ington: The University of Kentucky Press. 1982. $18.00. Short of funds and—curiously—short of good book manuscripts, university presses have turned to some odd publishing ventures. None odder than this memoir of a man who served in two armies, two air forces and four wars. The book looks like a boys' adventure book: the dust-jacket painting is a slick illustration of duelling planes; a Spitfire is pulling away from a burning Me. 109F. Turns out there is a good reason for the picture; Dunn painted it himself; it shows his fifth "victory" as an American volunteer with the RAF, the kill that made him an ace. The book is very good of kind: Dunn's rootless youth and cowboy adventure make later exploits and mistakes plausible, his fighting career is exciting; his fly-boy's perspective on bureaucracy and unfairness is instructive; his irresponsibility when not fighting is of a sort one thought Hollywood invented (though Dunn says the wartime film about his RAF squadron was stupid), and his brief accounts of the women he was close to are sad and moving—in them and in his versions of his treatment by military brass ("weenies") he reveals perhaps more than he intends. The distinctions Dunn makes or fails to make between friend and foe, his editorial opinions on decisions in Korea and Viet Nam, his ability to go on using the language of wartime hatreds ("Scratch one Hun"), his great courage, his obvious talent and his spiritual blindness connect to things we have learned and are still learning about Americans at war. His is a valuable "case history." But though there are things for a scholar to learn here, a tape in an oral history project or a manuscript in a one-ream paper carton would do as well as a book. Kentucky seems to have printed the thing to make money. I doubt that *Fighter Pilot* will; boys' books in this genre don't cost $18.00 even now.

Not a lot of enthusiasm in Beth Schultz's report on a new reference work. She writes, AMERICAN STUDIES: A Guide to Information. Information Guide Library, vols. 10 and 13. Edited by David W. Marcell. Detroit: Gale Research Company. 1981. $34.00. These bibliographies would be useful primarily to the uninitiated student of American Studies and American literature; the entries on particular authors, e.g. Melville and James, and particular topics, e.g. Afro-American literature, American autobiography, American women writers, seem scant, and although well-known works are cited, others, indispensable for a full study of either author or subject, are omitted.

Francis Heller reports on THE DILEMMAS OF PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP: Of Caretakers and Kings. By Frank Kessler, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1982. $11.95, paper. Textbooks do not often make good reading but Frank Kessler has written one that is both constructive and enjoyable. He uses anecdotal material cheerfully and skillfully, and he does not hesitate to use a colloquial phrase where it fits. Kessler's approach reflects the pendulum swing that has characterized the literature on the presidency in the last two decades. But he ends on an optimistic note: our system may, after the extremes of Vietnam and Watergate, be "returning to the model that the founding fathers envisioned"—a president who would lead must also be truly accountable. Completed in January 1982, this book has the advantage that it can include pertinent aspects of the presidency of Ronald Reagan. Hurried production has, however, resulted in proofreading and other errors that mar what would otherwise have to be called one of the liveliest recent books on the American presidency.

Marshall Tymm has edited THE COLLECTED ESSAYS AND PROSE SKETCHES OF THOMAS COLE (St. Paul, Minnesota: The John Colet Press. 1980. $13.50 by subscription). It contains published essays and letters, selections from unpublished material and "Emma Moreton, A West Indian Tale." Ken La Budde, formerly of our Editorial Board, did a study years ago of Cole's ideas; in these pieces Cole reveals his intellectual and aesthetic roots, so it's very good to have them available.

american studies column

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Cheap lunches and free housing are another incentive in these days of financial stringency: people only have to fork out for travel and for a good dinner with new and old friends on Saturday night.

And, because these workshops are strictly for volunteers, we can still have our regular chapter and local meetings run in more traditional ways. However, there's some strong feeling, arising from the coherence and productivity of the workshops, that we need to focus our regular meetings more tightly, too, so there's some feedback that might lead to deeper changes. At least it's undeniable that the participants come away with an enriched understanding of a particular strategy for doing American Studies that they may or may not wish to incorporate into their own scholarly experience.

A VARIANT PATTERN with which MASA has been successful, first at a number of sessions of the first national American Studies Association meeting in Kansas City in 1967, and subsequently at several of MASA's own regional conventions, works as follows: a problem area is defined and papers solicited through an announcement which makes clear that contributors are expected to deal with issues of more than