

## REVIEWS

Robert Stinson, ed. *The Faces of Clio: An Anthology of Classics in Historical Writing from Ancient Times to the Present*. Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1987. Pp. ix, 371. Cloth, \$29.95.

Any anthology evokes a professional response concerning sins of inclusion and omission, and *Faces of Clio* is no exception. Within his frame, however, the editor brings together some choice examples of the historical craft. There are 21 entries here, each preceded by a couple of pages of editorial comment and each limited to about twenty pages.

Five examples are drawn from the ancient world, beginning with the anonymous "Succession Narrative" from the Book of Samuel and extending through Herodotus, Thucydides, Livy, and Tacitus. With the possible exception of the Biblical entry, there are no surprises here.

For the medieval period, Stinson offers Bede, Froissart, and Guicciardini. Early modernists are represented by William Bradford and Gibbon. Again, no surprises, although Froissart and Bradford are running in pretty fast company. Thus, almost half of the offerings are from the "pre-professional" period of historical writing.

With Ranke, the collection enters the modern period of historical professionalism, although great stylists like Macaulay, Michelet, and Parkman are included. Marx makes his customary appearance, as does Frederick Jackson Turner. In the twentieth century we hear from Charles and Mary Beard (one entry), Febvre, Crane Brinton, and William Aydelotte. The editor closes with William Langer's famous presidential address to the American Historical Association concerning psychohistory.

In terms of the subject matter within the selections, that of the earlier periods emphasizes war, murder, and other assorted acts of maiming and skulduggery (the Bible was never so exciting). Bede, Bradford, Gibbon, and Ranke feature varieties of religious history, the last two balancing the first pair in perspective. Froissart is as chivalrous as always, and Guicciardini speaks of diplomacy.

The more modern the selections get, the more they emphasize social and economic issues—a fair assessment of the development of the craft. Macaulay and Michelet both describe scenes of turmoil amid the revolutionary situations of their respective countries (against these other masters, the Englishman more than holds his own). With Parkman, the language of the grand stylist continues, in this instance in the service of the history of exploration, but then Marx, Turner, the Beards, Febvre, and Brinton all present more rigorous and patterned interpretations of their subjects—in the case of the Beards, the famed designation of the Civil War as the "second American Revolution."

Finally, the newer dimensions of quantohistory and psychohistory are represented by Aydelotte and Langer respectively. Overall, these selections demonstrate balance and proportion in the time scale of historical writing. Most of them deserve to be grouped under such a title.

Stinson's introductions to the selections are helpful and generally on target. This book, however, is no substitute for the four-volume *Historians at Work* (1972-1975), edited by Peter Gay, Gerald Cavanaugh, and Victor Wexler. It is, at best, a very partial sampling in a too-brief format.

A more important caveat is that the selections are in no way linked thematically, but instead appear chronologically as to author. There is no explanation of the *development* of historical writing. For that matter, there is little discussion of why these selections are "classics" in the first place. Thus, the beginning student is cycled from one selection to another with extremely limited background preparation. This is a problem with the format rather than the selections themselves.

As to our initial concern, many of the "big names" are here, but without a firmer contextual preparation, much of the authors' work (Bradford, Michelet, and Febvre in particular) is likely to sail right on by. Aydelotte is a fine choice for a quantifier, but his selection, "Voting Patterns in the British House of Commons in the 1840s," is the only real clinker in the collection.

The overall focus, regrettably, is on works from the Western tradition only. This is unfortunate, for although the Orient, India, Russia, and the Middle East all have weaker historical traditions than does the West, each offers types of historical writing based on differing cultural appreciations of the past. Any anthology entitled "Historical Writing from Ancient Times to the Present" should have an omnibus quality, and the editor might well have considered their inclusion.

*The Faces of Clío* cannot be used at the undergraduate level without thorough preparation and guidance by the instructor. For graduate students, some of the material may already be familiar. The wider question, whether the anthology format is the best way to meet the masters, wrenching their writing, as it were, from their holistic context, must remain in abeyance.

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Philip F. Riley *et. al.*, eds. *The Global Experience*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1988. Volume I: *Readings in World History to 1500*. Pp. xii, 285. Volume II: *Readings in World History since 1500*. Pp. xiv, 314. Paper, \$19.00 each.

This balanced, relatively brief anthology of primary materials is designed mainly to be used as supplementary readings for introductory courses in world history. Organized chronologically, the editors had three main concerns: (1) the conviction that the study of world history is the most helpful way to introduce students to an informed understanding of the world of today; (2) the desire to underscore global patterns of development by encouraging the comparative approach to history; and (3) the realization that most college students can benefit from introductory comments that explain the background of the readings.

The collection does contain a good balance between western and non-western sources. The emphasis is upon Eurasian history (Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia), with the second volume containing significant material relating to the relationship of the United States to world developments. Relatively little material is devoted to Africa, the American Indians, Latin America, or the Pacific islands. For an introductory course in world history, the editors appear to have made a valid emphasis, for there are good reasons to concentrate upon the distinct achievements of the major civilizations.

In preparing a collection of this sort, the editors had to decide whether to have short snippets of many readings or to have longer selections of fewer sources. The editors chose to take the first alternative, with the average selection containing less than three pages. This means that the reader will get some introduction to a great breadth of material, but it also means, unfortunately, that the average reader will not obtain a great deal of depth into the various topics.

Although the selections are generally well chosen, I do have the impression that the editors might have tried a little harder to find more readings with the human element that tends to attract college students. This is not to suggest that such readings are entirely absent from the two volumes. College students, for example, will be especially fascinated by the material relating to the religions of Asia, by Procopius's description of Theodora, by the readings on comparative fascism, by the material relating to modern dictators, and