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JOHN SLOAN/A Printmaker. By James Kraft. Washington, D.C. The International Exhibitions Foundation, 1984, \$7.50. Kraft is aided by Sloan's widow, Helen Farr Sloan, who provides a very valuable section called "An Artist's Words: Some Unpublished Comments By John Sloan, 1944-50" in which Sloan at age 80 talks about his career and covers subjects of prime interest to even those Americanists who have no special bent for the visual arts. He tells of the time, for example, when technological change forced visual journalists such as "my friends Glackens, Luks and Shinn" out of their jobs as "reporter-artists" because newspapers could print photos. For Sloan, Henri was the "great liberator." Speaking of himself and his friends, Sloan says "Whitman was a very important influence on our thinking in the '90s."

Sloan maintained newspaper connections longer than most of the others because he was illustrator as well as "reporter-artist," but the change in the newspaper world eventually got to him, too. He says of the balance of his life, "I have always supported my independent work as a painter and etcher by illustrating and teaching. By the age of 50 I had sold only eight paintings and very few of the prints I had made for myself." His conclusion is far from bitter. Since he was not dependent on his "serious" work for an income, he was, as he saw it, freer to do what he felt he should, unconfined by fads, movements or commercial pressures. "I have never lived from my painting until I was past seventy," is in no sense a complaint.

Sloan is interesting politically, too. Despite his Socialist Party membership and his work for *The Masses*, ties which are very interesting in terms of political, social, cultural, economical and intellectual history, Sloan insists that he was never an idealogue. "Sympathy for people, I am all for that, but not ideology." Such folks were the bane of more theoretical European radicals, but Sloan's idiosyncrasy here matches that in his sense of career, as well as those of other Americanists of his era.

To understand him well, then, one must needs be an old-fashioned interdisciplinarian; to so

understand him is to understand large characteristics of his era.

The book also contains a bibliography, a number of good reproductions and, of course, a catalogue of the show with brief notes, many in Sloan's words, about each piece.

But the experience of the show is powerful and convincing. Beyond the obvious sense in which many of Sloan's prints document the look of places and periods, or reflect attitudes, they are the result of a strong vision and an independent artistic sensibility. Your Faithful Editor caught the show in Kansas City; it is going to be on the road for quite some time—the remaining itinerary is: December 8, 1985-January 19, 1986, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Cedar Rapids, IA. 1986 dates: February 9-March 23, Duke



Robert Henri, *Painter* (1931)
(Courtesy of the International Exhibitions Foundation,
Washington, D.C.)



Connoisseurs of Prints (1905)

(Courtesy of the International Exhibitions Foundation, Washington, D.C.)

University Museum of Art, Durham, NC; April 13-May 25, The Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH; June 15-July 27, Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum, Anchorage, AL; August 17-September 28, The Edmonton Art Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta; October 19-November 30, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA; December 21, 1986-February 1, 1987, Fort Lauderdale Museum of the Arts, Fort Lauderdale, FL. 1987 dates: February 22-April 5, Beaumont Art Museum, Beaumont, TX; April 26-June 7, OPEN; June 28-August 9, Oklahoma Art Center, Oklahoma City, OK; August 30-October 4, Wichita Falls Museum and Art Center, Wichita Falls, TX. Catch it if you can!

Of CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN SCIENCE POLICY. Edited by James C. Petersen. Cambridge: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984, \$23.50 cloth; 9.95 paper, Ham Cravens says the following: In recent years there has been much public criticism of professional expertise as the only guide to public policy which deals with issues of science, technology and medicine. This is in line with the dominant notions of our age, which assume the whole is no greater than the sum of its parts, and the general anti-bigness, anti-tradition, anti-history tone of much public discussion. As you know, that has been growing in intensity since the 1950s. We even see it now in the new classical economics as compared with the now old-fashioned Keynesian economics of the 1920-1960 era. With regards to science, technology and medical policy there has been considerable skepticism directed towards the experts (consider the films *Dr. Strangelove* [1964] and *The Hospital* [1970] as premier examples). In a sense the present volume is a reflection of that

trend, and no more. We have a baker's dozen of essays in less than 240 pages, written by social scientists who wish to instruct us on why and how citizens should participate in the making of science, technology and medicine public policy. For the uninitiated this could be a useful primer, especially for consciousness-raising. The essays do not go into enough depth to allow the unwary reader to understand the complexities of the issues of policy-making. Nor do they really outline how to make policy; for those interested in such matters, it is probably wiser to join valuable organizations such as the Sierra Club. Nor are there sufficiently lengthy bibliographies to guide those interested in pursuing the matter. There has been a lot printed in recent years by scholars interested in "Science, Technology, and Society," much of it poor. The present volume seems not so much incompetent as inadequate for much further use by scholars or activists. One could almost say that its major utility is that it permitted more than a dozen scholars to add a line or two to their c.v.'s. For someone like myself who believes that the issues are complex but that expertise is responsible to the public, at least morally, I find this book something that is not very helpful.

For American Studies scholars and teachers who want to catch up on the growing secondary literature on the history of American science, Cravens has a more favorable opinion on a new historiographical volume, HISTORICAL WRITING ON AMERICAN SCIENCE, Edited by Sally G. Kohlstedt and Margaret W. Rossiter: It is a special thematic issue of *Osiris*, the newly-revived monograph journal of the History of Science Society (second series, Vol. 1, 1985), available from the *Isis* editorial office,