The Key Reporter

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Sawyer, Yates Honored for Service to Humanities

At a luncheon during the meeting of the Phi Beta Kappa Senate in Washington, D.C., on December 8, 1990, ΦBK President Otis A. Singletary presented Phi Beta Kappa's Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities to John E. Sawyer, who was president of the Mellon Foundation from 1975 through 1987, and Representative Sidney R. Yates (Democrat, Illinois).

Sawyer was honored because, "at a time when most foundations were concentrating upon the sciences, the social sciences, and policy studies, he never for a moment lost sight of the importance—and the needs—of humanistic studies. . . . When others were almost obsessed with novelty, he had the wisdom to appreciate the irreplaceable value of traditional pursuits and established institutions."

Yates was honored because "he has worked tirelessly to oppose all attempts to reduce or eliminate funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and, particularly in recent years, to resist any efforts to impose government censorship on federally supported work in the humanities and in the arts. . . . Himself a man of great cultivation, and of sensitivity to the importance of artistic and academic freedom, he has been the single most important figure in the crucial cause of providing the federal funds needed both practically and symbolically to sustain the humanities in the United States." Yates has been a member since 1971, and chairman since 1975, of the appropriations subcommittee that funds the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, Smithsonian Institution, National Gallery of Art, and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Sidney Yates and John Sawyer are shown at the Senate luncheon where they received Phi Beta Kappa's triennial Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities.

Sawyer, who was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Williams College in 1939, donated his half of the $2,500 award to the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, N.C. Yates donated his share of the award to the University of Chicago.

Books on Emerson, Paleontology, and Rome Win Phi Beta Kappa's 1990 Prizes

Evelyn Barish, Stephen Jay Gould, and William L. Vance received the three Phi Beta Kappa awards to authors for outstanding contributions to humanistic learning in 1990. The awards were made at the festive annual ΦBK Senate banquet held December 7, 1990, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Washington, D.C. Each award is $2,500.

Barish won the Christian Gauss Award for *Emerson: The Roots of Prophecy,* published by Princeton University Press. Gould won the Science Award for *Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History,* published by W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. Vance won the Ralph Waldo Emerson Award for *America's Rome. Vol. I, Classical Rome. Vol. II, Catholic and Contemporary Rome,* published by Yale University Press.

In presenting the Gauss Award, Committee Chairwoman Millicent Bell said that Barish "has drawn on a great deal of new material, using the insights of modern psychology, and blending the whole with her own perception of Emerson's personality and complete knowledge of his writing. . . . What will from now on seem obvious—since Professor Barish has demonstrated it—is the effect on the seven-year-old Emerson of his father's death, an effect only visible negatively, till now, in the curious *absence* of any direct statement by Emerson, his apparent suppression of the trauma of loss."

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ΦBK Associates Celebrate Their First Half-Century, Present Award to Salk At Washington Meeting

The Phi Beta Kappa Associates observed their 50th anniversary by holding their annual meeting October 19–21, 1990, in Washington, D.C. At the banquet, held on October 20 at the renovated Union Station, Dr. Jonas Salk, developer of the polio vaccine that bears his name, received the 1990 Associates Award; the award was established three years ago to recognize excellence, creativity, and intellectual achievement "that uniquely enhance the scope of human understanding and the depth of human knowledge." Salk was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as an alumnus member by the City College of New York chapter in 1955.

The Phi Beta Kappa Associates, headed by Richard W. Couper, comprise 600 distinguished members of Phi Beta Kappa who provide a major source of financial support for the programs and purposes of the Society.

In presenting the annual Associates Award to Salk, Alvin Edelman, vice president of the Associates and chairman of the award committee, praised Salk's contributions to medical science over the years. He also noted that Salk has turned his attention to the problem of AIDS and is exploring the prospects for its control by immunologic means. Salk is founder, director, and distinguished professor in international health sciences at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego and adjunct professor of health sciences at the University of California, San Diego.

Sol Linowitz, former ambassador to the Organization of American States, was the featured speaker at the Associates' banquet. His address, titled "Remembering Who We Are," will be printed in the

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Inside

ΦBK Book Prizes

(continued from page 1)

Gerald Feinberg, who chaired the Science Award committee, called Gould's *Wonderful Life* a "significant achievement in the explication of scientific discovery to nonspecialists." In the course of the book, Feinberg said, "Gould discusses the attempts by the American Charles Walcott, discoverer of the Burgess Shale fossils, to fit them into a framework in which they closely resemble existing creatures, and the acceptance of that conclusion for many years. Gould then describes the more recent work by several British scientists which corrected that view in favor of the present one, that when the Burgess Shale organisms flourished, some half-billion years ago, there were many organisms that seemed at least as fit as those from which present life is descended, but whose lines have become extinct. He goes on to muse about the ability of scientists ever to account for the precise ways in which life has developed."

Gould, a second-time winner of the Science Award (his *Hens' Teeth and Horses' Toes: Further Reflections in Natural History* won the prize in 1983), was unable to attend the ceremony, but sent some brief remarks, which were read by Donald S. Lamm, president of W. W. Norton & Company and a ΦBK senator.

In summing up the Emerson Award committee's judgment of Vance's two-volume *America's Rome,* Chairman Michael Kammen quoted one member as writing, "It's a scholarly *tour de force,* effectively combining art criticism, literary analysis, and intellectual history. As a definitive and comprehensive account of what Rome has meant to Americans, it will take its place among the great achievements of American Studies."

Kammen commented that Vance's ultimate goal was "not to narrate who went where and how they liked it, but to examine what they created, wrote, painted, or carved *and why.* For those who visit art museums, *America's Rome* will make large numbers of hitherto uninteresting pictures and statues highly engaging. For the serious reader of Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry James, George Santayana, Ezra Pound, and many other major writers, literary strategies and complex juxtapositions that previously seemed inconsequential or opaque will suddenly acquire intriguing importance."

The 1991 ΦBK book awards are open to qualified books published between May 1, 1990, and April 30, 1991. Entries must be submitted, preferably by publishers, by April 30, 1991. Inquiries and entries should be addressed to the appropriate award committee at 1811 Q Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20009.

