

THE AMERICAN SELF: Myth, Ideology and Popular Culture. Edited by Sam B. Girgus. Albuquerque, New Mexico: University of New Mexico Press. 1981. \$20.00.

Seventeen papers growing out of a lecture series, thoughtful, interesting and useful essays among them. The authors represented are Shelley Armitage, George Arms, Houston A. Baker, Jr., James Barbour, Sacvan Bercovitch, Walter Blair, John Cawelti, William C. Downing, Joel Jones, Peter A. Lupsha, Lillian Schlissel, Robert Sklar, Henry Nash Smith, Ference Szasz, Alan Trachtenberg, Marta Weigle and Sam B. Girgus himself. The variety of approaches is refreshing, and the quality of many of these contributions gives sheering evidence of the vitality of our field. I learned from them.

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SUBURB: Neighborhood and Community in Forest Park, Ohio, 1935-1976. By Zane L. Miller. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press. 1981. \$18.50

Sociological studies of suburban life have tended to lack historical context. This excellent history of Forest Park, outside Cincinnati, from its beginnings as a New Deal "greenbelt town," is an important contribution toward filling the gap in our knowledge about the process of suburbanization. The work is the more valuable because Miller has attempted to deal with the Forest Park story as "symptomatic" of the ways in which Americans generally have defined their society and structured their communities during the middle third of the twentieth century. A question remains about how typical Forest Park was or is. As Miller acknowledges, Forest Park—unlike most American suburbs—began as a consciously planned "community." Thus the validity of his broader generalizations about the shifts in popular attitudes and values must await the further research which one hopes this provocative study will stimulate.

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visual arts

OKLAHOMA HOMES PAST AND PRESENT. By Charles R. Goins and John W. Morris. Norman: University of Oklahoma. 1980. \$25.00.

This handsomely bound quarto provides a visual survey, in 400-plus photos, of a variety of residential structures. These range from tipis and sod huts to quite recent detached houses. We are told that the examples were selected because they are "good examples of a specific type of architecture at a specific time," or have historical significance, or are associated with someone well-known. However, the short introduction that provides some general observations, the brief, individual commentaries and the curiously inconsistent organization do not particularly enlighten us on these criteria or about the history of Oklahoma's architecture. Obviously the book is not intended as a serious historical or critical study; and it is too big and too expensive to serve as a handbook or guide. Thus we can recommend it only as a compilation of identified illustrations (though inexplicably architects are not noted, even when this was feasible) and nothing more.

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THE IMAGE OF THOMAS JEFFERSON IN THE PUBLIC EYE: Portraits for the People, 1800-1809. By Noble E. Cunningham, Jr. Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia. 1981. \$14.95.

This tastefully designed, quarto-size book is a narrative catalogue of the printed images of Thomas Jefferson that were produced or seen by Jefferson's contemporaries during his presidential years, and the preceding election year. In the process of learning what was produced, and by whom, we gain a useful insight into the procedures that were followed in the publication and distribution of portraits of illustrious Americans in the first several decades of the Republic. One consequence of this is that it is