Yet the Americanization of Zionism had its costs—costs that Urofsky is aware of, but downplays. As the Israeli sociologist Yonathan Shapiro has argued, in his *Leadership of the American Zionist Organization, 1897-1930* (1971), the narrow focus upon Palestine undercut what had been Zionism's larger goal of a Jewish cultural revival. Since 1948, the commitment to Israel has drained attention, energies, and resources away from most other aspects of Jewish life in America. Too many American Jews have come to look upon support for Israel as the sum total of their Jewishness. And paradoxically, even ironically, the recent twists and turns of international power politics have raised once again the specter of the charge of divided loyalties.

University of Nebraska

John Braerman


A useful collection of ten essays on women's history which spans two centuries of American growth and cultural change. The topics covered are all innovative and important, even if the individual essays themselves are of uneven value. Among the livelier articles is a particularly welcome essay on the decline of the female midwife, another fresh look at Anne Hutchinson, an illuminating essay on the women of the Children's Bureau, and a evaluation of the life and work of Harriet Tubman.

University of Kansas

Regina Morantz


Eleven articles on the general theme of “area specialists” v. “theory-builders” in the social sciences.

Southwest Missouri State University

Frank Mazzella

reference works


In every case in which I checked the listings in fields I know well, I found small inaccuracies, omissions or other faults to complain about. But such things are undoubtedly inevitable—and some, after all, are matters of judgment and opinion—in a project as vast as this. The present edition is much expanded from the one of 1953, and I have made repeated use of it in the weeks that it has been sitting on my desk awaiting review. Since the editors say that usefulness is higher on their list of priorities than is consistency, there seems no reason to quibble, and much to be grateful for.

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Professional librarians to whom I showed the volume found its coverage “somewhat capricious.” We note it because it lists a bibliographical project to define American Studies through content analysis of the contents of *American Quarterly*. An adequate definition of American Studies will be available eleven years after the assimilation of American Indians and the conversion of the Jews.

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I showed this around to colleagues in literature and asked, How is it on the figures you know best? It got some high marks and some low marks; there was consistency in the ratings, too: its coverage of certain authors was always thought good, and others bad. A frequent observation: almost everything in print on certain minor figures is included, while listings for major figures are extremely selective, yet too frequently include mediocre or merely fashionable studies. This journal is listed only under its old title.

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