

another volume (Ham wrote this lead-in himself. We detect a note of fatigue which suggests that he earned his current leave) from the journal's office, Nathan Reingold, editor, *THE PAPERS OF JOSEPH HENRY: JANUARY 1841-DECEMBER 1843: The Princeton Years*, Volume 5, handsomely published by the Smithsonian Institution Press, 1985, \$45.00, and at slightly more than 500 pages, virtually running to fat. The Henry Project has been in existence for about twenty years; we have yet another thirty five years of Henry's life to be so treated and documented. Given the scarce resources available to research in the humanities and social sciences, Cravens has always been skeptical of large editorial projects devoted to the lives of a handful of "great men," especially when the option of a relatively inexpensive microfilm project is available. In the larger scheme of things, the Henry Project is hardly the most expensive or elaborate of these ventures, and does not qualify as a kind of "Project Mohole." The editing in this volume has been carefully done, and, if some of the annotations are a trifle discursive, nevertheless some will gain value from reading it. The Project is based upon an interpretation of the development of American science, in which an elite group of scientists such as Henry created a "national scientific community and profession" in the pre-Civil War era which became the basis for the modern national scientific community and national science policy. Cravens has long dissented from this interpretation (see *American Studies*, 17 [Fall, 1976], 49-70, for example) as based on the notion that the agenda of historical research is to search for the "roots of today," but notes that this notion is so widespread in the profession that it seems futile to protest. These reservations aside, Cravens notes that the editor and his staff have worked diligently to ferret out documents and to explicate them according to their own standards of editorial production; that the job has been done quite well; and that the documents so published are valuable and capable of being interpreted in various ways.

Here is Ham on another book: "An old theme in American Studies scholarship is the cultural and social response to an explanation of natural phenomena. Bruce Morton has compiled a timely and handy "socio-bibliographic study," *HALLEY'S COMET 1755-1984: A Bibliography*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1985, \$35.00, which is useful on its own terms and a guide to further work. Morton's concern has been to compile a selective bibliography of items published from 1755 through the first third of 1984 in "mainstream" publications in English, meaning both the United States and Britain. Items include articles from scientific journals, newspapers, magazines, books and other kinds of publications. In all, there are 1301 entries, all annotated, which give a reasonably representative picture of reactions to this apparition in American and British culture. Morton estimates that had he not been selective, and included many local newspaper responses, the number of entries would have easily been five times the number in the volume. Included in the full author index are not simply astronomers

such as George B. Airy, John F. W. Herschel and Elias Loomis, but also some who seek the title of polymath, such as Issac Asimov and Carl Sagan, and others more familiar to the journal's readers, including Mark Twain, Kenneth Rexroth and George Will. All in all this seems a useful volume.

"A candid, informative set of letters by Eisenhower to a boyhood friend commenting on a wide range of issues pertinent to his public career" is how Richard Lowitt characterizes *IKE'S LETTERS TO A FRIEND, 1941-1958*. Edited with Introduction and Notes by Robert Griffith. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1984, \$19.95. He continues: It was E. E. ("Swede") Hazlett, a school friend in Abilene, who steered Ike to West Point and a military career. Griffith's headnotes provide the continuity and the details that help make these interesting letters an important source for an understanding of Eisenhower's public career, especially his presidency.

Nicolette Bromberg, who curates an immense collection of photography of the era, remarks on the beauty of J. E. *STIMSON: Photographer of the West*. By Mark Junge. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1985, \$29.95, and adds: J. E. Stimson's detailed and beautifully crafted photographs chronicle the less-romantically regarded period of the West at the turn of the century when it was moving away from the rough frontier toward respectability. They reflect the common optimistic view of progress and economic development. The photographs from Stimson's sixty year career (which began in 1889) focus on the railroads, industry, agriculture, homes and businesses in Wyoming (where his studio was based) and the West.

Even the more conscientious of our journalists often fail to provide enough context for readers to develop perspective on international affairs. Israel seems solidly covered in our media, but Wolf Blitzer's *BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND JERUSALEM: A Reporter's Notebook*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985, \$15.95, will suggest to readers that even nations and topics which are in the news every day are not adequately covered. This is a book by a seasoned, talented, informed and honest Israeli journalist stationed in Washington; it tackles the hardest issues and reveals that the truth about almost any detail about America's special relationship with Israel is a) not what you think, and b) more surprising than you imagine. Blitzer is thoughtful enough to transcend purely foreign policy issues; he therefore fits also into the tradition of bright foreigners who know us well but who are alien enough to see our institutions and attitudes from new perspectives.

This is true also of the writings of an immigrant author not familiar to most of us, Gerald Thorson informs us. He says that *FROM NORWEGIAN ROMANTIC TO AMERICAN REALIST: Studies in the Life and Writings of Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen*. By Per Seyersted. Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey: Humanities Press, 1984, \$17.95, is an important contribu-