Epilogue

(Excerpt from Emerson: The Roots of Prophecy, *p. 250, by Evelyn Barish. Copyright 1989 by Evelyn Barish. Reprinted by permission of Princeton University Press.)*

This study has thrown new light on several issues. Two of the broader ones addressed by other scholars are the relation of Emerson's temperament to his work, and the formal qualities—or deficiencies, as some see them—of that writing. Questions of temperament were first stressed by Stephen Whicher, who perceived beneath Emerson's nineteenth-century serene and vatic image feelings of "impotence" and "hopelessness." Though hostile to much in Emerson, Whicher was an original and influential reader, and he affected many who followed him. The eventual implication of this strain of discussion was that some weakness of character kept Emerson from resolving the antitheses his intellect perceived; his reputation is qualified by the sense, unspoken but implied, that had he been more resolute he would have cleared up his doubts and been a more satisfactory man of the modern age.

This book argues for another interpretation. It accepts that Emerson was born into an age in which belief was dissolving but had not yet been surrendered. It would be two more generations before Nietzsche—who honored Emerson and "love[d] his gentle skepsis"—not only glimpsed the abyss but immersed himself in it. In the 1830s and 1840s the American insisted that we "hear the rats in the wall," the sounds of the cracking apart of the continents of belief. "We are lined with eyes," he wrote. In an era when David Hume was still omitted from the syllabus, and even skepticism—much less atheism—could not be openly entertained by public thinkers, Emerson's peculiar genius insisted that he credit his own perceptions. The counterexample of his mother's stance was "to call evil good." Exposure to these maternal hermeneutics from an early date had warned him on the contrary to honor his doubts.[1]

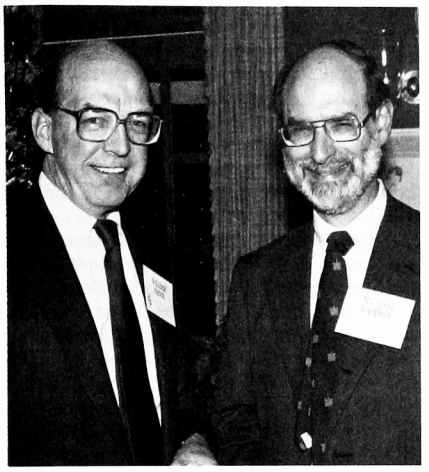
[1]Reflecting on the same moral stance a year later, he rejected its implications. When the soul's intuition conflicted with the New Testament, to "call what it thinks evil, good" would be to "stifle your moral faculty," even if the evil or defect appeared "in the history of Jesus" (*JMN,* 3:212).

Preface

(Excerpt from America's Rome. Vol. I, Classical Rome, *pp. xx–xxi, by William L. Vance. Copyright 1989 by William L. Vance. Reprinted by permission of Yale University Press.)*

Much has been written on the subject of Americans in Italy—first and most notably by Henry James, subsequently by Giuseppe Prezzolini, Van Wyck Brooks, Howard S. Marraro, Paul Baker, and Nathalia Wright, and most recently by Michele Rivas and Eric Amfitheatrof. One of the ways in which this book differs from theirs is that the subject of Americans in Italy has a secondary place; its primary focus instead is on Rome and on the actual works by Americans—the writings, paintings, and sculpture—that resulted from their encounter with Rome. These works, of course, always involve a degree of self-representation. This fact is of major significance since it determines the character of the Rome represented, which is always the product of partial perception and selective emphasis. But exploring what individual Americans *made* of their experience is a different thing from describing the historical phenomenon of the American presence in Italy. The lives of Americans in Rome appear here only as they affected representations of Rome. On the other hand, it has sometimes been necessary to consider the ideas of writers and the works of artists who never went to Rome at all, in order to define more sharply the motive of an argument or the relative quality of an achievement in the representations of those who did go.

But neither has a catalog of those representations been my purpose. I have been most interested in exploring how the representations spoke to each other (not always knowingly), and in how they were devised as messages to America about itself or, in the case of paintings and sculptures, as appropriate, even necessary contributions to American culture. For nothing is further from the truth than the idea that American artists in Europe forgot who they were or where they came from. With rare exceptions, they labored as Americans for America. Some of the most eloquent testimonials from fellow citizens who visited their Roman studios are tributes to the heroism of the artists who lived in self-imposed exile so that they might become capable of giving America the great art it needed and deserved. Their sacrifice was a measure of their patriotism. The necessity of Rome to artists, and its effect upon them, were, of course, points of contention in the writings about Rome (including many by artists themselves). Indeed, Rome in all its aspects was problematical for Americans, as I have already intimated. Italy as a whole was very far from being the Dream of Arcadia or the Enchanted Land that it has been represented as being through a romantic emphasis upon its happier features. And in none of its four contemporary phases—papal, monarchical, fascist, and republican—has Rome offered unalloyed pleasure or an escape from "reality." The question of what could be ignored in order to enjoy what one wished Rome to be is therefore a common element in representations of Rome down to the present day.



Emerson Award winner William L. Vance (left) is pictured with the committee chairman, Michael Kammen, at the reception before the awards banquet.

Gauss Award winner Evelyn Barish (right) poses with the committee chairwoman, Millicent Bell, at the reception.

Preface

(*Excerpt from* Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History, *pp. 13–14, by Stephen Jay Gould. Copyright 1989 by Stephen Jay Gould. Reprinted by permission of W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.*)

This book, to cite some metaphors from my least favorite sport, attempts to tackle one of the broadest issues that science can address—the nature of history itself—not by a direct assault upon the center, but by an end run through the details of a truly wondrous case study. In so doing, I follow the strategy of all my general writing. Detail by itself can go no further; at its best, presented with a poetry that I cannot muster, it emerges as admirable "nature writing." But frontal attacks upon generalities inevitably lapse into tedium or tendentiousness. The beauty of nature lies in detail; the message, in generality. Optimal appreciation demands both, and I know no better tactic than the illustration of exciting principles by well-chosen particulars.

