

Book Notes / References Bibliographiques

Volume 42, 1998

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/llt42bn01>

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

Éditeur(s)

Canadian Committee on Labour History

ISSN

0700-3862 (imprimé)

1911-4842 (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer cet article

(1998). Book Notes / References Bibliographiques. *Labour/Le Travailleur*, 42, 319–322.

BOOK NOTES / RÉFÉRENCES BIBLIOGRAPHIQUES

Matthew Cullerne Bown, *Socialist Realist Painting* (New Haven: Yale University Press 1998).

THE AUTHOR traces socialist realist painting in Russia and the Soviet Union from its roots in the 19th century to 1991. Bown challenges those who have ignored the national, pre-revolutionary beginnings of the form and are quick to equate socialist realism with Stalinism. He gives a full, sympathetic, and analytical account that takes this art form seriously. The book is richly illustrated and its observations and conclusions will surprise and enlighten those who see socialist realism only as left kitsch.

André Schiffrin, ed., *The Cold War and the University: Toward an Intellectual History of the Postwar Years* (New York: The New Press 1997).

THIS WIDE-ranging collection of essays examines the moral effects of the Cold War on university teaching and research as well as in fields such as history, English, anthropology, earth science, and area studies. Contributors include David Montgomery, R.C. Lewontin, Howard Zinn, Richard Ohmann, Laura Nader, Ray Siever, Noam Chomsky, Immanuel Wallerstein, and Ira Katznelson. Some of the essays are personal accounts, others more general analyses; together they provide fascinating glimpses of this important subject.

Eric Hobsbawm, *On History* (New York: The New Press 1997).

THIS COLLECTION of essays written between 1969 and 1996 demonstrates the amazing range and intellect of one of our greatest historians as he reflects on the writing and philosophy of history. While many of the articles have already appeared in print, several are published here for the first time, including Hobsbawm's 1996 Isaac Deutscher lecture and his "What Can History Tell Us About Contemporary Society?" Many of the older essays still have much to teach us, and the new ones are stimulating, even when they provoke disagreement.

Sarah Richardson, Merylyn Cherry, Sammy Palfrey, Gail Chester, *Writing on the Line: 20th Century Working Class Women Writers* (London: Working Press 1996).

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES and lists of the works of contemporary working class women writers make up the bulk of this volume. Three short essays contextualize the book list, examine the role of women in the literature of the 1984 British miners strike, and explore the problems working class women writers face.

320 LABOUR/LE TRAVAIL

Geoffrey O'Brien, *Hardboiled America: Lurid Paperbacks and the Masters of Noir*. Expanded Edition (New York: Da Capo Press 1997).

DOWN THESE mean streets a historian must go *Hardboiled America* is a thoughtful social and literary history of the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. Using the sensational cover art of the hardboiled paperback as his departure point, O'Brien explores the meaning behind the illustrations to examine the fiction of Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler, Mickey Spillane, John D. MacDonald, and others.

James C. Docherty, *Historical Dictionary of Organized Labor* (Lanham and London: The Scarecrow Press 1996).

PART OF THE series of *Historical Dictionaries of Religions, Philosophies, and Movements*, this volume gives useful thumbnail sketches of people, ideas, and movements ranging from Alliance for Labor Action to *Zentralarbeitsgemeinschaft*. The book has an international scope, but those interested in Canadian labour will not find much. Several appendices give a glossary of labour terms, a chronology of labour from 1152 BC (Egyptian tomb makers strike) to 1996 (drive to unionize Toys "R" Us in 60 nations), several tables on union membership statistics, and a 65-page bibliography.

Roger S. Powers, William B. Voegelé, eds., *Protest, Power, and Change: An Encyclopedia of Nonviolent Action from ACT-UP to Women's Suffrage* (New York: Garland Publishing 1997).

THE EDITORS define non-violent action as "a range of methods for actively waging conflict without directly threatening or inflicting physical harm to human beings." The result is an eclectic reference volume, covering a wide variety of topics

only hinted at by the title. The emphasis is on the 20th century, and the US, but the more than 300 entries include the Zambia anti-colonial movement, Doukhobors, the intifada, and satyagraha. Entries on people range from Jane Addams to Lech Walesa.

William K. Carroll, ed., *Organizing Dissent: Contemporary Social Movements in Theory and Practice* (Toronto: Garamond Press 1997).

