups wield money to buy protection — at the consumer's expense. Minnesota milk is but one link in the long chain from cow to Capitol Hill. The book is a well-written and carefully-documented essay on the lucrative partnership of government and industry.


But within the limits of its sources, this is the best comprehensive history of the Northern Pacific ever attempted. This is due in part to the fact that only two book-length histories of the road have been done. Eugene V. Smalley's 1883 history was written for the much-publicized completion of the NP's main line and is thus out of date; Charles R. Wood's 1965 *The Northern Pacific, Main Street of the Northwest: A Pictorial History*, supplies illustrations lacking in Renz's work but does not have much of the detail on construction and finances assembled by Renz. (A summary of such information from NP annual reports, privately published by Renz in 1978 and entitled *Northern Pacific Data Tables*, is a useful supplement to this book.) The Minnesota Historical Society's division of archives and manuscripts owns two linear miles of NP records. No future history of the railroad can be considered adequate if it does not use these records to provide an inside look at America's first northern transcontinental line.

John Wickre

INDIAN artists from Minnesota are featured in two recent books. *This Song Remembers: Self Portraits of Native Americans in the Arts* (Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1980, 207 p., $8.95) is edited by Jane B. Katz of Minneapolis. Among the 20 artists profiled under the categories of visual art, performing arts, and literature are George Morrison, Ojibway painter; Amos Bowen, Dakota pipe-maker; and Gerald Vizenor, Ojibway author. Black and white portraits and photographs of artworks illustrate the text. *The Sweet Grass Lives On: Fifty Contemporary North American Indian Artists* (New York, Lippincott and Crowell, 1980, 192 p., $35.00) is edited by Jamake

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Highwater, one of the writers featured in Katz's book. An introductory essay, "Rituals of the Eye," outlines the history of American Indian art from early European contacts to the 1970s. The book is lavishly illustrated in color and black and white; included are some of the works of George Morrison, Carl Gavoev, and Fritz Scholder.

Both books present an overview of a stimulating field of American art; Highwater's is the more useful reference source, with biographical data, an annotated bibliography, and extensive illustrations. Katz's anthology of personal statements adds individual perspectives. Together they offer an assessment of contemporary American Indian art as a vital blend of native heritage and modern movements.

Thomas O'Sullivan

THE KENSINGTON stone, along with other artifacts, buildings, and rock carvings are reviewed and disproved, at least to its author's satisfaction, in a slender volume, Viking Houses in North America by Jeffrey Redmond (New York, Carleton Press, 1979, 64 p., $3.95). Bibliographic material is supplied for each hoax, and the author has appended correspondence with scholars, both agreeing and dissenting.

AN ELEGANT, well-illustrated catalog, entitled Straight Tongue: Minnesota Indian Art from the Bishop Whipple Collections (St. Paul, Science Museum of Minnesota, 1980. 91 p., $9.95), pictures and describes not only the artifacts in an exhibition held at the museum from October, 1980 through April, 1981, but also the life and work of Minnesota's first Episcopal bishop. Like the exhibition, the book brings together two Whipple collections of Dakota and Ojibwe Indian artifacts -- one in the possession of the Bishop Whipple Schools in Faribault, the other owned by the Minnesota State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and usually on display at the Faribault House in Mendota.

THE JUNE, 1981, issue of the Minnesota Archaeologist contains a profile of "Christian Taopi: Farmer Chief of the Mdewakanton Dakota" by Mark F. Diedrich that includes information about Taopi's mother, Old Bets. In the same issue are a biographical account of pioneer life by a Faribault County resident, C. S. Dunbar; "A Glimpse of Indian Warfare," by John W. Whiting, written in 1861; Michael K. Bodak's examination of "A Blackduck Mortuary Vessel from Lake of the Woods"; and a delightful discussion of pemmican, written about 1870 by Henry M. Rice.

COOKBOOK collectors and students of gastronomy alike should be pleased with the variety of recent offerings from Minnesota's ethnic institutions. Among the noteworthy are four publications similar in format but worlds apart in content. All cover the anticipated range of foods -- from appetizers to desserts -- in recipes set down with miraculously precise measurements and clear directions. Each is outstanding, however, in its own way.

Third Edition Favorite Syrian Recipes, compiled by the Ladies of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church (1250 Oakdale St., West St. Paul, 55118, 52 p., $3.50 plus $2.50 postage), will be welcomed by those who have sampled the delicious Middle Eastern food at various spots in the Twin Cities but have never known how to prepare it. Spis Og Drikk: Norwegian Recipes Old and New, published by Norwegian Memorial Lutheran Church (P.O. Box 7320, Minneapolis, 55407, 216 p., $8.95), on the other hand, offers "the Complete Tradition...Reflected in Recipes" of the ethnic group with many local members but few public eateries. Notable for its appendix as well as its recipes is Var Sa God: Heritage and Favorite Recipes & Handbook of Swedish Traditions, published by the American Swedish Institute (2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, 55407, 231 p., $7.25 plus $1.50 postage). Beautifully illustrated with color photographs of Dala paintings, the collection ends with a 50-page section which describes holidays and their customary foods, translates common kitchen ingredients into English, explains the tradition of the smorgasbord, and offers menu suggestions for a full Swedish culinary experience.

Most unusual in its ethnic variety is Favorite Recipe Cook Book, compiled by Our Lady of Charity Guild, SS. Peter and Paul's Ukrainian Catholic Church (414 Central Avenue, Chisholm, 55719, 267 p., $6.50). The opening chapter, "Foreign Dishes," includes foods from anchovy pizza and blintzes to shish kebab, strudel, and stuffed cabbage (jellied pigs' feet). More Ukrainian (and other, predominantly eastern European) dishes appear along with typically American cooking in the succeeding chapters. The book ends with an interesting section of herbal cures for common ailments as well as the more usual list of household hints.

Ethnic cookery, a common medium of expression and one of the last strongholds of tradition, is a part of the state's folklore ripe for investigation and preservation. The Minnesota Historical Society welcomes notification of the publication of local ethnic recipe collections.

Anne R. Kaplan

THE WOMEN HISTORIANS of the Midwest, in celebration of the organization's 10th anniversary, will hold their third conference on the history of women at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, April 30 to May 2, 1982. Persons who wish to present papers at the conference or to suggest topics for sessions are urged to send two copies of their one-page abstract by November 1, 1981, to Conference on the History of Women, College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, 55105.

THE 25TH ANNUAL Missouri Valley History Conference will be held in Omaha on March 11-13, 1982. Proposals for panels, papers, and commentators in virtually every field of history should be submitted by December 11, 1981, to Professor Bruce M. Garver, Department of History, University of Nebraska, Omaha, NE 68182.

A CALL FOR PAPERS has been issued for the 14th Annual Dakota History Conference to be held at Madison, S. D., on the campus of Dakota State College, April 2-3, 1982. The Karl Mundt Distinguished Historical Writing Awards, with a total of six prizes, will be presented for the best papers. Subject matter should relate to some aspect of South Dakota, Dakota Territory, or the Upper Great Plains region. Two other awards will be made by topic: the Richard Cropp prize for military history and the Cedric Cummins prize for institutional history. Further information is available from Herbert W. Blakey, History Department, Dakota State College, Madison, S. D. 57042.