My specific topic is the most precious and important of all fossil localities—the Burgess Shale of British Columbia. The human story of discovery and interpretation, spanning almost eighty years, is wonderful, in the strong literal sense of that much-abused word. Charles Doolittle Walcott, premier paleontologist and most powerful administrator in American science, found this oldest fauna of exquisitely preserved soft-bodied animals in 1909. But his deeply traditionalist stance virtually forced a conventional interpretation that offered no new perspective on life's history, and therefore rendered these unique organisms invisible to public notice (though they far surpass dinosaurs in their potential for instruction about life's history). But twenty years of meticulous anatomical description by three English and Irish paleontologists, who began their work with no inkling of its radical potential, has not only reversed Walcott's interpretation of these particular fossils, but has also confronted our traditional view about progress and predictability in the history of life with the historian's challenge of contingency—the "pageant" of evolution as a staggeringly improbable series of events, sensible enough in retrospect and subject to rigorous explanation, but utterly unpredictable and quite unrepeatable. Wind back the tape of life to the early days of the Burgess Shale; let it play again from an identical starting point, and the chance becomes vanishingly small that anything like human intelligence would grace the replay.

Phi Beta Kappa Offices Get Facelift

The Society's headquarters, located between the Argentine ambassador's residence and chancery on Q Street in Washington, D.C., has recently been repainted inside and out. In addition, some new furniture and draperies have been installed, and portraits of notable Society members have been hung about the building, which dates from 1912. The District of Columbia Phi Beta Kappa Association helped underwrite the purchase of some reproductions of portraits that hang in the National Portrait Gallery.

Pictures of the first two women members of the Society (Lida Mason and Ellen Eliza Hamilton, both elected by the University of Vermont chapter in 1875), which have long been on display in the building, have been enlarged and hung with a portrait of Marjorie Hope Nicolson, the first woman president of the Society. Nicolson, an honorary member elected by the University of Michigan in 1914, served as the Society's president from 1940 to 1946.

Nehamas to Give Romanell Lectures in Philadelphia

Alexander Nehamas, the 1990–91 Romanell–Phi Beta Kappa Professor of Philosophy, will present three lectures on "Philosophy and the Public Domain" at the University of Pennsylvania on March 27 and April 3 and 10.

The professorship was established in 1984 and carries a stipend of $6,000. The 1991–92 professorship has been awarded to Marjorie Glicksman Grene, professor of philosophy emeritus at the University of California, Davis, and member of the philosophy department, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Phi Beta Kappa Takes Part In Library of Congress's Lifetime Reader Campaign

Phi Beta Kappa is one of 70 national organizations participating in the Library of Congress's "1991—The Year of the Lifetime Reader" campaign to support reading and literacy projects for people of all ages. The project was initiated by the Center for the Book in the Library, which seeks to stimulate public interest in books, reading, and libraries. The campaign encourages and draws attention to family literacy programs, adult literacy and reading motivation projects, and the needs of blind and physically handicapped readers.

ΦBK chapters and associations are invited to use the theme in 1991 for projects that celebrate literacy and reading. For a brochure that suggests ideas for activities for many groups—from individuals and families to national organizations and their state and local affiliates; schools, libraries, and care centers; and business and labor organizations—write to the Center for the Book, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540, or telephone 1-800-4-BOOK IT.

Augustana College Designates ΦBK Room In New Library

Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, has recently designated a conference room on the main floor of the new Augustana Library as the Phi Beta Kappa Room. Hanging in the window overlooking the main entrance to the building, which was opened in autumn of 1990, is a two-foot-by-three-foot stained-glass artwork, which shows a ΦBK key superimposed on an etching of the dome of the Old Main building.

Recommended Reading

Jean Sudrann

The Government of the Tongue: Selected Prose: 1978–1987. Seamus Heaney. Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 1989. $17.95.
An Appetite for Poetry. Frank Kermode. Harvard, 1989. $22.50.

When one of the best poets and one of the best critics of our time publish collections of essays that, taken together, constitute a generously comprehensive and comprehensible view of the state of both arts, it is time to rejoice. Heaney and Kermode, each writing from his own perspective, both working from deeply humane views of society, manage beautifully to convey the joy and excitement of great art, to demonstrate that great art matters. At the same time, each makes very clear the rigorous training essential for both poet and critic.

"Let us listen in to some passages . . . follow some of the echoes," says Heaney as he begins his essay on Auden. But before you begin to hear the strength and the limitations of Auden's poetry, he says, you also have to listen in on Wilfrid Owen, Sir Walter Raleigh (or Ralegh), and Czeslaw Milosz. Similarly, Kermode invites our understanding of Wallace Stevens as "a poet of thresholds" by asking us to think of Stevens's late poems in terms of the poet at the threshold of his own death, writing "To an Old Philosopher in Rome" in commemoration of the death of George Santayana. Kermode illuminates this dense and difficult poem not only by weaving in other statements of Stevens's (letters and essays as well as poems) but also by reminding us of the relevance of Hölderlin and Hölderlin's champion, Heidegger. Central to the humanistic vision of both writers, this insistence on knowledge as the foundation of all reading and writing is summed up in Kermode's acknowledged need "to be on speaking terms with the past."

That humanistic vision also prompts what might be called the political agenda of each author. Heaney, whose own poetry is rooted so deeply in the interaction of public event and private feeling, deplores the continuing effect of "the insular and eccentric nature of the English experience" that still allows its poetry to shelter under the Romantic tradition and delays the emergence of a "native British modernism." Kermode's quarrel is with those academics and critics who offer up literary theory instead of literature, who reject both a criterion of value and a sense of the past in favor of a linguistics "more or less dismissive of the historical dimension," and who adopt instead a sociopolitical criterion based on the need of our times to deal with racism and sexism. Academics who deplore the necessity of going into the classroom and critics who have, in Valéry's words quoted in the book's epigraph, "no great appetite for poetry—who don't understand the need for it and who would never have invented it" bear a heavy responsibility for what Kermode suggests as certainly possible: that "literature, in the once familiar sense of the word, [is] indeed on the point of extinction."