SEVERAL NEW articles and considerably revised articles from the first edition reflect on "new social movements" such as first nations, AIDS activism, environmentalism, labour, and the women's movement. The fifteen authors draw upon their experience and different methodologies to examine "the politics of counter-hegemony."

Albert Fried, ed., *Communism in America: A History in Documents* (New York: Columbia University Press 1997).

THIS IS AN important collection for anyone interested in American communism, and an extremely useful collection for teaching the subject. A thoughtful introduction and a comprehensive bibliographic essay frame primary documents from the 1920s to 1990s. Memoirs, letters, essays, songs, and party statements are arranged chronologically and cover themes such as art, unemployment, the "Negro Question," literature, the Popular Front, and the New Left.

Bruce Laurie, *Artisans into Workers: Labor in Nineteenth-Century America* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press 1997).

FIRST PUBLISHED in 1989, *Artisans into Workers* is a highly readable account that "seeks to merge the institutional focus of the old labor history with the special so-

cial and cultural insights of the new labor history." Laurie emphasizes the persistence of radicalism and the antipathy of capital and the state that workers faced.

Peter C. Rollins, ed., *Hollywood as Historian: American Film in Cultural Context* Revised edition (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky 1998).

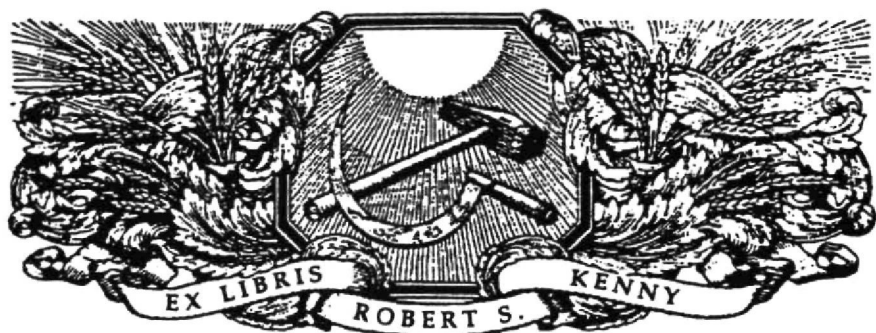
ORIGINALLY published in 1983, this volume's twelve essays examine how Hollywood's myths and symbols have shaped American historical consciousness. Of particular interest to *Labour/Le Travail* readers are the essays on New Deal documentaries, Charlie Chaplin, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *On the Waterfront*, and *Dr. Strangelove*. The revision consists of a bibliographical essay by the editor, "Film, Television, and American Studies: A 1998 Update."

R.T. Naylor, *The History of Canadian Business, 1867-1914* (Montréal: Black Rose Books 1997).

THIS IS A one volume re-issue of the classic study published in 1975. A breezy introduction by Mel Watkins outlines the history and the significance of the book and, despite the work of several Canadian Marxist historians, clings to the explanatory power of the staples theory.

Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (New York: Monthly Review Press 1998).

THE 150TH anniversary of the publication of the *Manifesto* has occasioned a number of new editions. This one is a photo-reprint of a hand-set edition first printed in 1932, and contains Engels' "Principles of Communism," a foreword by Paul M. Sweezy, and an essay by Ellen Meiksins Wood, "The Communist Manifesto After 150 Years."



Announcing the:

Robert S. Kenny Prize
in
Marxist & Labour/Left Studies

In memory of the late Robert S. Kenny, a committed Marxist and long-time collector of books, pamphlets, periodicals, and ephemera relating to radicalism and the workers' movement, an annual prize will be awarded to writing that advances those causes to which Kenny devoted so much of his life. Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada writing on topics related to Marxist and labour/left studies or international scholars publishing in such areas as they relate to Canada, are eligible for the award. The winner will receive \$1000, and will be expected to deliver a public lecture at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto.

All nominations for the Robert S. Kenny Prize, along with 3 copies of the nominee's designated written work (scholarly article, published monograph or exceptional doctoral thesis) and a brief one-page statement of its relevance and significance to Marxist & Labour/Left Studies, are to be submitted to Professor Bryan D. Palmer, Editor, Labour/Le Travail, Department of History, Queen's University, Kingston Ontario, Canada K7L 3N6

Closing Date for nominations is 29 June 1999

Winner 1998 Kenny Prize

**Larry Hannant, *The Politics of Passion:
Norman Bethune's Writing and Art*
(Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1998)**