

## Collecting Political Americana

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## THE ANNALS OF IOWA

into depression. Parrini contends that Hoover's campaign for international economic reform failed because of his misplaced faith in the ability of corporate capitalists to behave in a "socially responsible manner." Such a contention ignores fundamental weaknesses in the interwar international economy, but it does point out the importance ascribed to corporate capitalists by those charged with responsibility for foreign policy making during this period.

Unfortunately, since it was the first important test in Hoover's public career, this volume does not include an article on the Commission for Relief in Belgium. But despite this omission, the scope and importance of Hoover's wartime and early postwar activities comes through clearly. How, then, do we evaluate Herbert Hoover's early public years? Robert Himmelberg attempts to answer this question by examining contemporary editorial opinion in newspapers and magazines. "Hoover's Public Image, 1919-1920" was that of an anti-bolshevik, liberal progressive, conservative, "heroic administrator," and "indispensable man" all rolled into one. He symbolized and epitomized a new type of leadership, rising out of the Progressive period and World War I, which sought to place American traditions and principles within the context of an interdependent world order dominated by corporate capitalism. His appeal to "voluntarism" and "individualism" reflected a commitment to long-standing, if mythical, American beliefs. But as Cuff, Van Meter and Parrini note, his allegiance to such traditional beliefs was overshadowed by a stronger devotion to the type of rationality, stability, and growth promised by corporate capitalism and elitist control. If this description has a familiar ring to it, readers may benefit by perusing the articles in this collection for insights into both the early years of Hoover's public career and the leadership of today.

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*Collecting Political Americana*, by Edmund B. Sullivan. New York: Crown Publishers, Inc., 1980. pp. viii, 224. Photographs, appendices, bibliography, index. \$15.95.

This book is a feast for the connoisseur of political Americana, a helpful reference work for the historian, and a delight for the general reader. Sullivan, curator of the University of Hartford's DeWitt Col-

## Book Reviews

lection of Political Americana, traces the evolution of political artifacts from their introduction in 1789 through the campaigns of the 1970s. His survey includes not only political buttons but also lanterns, hats, watch fobs, posters, commemorative flasks, medals, badges, snuff boxes, dishes, ribbons, umbrellas, and myriad other items produced in support of or opposition to a candidate or political issue. (Strangely, no mention is made of bumper stickers.)

Hundreds of clear illustrations, both in black and white and full color, are provided as examples of both common and rare political material. The accompanying text offers useful and accurate insights into the social, economic, and sometimes diplomatic contexts in which these items were employed.

In addition to describing the great variety of political items utilized over the decades, Sullivan provides valuable chapters that tell the embryonic collector how to detect reproductions and how to protect the assembled (and sometimes quite costly) items. Appendices include a glossary of terms, campaign slogans, collectors' organizations, publications, sources of political Americana material, a guide to approximate values, and a table of winning and losing candidates (which, unfortunately, ignores most third party representatives). *Collecting Political Americana* is a well researched, well written, and superbly produced book.

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*Jacob Hamblin, Mormon Apostle to the Indians*, by Juanita Brooks.  
Salt Lake City: Westwater Press, Inc., 1980. pp. vi, 137. Sketches, maps. \$12.95 cloth, \$6.95 paper.

This book is not a traditional history, nor is it a biography of Jacob Hamblin in any traditional sense. Rather it is a series of literary essays based upon a number of dramatic events in the life of Jacob Hamblin. As a consequence, it does not meet Mrs. Brooks's traditional standard of carefully documented history, with footnoted dates, names, and sources. On the other hand, the book without question exhibits some of her finest literary skills.

As a story teller, Juanita is superb. She uses a dozen historic happen-

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