Heaney's desire for poetry in English to catch up with the future and Kermode's sense of the fashioning force that the past exerts on whatever present we examine in no way keep the two writers from agreeing on the nature of the creative process. Once again, we listen in with Heaney, this time to Elizabeth Bishop's "At the Fish Houses." More than half of the poem is a colloquial description of the scene. This, says Heaney, is Bishop "governing her tongue" both in greeting her audience and in submitting to "the discipline of observation." When the break comes, the music of the poem continues with a new cadence; the observation is as keen but has "a dream truth as well as a daylight truth"; the poet both remains in the daylight world and is absorbed into the ultimate mystery of the natural world. This moment of divine afflatus is, for Heaney, the other meaning of the governance of the tongue: the power and authority of the poetic voice. Similarly, Kermode sees a dual force in the greatest works of literature as they depict both a realistic world and an occult world that contains "the radical and never fully understood truth." Thus, Joyce's depiction of Bloom's Dublin Day is shadowed by Homer's epic of the adventures of Odysseus; Stevens's depiction of an impoverished and shabby Rome is shadowed by the Eternal City whose threshold his "old philosopher" is about to cross. Bravo for two critics who have done what all good critics should do: made us reach out to take down from the library shelf the newly illuminated text.

Proust and Venice. Peter Collier. Cambridge Univ., 1989. $39.50.

Of the many ways for a reader to be guided into fuller understanding of Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past,* Collier has chosen the Venetian route. His willingness to examine carefully so small a segment of so large a novel, coupled with his enthusiasm and critical tact, makes his scholarly journey, like Proust's own metaphor of the Japanese scraps of colored paper which, placed in water, blossom into a magnificent garden, an image of the whole world of the vast novel. Keeping Venice always at the center, Collier ranges through the entire work, putting his emphasis on the processes by which the involuntary memory releases the artist into the shaping of his creations by enabling him to retrieve the past intact in its entire sensuous context while he understands the sea change wrought by the passage of time. As Collier moves us from episode to episode, from Ruskin to Fortuny, from the great Venetian painters to the architecture of Venice itself, he educates us into the reading of metaphor, the function of allusion to dramatize time and its changes, and the role of the sensuous as it resurrects the past into the paradox that is the work of art, asserting its immortality through its very mutability.

The Empire Writes Back: Theory and Practice in Post-Colonial Literatures. B. Ashcroft, G. Griffiths, and H. Tiffin. Routledge, 1990. $39.95; paper, $12.95.

This timely study by Australian scholars of the emerging literatures in English as well as the literary theory of the once colonized lands of the British Empire attests to the explosion of creative talent that has made best-sellers in this country of such authors as V. S. Naipaul, Nadine Gordimer, R. K. Narayan, and Wole Soyinka. Somewhat heavy with critical jargon, the work nevertheless is provocative and has the great virtue of avoiding oversimplification of the issues faced by those who "write back to the centre" from the once-upon-a-time colonies. The authors never forget either that "native" literature is written by those who have been "marginalized," metaphorically pushed aside to the boundaries of their lands, or that all postcolonial literatures are "hybrid," always reflecting the profound and irreversible effects of Imperial rule on native culture. The colonial struggle to provide, in the exotic language, something other than marginal identity for the colonial reality is skillfully illuminated in the analysis of six postcolonial novels from all corners of the Empire, each developing its own linguistic and thematic strategies to distinguish the fundamental differences between "native" and "centre." The authors' generous "Readers' Guide" and annotated bibliographies offer further incentive for continued interest in these remakers of the English language and writers of the novel in English of our century.

Traces of Another Time: History and Politics in Postwar British Fiction. Margaret Scanlan. Princeton, 1990. $27.50.

Scanlan's treatment of the concern of contemporary British fiction with the relationship between public past and the private lives which create, dwell in, and inherit that past clearly demonstrates the links between that fiction and the concerns of the "new" historians: the unreliability of evidence; the selectivity of narrative; the confusions of chronology—before and after, past and present, so that no time can be recognized as "completed time." Faced with irresolvable uncertainties, these post-World War II novelists have metamorphosed the traditional historical novel into fictions that explore the workings of the private life as it selects from, distorts, or ignores the public life so persistently invading its days. Scanlan demonstrates various shapings of the theme as it is explored through the lives of the Anglo-Irish in J. G. Farrell's *Troubles;* the characters of Iris Murdoch's *Nuns and Soldiers,* whose story is the failed search for a connection between past and present; and the journey of the spaceship children of Anthony Burgess's *The End of the World News,* who "had forgotten . . . already" the Earth's story. In this elegantly organized and lucidly argued work, Scanlan's analysis of each of the dozen novels she discusses is illuminated by her grasp of the complexity of her subject, her literary judgment, and her human insight. Together these create an important book on an important subject.

Boris Pasternak: The Poet and His Politics. Lazar Fleishman. Harvard, 1990. $37.50.

This biography traces Pasternak's developing art as it is formed by and reacts to the pressures of Soviet literary life, even while it builds the image of a courageous man—poet, translator, novelist—trying to fulfill his vocation as he defines it. Quoting from Pasternak's early autobiographical prose, Fleishman suggests that "the story of a poet 'has to be assembled from inessentials that would bear witness to the concessions he made to pity and coercion.' " Employing an extraordinary array of newly available materials documenting the volatile Russian literary scene from the October Revolution through Stalin's death and the subsequent six years before Pasternak's own death, Fleishman examines Pasternak's work not so much to illuminate its artistic quality as to explain the extent to which he skirted or ignored the power of the Soviet state over his life and his livelihood. The two chapters on *Doctor Zhivago* and Pasternak's delayed rejection of the Nobel Prize bring Fleishman's argument to its climax. The novel's exploration of the fundamental weaknesses of Marxist doctrine, its creation of an "unheroic" hero, and its refusal to provide assured answers to the questions it raises marked it "subversive." Knowing that, Pasternak sent the manuscript abroad for publication. Beyond that, he accepted the Nobel Prize when it was offered in 1958. Fleishman reads his subsequent refusal of the award as "a deliberate move in a game of chess" with the Soviet authorities. In any event, the bargain the novelist finally makes to avoid exile with the loss of home, wife, and mistress must surely figure among those "inessentials" of the poet's story that "bear witness to the concessions he made to pity and coercion."

