ographical comment by his daughter, Bettina, has made an immense contribution to Afro-American historiography. And, as his own article in this thoroughly commendable volume displays, America's “first great white historian of the black experience” is still enhancing the scholarship with thoughtful and challenging analyses. “The struggle continues.”

Thoughtful comments from Ted Hovet on a collection of essays: YANKEE SAINTS AND SOUTHERN SINNERS. By Bertram Wyatt-Brown. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1985, $20.00. These essays are united by the theme that “a great moral chasm separated the antebellum North and South.” While this might sound commonplace, Wyatt-Brown’s concentration on two different conceptions of “honor” in the North and South has a great deal of significance for the study of social change in America. He convincingly argues that in the North modernization created “ego centered” individuals who “look upon institutions as merely temporary agencies to further ambitions and aspirations.” Honor is equated with “individualistic dignity” and adherence to abstract moral principles. The South, however, maintained more traditional social structures and defined honor as “a claim for worthiness before the community.” The reason slavery and the Civil War generated such passion, Wyatt-Brown argues, is that Northern “honor” fed a kind of self-righteous “madness” while Southern “honor” nurtured the fear that a new social order would destroy the much more traditional, community-centered world that defined personal worth. Wyatt-Brown admits that this scheme is open to criticism on the grounds that it downplays cultural diversity within regions. Nevertheless it is a paradigm which casts considerable light on some of the social and psychological consequences of modernization.

Here is what Phillip Paludan says about ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE AMERICAN POLITICAL TRADITION. Edited by John L. Thomas. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1986, $20.00: These six essays, by Robert Weibe, Don Fehrenbacher, William Gienapp, Stephen Oates, Michael Holt and James McPherson, discuss Lincoln’s male-centered political environment, the accuracy of transcriptions of Lincoln’s words and the impact those words had, the nature of the electorate that put him in the presidency, the political ideology he followed and his political maneuvering and the extent to which Lincoln encouraged a second American Revolution. The range of scholarly approaches is broad, including quantitative analysis, rhetorical interpretation and careful chronology, but all approaches are ably done, provoking new insights on “one of the very few of the world’s leaders who stay alive,” in Barbara Ward’s words.

A good friend of this journal has published a most useful reference work—Gail Coffler, MELVILLE’S CLASSICAL ALLUSIONS: A Comprehensive Index and Glossary. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1985, $37.50. Honorable and useful work, as your editor can testify—he and his wife are involved these days again in an annotated edition of Poe, and lean repeatedly on volumes on that author comparable to Gail Coffler’s on Melville. (Those on Poe are mainly by a diligent and intelligent scholar named Burton Pollin.) Picky stuff of interest only to pedants, one would think, but the implications of specialized reference works can be broad. Americans of Melville’s era reinvented classical Greece and Rome to serve national purposes and to treat national maladies.

Melville, with his anthropologist’s imagination and cross-cultural sophistication, saw meanings and connotations in the classical past which were not always encouraging for the American present or future. The compiler should now write a nice essay for us on what Melville’s classics say about Melville’s America. The book is beautifully organized—a master index, a work-by-
work index, lists by categories ("Roman Emperors"; "Cities" and so forth), and a lovingly crafted, broadly useful "Glossary."

Of a collection of essays called THE MUSEUM WORLD OF HENRY JAMES. By Adeline R. Tintner. Ann Arbor: UMI Research Press, 1986, $49.95. Floyd Horowitz writes, The subject of this book concerns both the reasons for the use in Henry James's fiction of certain identifiable art objects and, since quiet allusion often played a complementary part, the documentation as well of exactly which art objects probably were referred to. Tintner's work conceptually brings together several decades of her scholarly research, forming a wonderfully interesting data base that spans the entirety of James's known canon. Since to identify the art allusion that James purportedly worked into a fiction she often has to explain what he may have intended in his literary construction, Tintner shows herself no less fully a confident and global interpreter.

But taken together according to her organizational principle for the book, these critical essays do not developmentally in sum come up to the level demanded by her subject. In significantly analyzing the intent of such an author as James, the critic systematically must explain the ideas which intellectually governed the development of the fictional technique under discussion.

Randa Dubnick says that CRITICAL ESSAYS ON GERTRUDE STEIN. Edited by Michael J. Hoffman. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1986, $35.00, is the first collection of critical essays on Gertrude Stein. Hoffman's introduction presents an excellent overview of the trends in Stein criticism. His discussion encompasses not only works included in this collection, but the rapidly widening field of Stein criticism. Well-chosen selections represent the range of reactions to Stein. Read straight through, the collection provides an excellent chronological

From Wales comes this from our long-time board member Warren French on THE AMERICAN SHORT STORY: I. Initiation. Edited by Peter Freese. Texts for English and American Studies 16. Paderborn: Ferdinand Schoningh, 1984-1986, 15.8 DM. The professor for Amerikanistik at the University of Paderborn, West Germany, edits a series of "Texts for English and American Studies," for which he has assembled a collection of American short stories on the initiation theme. The most interesting part of the project, however, is not the textbook, but the almost 500-page "teacher's book" that he has prepared, which contains the best account of the initiation theme throughout literature and specifically as it has emerged in American literature that I have seen anywhere. Seeing our own literature from a foreign perspective in such an incredibly detailed study reorients one's thinking, especially about how much really first-rate scholarship gets tucked away in places where it may not be even found, let alone appreciated, whereas many publicized scholarly studies turn out really not to be very useful. Anyway Peter Freese has done a great job here, and he surely merits recognition from Americanists everywhere.