Leonard W. Doob

Family Violence: Emerging Issues of a National Crisis. Ed. by Leah J. Dickstein and Carol C. Nadelson. American Psychiatric Press, 1989. $25.

A concerted effort, largely by psychiatrists, to explain—in the words of the book's first sentence—why "violent behavior in America is at an all-time high and seems to be increasing" and to indicate the measures being taken by individuals, therapists, and law enforcement and private organizations to cope with the resulting tragedies. The category of violence includes conflicts between spouses, battered women, incest and other forms of child abuse, and neglect and exploitation of the elderly. Most of the data concerning both the victims and the victimizers stem from anecdotally related "clinical experience," although some statistics and surveys are noted. The analysis is "multivariable," with emphasis on its individual or "psychologic" and its social and cultural components (including sexism and television shows). Almost all the contributors bemoan the fact that "few data" are available, and they stress the need for additional research and action.

The Social Psychology of Intergroup and International Conflict Resolution. Ronald J. Fisher. Springer-Verlag, 1989. $69.50.

A lucid, convenient, well-documented, encyclopedic summary of laboratory and field studies of conflict as viewed in terms of phenomenal and behavioral interaction from varied perspectives ranging from the interpersonal and the intergroup to the national and the international. Methodologies, facts, and theories from Canadian, British, and American investigations and generalizations are copiously provided, so that on occasion the conscientious reader may well be embarrassed and dismayed by the riches that are displayed and frequently ignored in real life. Diagrams and tables, employed in an effort to suggest how the variables interact and hence constitute the basis for becoming a science, require patient decoding but merit restrained applause.

In the Shadow of the Holocaust: The Second Generation. Aaron Hass. Cornell, 1990. $19.95.

A valiant, moving effort by a survivor's son, an American psychologist, to convey how he and his generation cope with what they know about the horrors of the Holocaust. The reactions are his own as well as those of not necessarily representative American and Canadian Jews whom he has interviewed or who have responded to his open-ended questionnaire. Autobiographical glimpses and lengthy quotations from his informants are provided. Copious and sometimes critical references are made to the vast Holocaust literature, including psychoanalytic theorists. Primo Levi is mentioned and cited. Perforce the focus is exclusively on Jews so that other victims such as Poles and Gypsies are neglected. Generalizations emerging from the sample, from the admitted absence of a control for purposes of comparison, and from one individual's personal experience, however, convincingly do substantiate the view that every one of us always ingests a version of most past events with "significant diversity." Each topic offers provocative challenges; for example, "Where was God" at the extermination camps, the God who "has chosen us from all the peoples?"

Inquiry and Change: The Troubled Attempt to Understand and Shape Society. Charles E. Lindblom. Yale, 1990. $29.95.

A brilliant, disturbing, not too jargonistic exposition and defense of Lindblomism by the one person capable of accomplishing this admirable, impossible task. Lindblomism? It is, as the subtitle hints, a devastating, undocumented but more frequently at least partially documented critique of all the "obfuscating" social sciences—including this time psychoanalysis, social psychology, and the theory and practice of education—and of the confusing society that has given rise to them. The deep sin is called "impairment" of our thinking, judgments, and existence; the reduction and the steady need for sensitive "probing" of both means and ends are vigorously and sometimes convincingly advocated even in lengthy footnotes at the bottom of more than 80 percent of the pages. We have here an attempt to modernize and synthesize Plato, obviously Adam Smith, Bentham, Freud, Mannheim, and seemingly hundreds of others whether dead, alive, or in between. Almost every paragraph and footnote provide either new insights or the inspiring challenge, for example, to "falsify my analysis; produce an explanation . . . that I have overlooked."

Gone Primitive: Savage Intellects, Modern Lives. Narianna Torgovnick. Univ. of Chicago, 1990. $24.95.

A breezy, stimulating, challenging diatribe concerning the ways in which Western writers have investigated, described, and evaluated so-called primitive peoples and especially women in those societies. The cast of characters selected by this humanist to discharge her often "deucedly difficult" assignment ranges from Conrad, D. H. Lawrence, and Edgar Rice Burroughs—the creator of Tarzan—all the way to Freud, Malinowski, and of course Margaret Mead. Sexy symbols are frequently dissected, and appropriate photographs are displayed alongside pithy citations and impressive inquests such as one concerning "Derrida's critique of Lévi-Strauss". The laudable aim is to demonstrate that ethnocentric biases continue to pervade our view of non-Western societies, femininity, and ourselves. Really?

Ronald Geballe

Energy and Empire: A Biographical Study of Lord Kelvin. Crosbie Smith and M. Norton Wise. Cambridge Univ., 1989. $89.50.

The authors make a good case for the proposition that Baron Kelvin of Kargs, born William Thomson, came close to epitomizing industrial 19th-century Britain. Preeminent in clarifying the abstractions of electricity and magnetism and thermodynamics, he played as important a role in the development of steam engines, the telegraph (he was a key figure in the laying of the first Atlantic cable), vortex engines, and navigational instruments (from which he made a fortune). He, like the rest of his family, was a political liberal and a believer in democratic education. Characteristically, he long held to his untenable view of the age of the Earth and challenged Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection. This admirable book is a detailed, comprehensive study of Victorian British physical science, technology, and mathematics. And if ever there was an Imperial Scientist, Kelvin was it.

Lawrence and His Laboratory: A History of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. Vol. 1, J. L. Heilbron and Robert W. Seidel. Univ. of California, Berkeley, 1989. $29.95.

During the late 1920s and early 1930s attempts were being made in several parts of the world to design and build devices to produce high-energy alpha particles and protons. Lord Rutherford had opened the field of nuclear physics using naturally occurring radioactivity, but to explore the rich new field, more and variable energy and more intense beams were needed. In 1930 Ernest Lawrence, then a young assistant professor at Berkeley, read about a principle that was being tried elsewhere without success. He, with his student Malcolm Livingston, found the way to use it and built the first, tiny, cyclotron. Lawrence had to garner the increasing financial and logistic support that was continually necessary for an evolving cyclotron technology. The consequences were many; the Berkeley Radiation Laboratory that he created became in the eyes of many the prototype of Big Science. In this laboratory many discoveries in nuclear physics were made, nuclear chemistry and nuclear medicine were born, and an impressive number of outstanding physicists and chemists were trained. The volume, not always gracefully written and containing much technical detail that the general reader will skip, carries the history of this entrepreneurial scientist up to the start of World War II.

(continued on page 6)

Recommended Reading

(continued from page 5)

Klaus Fuchs, Atom Spy. Robert Chadwell Williams. Harvard, 1987. $25; paper, $12.95.

This is a well-documented history of one of the strange episodes of World War II and its immediate aftermath. Fuchs, an idealist of sorts, trod a path that led from Nazi Germany to Britain, where he worked on the theory of the atom bomb, to Canada, New York, and Los Alamos. After his confession and imprisonment he was released to East Germany. The story involves the breaking of Soviet codes, the witch-hunt in the United States, the surveillance of a Russian spy ring, Truman's decision to proceed with the H-Bomb. British Intelligence had known of Fuchs's Communist leaning long before he moved to Britain, so great efforts were made to suppress this potential source of embarrassment for Attlee's government. The technical data Fuchs supplied to the Russians was much less important than the political fallout from the episode. The book reads like fiction.

Are Quanta Real? A Galilean Dialogue. J. M. Jauch. Indiana Univ., 1989. $22.50.

A reprint of a 20-year-old treatment of a still-puzzling question, this imaginative work by the late theoretical physicist elucidates the contrast between the classical, deterministic notions that seem inbred and the strange behavior of the microscopic quantum world. There are few such enlightening discussions of the problem of reconciling the disparate views of the world; by resurrecting Galileo's three questing friends, Jauch is able to pose questions a student would like to ask but too often is inhibited from doing so.

Catastrophes and Evolution: Astronomical Foundations. Ed. by Victor Clube. Cambridge Univ., 1990. $44.50.

The physical evidence and scientific arguments favoring the view that catastrophic events in the geological past have had a major influence on the course of evolution are presented in this volume. Luis Alvarez, the physicist who provoked the intense level of discussion still going on, died a week before the meeting recorded here. The papers are readily accessible to the general reader.

Victoria Schuck

Justice, Gender, and the Family. Susan Moller Okin. Basic Books, 1989. $19.95.

Arms and the Enlisted Woman. Judith Hicks Stiehm. Temple Univ., 1989. $29.95; paper, $16.95.

The American Woman, 1990–91: A Status Report. Edited by Sara E. Rix for the Women's Research and Education Institute (WREI). Norton, 1990. $22.95.

The American Woman, 1988–89: A Status Report. Norton, 1988. $19.95; paper, $9.95.

The American Woman, 1987–88: A Report in Depth. Norton, 1987. $18.95.

Simone de Beauvoir: A Biography. Deirdre Bair. Summit Books, 1990. $24.95.

To Herland and Beyond: The Life and Work of Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Ann J. Lane. Pantheon, 1990. $29.95.

Soviet Women: Walking the Tightrope. Francine du Plessix Gray. Doubleday, 1990. $19.95.

Bananas, Beaches, and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics. Cynthia Enloe. Univ. of Calif., 1989. $10.95.

In the accelerating race to fill the gaps in knowledge of women—including their roles in history and the theoretical bases of behavior—there have been many political and economic analyses, literary critiques, biographies, and detailed and short histories. These publications suggest something of the scope and variety of recent monographs and books.

Okin and Stiehm, both distinguished feminist political theorists, shared the American Political Science Association's annual "best book on women and politics" award for 1989. Okin's analysis of the politics of the family has been hailed as the best in print. As she points out, power relations within the family have no natural necessity but affect the workplace and are affected by it. The "private" domestic life and the "public" life of politics are not separate spheres. Gender-neutral language is no help. She calls for "humanist" justice, a future without gender. Her critique of classic and current theories of justice concludes with proposals for changes in public policies and reforms of family law.

Stiehm's book is particularly timely because of the debate over women's service in combat which could be touched off if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf. Some 229,000 of the 2.1 million U.S. military personnel—11.2 percent—are women, and 20,000 to 25,000 are among the troops deployed in the Middle East in a variety of roles. (They are excluded by statute from combat service in the Air Force and Navy but not in the Army).

Stiehm spent six years conducting the research, interviewing hundreds of individuals and groups, and analyzing "studies" to provide this overview of enlisted women. She also discusses the courts and the military (illustrations from the Navy), national public opinion about women in the military, and implications of the presence of women in the military in the event of war. If Steihm's recommendations were adopted, the number of women in the military services would probably increase by 40 to 60 percent.

The annual reports of the Women's Research and Education Institute (WREI) are indispensable to anyone wishing special information or demographic and economic data on the overall status of women in America. Academics, applied researchers, policy analysts, and women activists have written articles of varying lengths on subjects ranging from women and the family to health, housing and economic policy, and women in the professions. The 1990 volume also contains information about women on the international scene. Some 100 tables and charts provide valuable data.

Two notable biographies contribute significantly to understanding of the origins of feminism, as well as to literary and intellectual history. Bair's "reconstructed life" of de Beauvoir (1908–86)—author (best known for *Le Deuxième Sexe,* published in 1949), Existential philosopher, educator, novelist, political activist, and literary figure in postwar France—is a mammoth, dramatic profile of the founder of modern feminism. Bair, who spent six years interviewing de Beauvoir and writes from a feminist perspective, chronicles de Beauvoir's literary output and love affairs within her 40-year relationship with Jean-Paul Sartre (1905–80).

The biography of Gilman (1860–1935) is a sympathetic treatment of an almost forgotten American feminist (a term not in use during her life), economist, theorist, novelist, essayist, and political activist. Her turbulent life—divorce, remarriage, assignment of her daughter to her ex-husband and his second wife, friendship with her neurologist, nervous breakdowns, lectures and writings to support herself—is detailed. A woman of little formal education, she drew ideas from sociologist Lester Ward, and became best known for her book *Women and Economics. Herland,* the title of a novel about a community of women without knowledge of sex, home, marriage, or common sense, is a playful commentary on the era's notions of work and culture. Lane devotes a chapter to Gilman's writing. Although not exciting as a biography, the book gives an understanding of what it was like to be a nonconformist woman along with the suffragists of that period.

Gray's slim and beautifully written evaluation of the early effects of Gorbachev's *glasnost* and *perestroika* policies on Soviet women derives from the author's recent five-week trip to Moscow, Latvia, Leningrad, Georgia, Uzbekistan, and Siberia as the guest of the publisher of Moscow's magazine *Progress,* which, under a government publishing committee, has branches in the major cities throughout the Soviet Union. This sponsorship enabled Gray to meet representative male and female doctors, journalists, psychologists, lawyers, teachers, and factory workers. A knowledgeable American author well traveled in the Soviet Union in the late 1970s, Gray now comments on the burden of balancing family and career responsibilities (92 percent of Russian women are in the work force), family structure, divorce, education, child care, health care facilities, housing shortages, dire lack of food and consumer goods (except in Uzbeck), female dominance and male passivity, the unpopularity of feminism, and the wild passion for clothes and high fashion. Gray includes a superb review of the images of women in Russian literature and the new wave of women authors.

Enloe redefines the nature of international politics traditionally viewed as power politics among states and men. A feminist, Enloe contends that culture and ideas are much a part of international politics and that analysis of international politics as being gender neutral or carried out only by men makes no sense. She argues that men have designed immigration, labor, civil service, propaganda, and military bases to control women.

The Politics of Rich and Poor: Wealth and the American Electorate in the Reagan Aftermath. Kevin Phillips. Random House, 1990. $19.95.

Politics by Other Means: The Declining Importance of Elections in America. Benjamin Ginsberg and Martin Shefter. Basic Books, 1990. $19.95.

Phillips, who wrote what became a guidebook for the Republican party's national resurgence in the late 1960s and 1970s, has now analyzed the Reagan administration's economic, legislative, and regulatory policies and found them to have created great inequalities in the distribution of the country's wealth. In this fast-moving account, Phillips cites statistics and reviews the legislation of the 1980s to show how advantages for upper-income groups from tax, fiscal, and monetary policies meant great losses to the poor. He frequently com-

pares the Reagan era with earlier cycles of boom and bust that were followed by corrections and populism.

Phillips spells out who won and who lost from personal income and corporate tax reduction, supply-side economics, "trickle-down" theory and practice, Gramm-Rudman deficit reductions, deregulation, spending increases for military products (Republican constituencies), permission for mergers and loosening of antitrust enforcement, high debt strategies, and high interest rates. The two coasts were the winners; so were the service industries and the financial sector. Among the losers were the "heartland," basic manufacturing industries, small towns, agriculture, education, women, racial minorities, children, and the poor.

Yet as the period ended, Phillips found a growing national attention to homelessness, and other clues that may presage if not a sea change at least a new cycle in the 1990s to correct the excesses of the 1980s. He leaves open the question of a new populism.

Two political scientists, Ginsberg and Shefter, analyze the current stalemate in American politics and suggest ways to end it. These authors contend that declining electoral competition and voter participation demonstrate a "postelectoral" political order in which political parties are much alike and elections no longer determine the power of who will govern—a decay beginning with the Progressive Era. Power has been transferred to other institutions. The postelectoral political order has created a system of "dual sovereignty": Democrats are ensconced in Congress and govern through the federal social services and labor and regulatory agencies; Republicans govern from the White House. One group wants social programs, while the other wants spending cuts, tax reductions, and deregulation. In short, institutional struggles have become substitutes for electoral competition. Fraud and corruption engage the courts. The authors predict that, as in the past, one or the other political party will have to mobilize for a larger political base to break the present "political pyramid." Otherwise, undemocratic politics will endure. An important book.

Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents: The Politics of Leadership from Roosevelt to Reagan. Richard E. Neustadt. 5th ed. Free Press, 1990. $22.95.

The Ring of Power: The White House Staff and Its Expanding Role in Government. Bradley H. Patterson, Jr. Basic Books, 1988. $19.95.

Legislating Together: The White House and Capitol Hill from Eisenhower to Reagan. Mark A. Peterson. Harvard, 1990. $32.50.

The Logic of Congressional Action. R. Douglas Arnold. Yale, 1990. $26.95.

Several new empirical works in political science expand knowledge of the contours of power and the function and behavior of the American presidency, the Congress, political parties, and elections. This research offers specialists fine examples of the application of new quantitative techniques developed in the discipline. The books offer generalists a new understanding of American institutions.

Neustadt's latest edition of a book introduced 30 years ago reinforces his analysis of the presidency as a separate institution with shared powers. Within the constitutional framework, the power of the president depends on the ability to influence and persuade. How a president gains and loses power is central to the book.

The first edition of this book, which dealt with the administrations of Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower (perhaps one of the most influential books in the 20th century, read by presidents, cabinets, Congress, academics, and students), described the weaknesses of the office and the ways in which an incumbent had to "husband" power in immediate decisions to ensure the ability to maintain power in the future. Subsequent editions have dealt with succeeding presidents. The newest extends the analysis through the Reagan presidency, with special chapters on how Eisenhower, in two particular decisions, protected his power. Neustadt focuses on formal powers, staff, professional reputation, prestige, the president's own and other people's experience, "atomization" of Congress, and "backward mapping" (operational feasibilities). The book is hefty but remains fresh.

Patterson's analysis of the White House staff is descriptive, witty, anecdotal, and historical, based on interviews of staffers and the author's experience. Today's presidential staff is a bureaucratic pyramid of 3,800, organized into some 20 departments—a far cry from Louis Brownlow's days in the 1930s, when recommendations ("the President needs help") were made for the appointment of a few persons with a "passion for anonymity." When presidents arrive in the Oval Office, they regularly speak of cutting the staff; but when they leave, the staff is larger. It includes budget analysts, information specialists, economic advisers, domestic program planners, foreign policy advisers, legislative lobbyists, press officers, trade negotiators, speech writers, and the First Lady's staff. The author believes that the importance of the staff is underestimated and that a good staff is crucial to the design of a coherent presidential policy.

Peterson and Arnold discuss the Congress. Peterson is critical of the popular presidency-centered perspective of American politics. From a rigorous analysis (numerous interviews and detailed statistical techniques) of the interaction of presidents and Congress from Eisenhower through Reagan's first term, 1953–84, he constructs a tandem-institution perspective of the relationship of president and Congress within a single system. He focuses on a sample of 299 domestic bills, and carries the analysis from presidential initiatives and options for coalition building through congressional responses affected by electoral mandates, interest groups, the economy, inflation, and differences between the House and Senate. He is skeptical of reforms, whether a six-year term for the president or a parliamentary system, and he endorses the proposal for an electoral system under which the president and all House and Senate members would be elected simultaneously, all for four-year terms.

Arnold probes what determines the decisions members of Congress make. It is a given that all base their decisions on what will gain their reelection. But having accepted this premise, how does a member decide reelectable stands? Some decisions are "parochial," for the benefit of the district; others are general, for the "good of the whole" without relation to one's district. What about the legislative leadership? Leaders "manipulate" to ensure coalitions and substantive outcomes. Arnold argues that decisions are based "partly on what citizens will allow, partly on what coalition leaders propose, partly on what . . . opposition leaders adopt," and partly on what the individual member wants. In the second part of the book, the author uses his theory of decision making to assess congressional action in energy, economic, and tax policy. He notes reforms that could increase citizen control of government.

What I Saw at the Revolution: A Political Life in the Reagan Era. Peggy Noonan. Random House, 1990. $19.95.

A baby boomer, former CBS news interpreter, convert to conservatism, and two-and-a-half-year speech writer for the Reagan administration has written the funniest, personal memoir to emerge from the Reagan years. The book is a perceptive account of what it was like to be a member of the White House staff and a writer who could suffer the inanities of persons around the president while bringing tears and thrills to television audiences with her words.

The inimitable prose of her memoir lifts political reporting to a remarkable height.

(continued on back cover)

Recommended Reading

(continued from page 7)

Richard N. Current

Revolt Against Destiny: An Intellectual History of the United States. Paul A. Carter. Columbia, 1989. $24.95.

Here is a series of essays on certain ideas that have recurred in the country's history: ideas concerning the frontier, republicanism, revolution, religion, politics, literature, science, ecology, and empire. "The ever-present contradictions between theories of the ideal and the realities of the American system make up the indivisible threads that bind the book together." It is a model of brilliant thinking and graceful writing.

Lewis Mumford, Public Intellectual. Ed. by Thomas P. Hughes and Agatha C. Hughes. Oxford, 1990. $39.95.

Mumford, who died as this book was going to press, was a "public intellectual" with an amazing span of interest and expertise. It took more than a dozen experts to appraise his contributions to different fields when he was the subject of a conference at the University of Pennsylvania. The resulting essays, appreciative but also critical, deal with such varied topics as technological and cultural history, regionalism, utopianism, art and architecture, urban planning, personality and human values, and the nuclear threat. Intelligently discussed are not only the views of Mumford but also those of the contemporaries with whom he agreed or disagreed.

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ΦBK Associates Celebrate 50 Years, Honor Salk

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first newsletter of the Associates, to be mailed to members early in 1991. Copies will also be available upon request from the Society's headquarters, 1811 Q Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20009.

The Associates' weekend also included a luncheon at the National Portrait Gallery, where Richard N. Current, author of the new history of Phi Beta Kappa, spoke about the origins of the Associates and discussed the organization's activities over the years. After the talk, the Associates and their guests toured the gallery in small groups led by docents. Also attending the luncheon were a number of members of the District of Columbia ΦBK Association.

Sol Linowitz and Jonas Salk are pictured at the Associates' banquet in October 1990.

Women in Utopia: The Ideology of Gender in the American Owenite Communities. Carol A. Kolmerten. Indiana Univ., 1990. $29.95.

Robert Owen, the Scottish manufacturer and reformer, declared that only with "full and complete equality" could human beings attain the "highest degrees of perfection." The 1825 constitution of his New Harmony community, in the Indiana backwoods, provided for "Equality of Rights, uninfluenced by sex." In practice, however, both at New Harmony and at other Owenite communities, women were left with most of the drudgery and little of the power. Owen and his followers could not free themselves from the sexism of the larger society around them. True liberation, Kolmerten argues persuasively, would require a drastic reorganization of society as a whole.

America in 1857: A Nation on the Brink. Kenneth M. Stampp. Oxford, 1990. $29.95.

Several events of 1857 prepared the way for secession and the Civil War—the Dred Scott decision, the tariff reduction, the financial panic, and the Buchanan administration's attempt to impose slavery on the territory of Kansas. The story in its main outlines is familiar enough but has never been told so well. With fresh sources, original insights, and attention to human-interest details, Stampp has produced a compelling account of "a crucial year" in the life of the American people.

Black Property Owners in the South, 1790–1915. Loren Schweninger. Univ. of Illinois, 1990. $39.95.

Most slaves came from African societies where everything was held in common and there was no concept of ownership. In America some of them began early to acquire land and other possessions, and after emancipation the number of black property owners in the South increased. They "clung to the values and attitudes that they had grown to accept: that acquiring land and property would somehow free them from the burdens of the past. Their tragedy, and the region's tragedy, was that it never would." Schweninger tells their story sympathetically and authoritatively, having accumulated and mastered a tremendous stock of data, key portions of which he presents in appendixes.

Franklin D. Roosevelt: A Rendezvous with Destiny. Frank Freidel. Little, Brown, 1990. $24.95.

Roosevelt has begun to rival Lincoln as a much-written-about president. The dean of FDR scholars and the author of four previous books about him, Freidel has drawn on his own research and the writings of other experts to provide much the best one-volume biography of the man. This is a life and times, giving due attention to FDR's personal affairs but concentrating mainly on his role in the New Deal and World War II.

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