

the 1920's, Professor D. Joy Humes has brought together the noble ideals of this uncompromising reformer and editor in the dreary decade of conformity that lay between the two world wars. Villard was a singularly fortunate individual in the legacy that he inherited—a happy combination of militancy of belief and money in the bank. His father, Henry Villard, like that other remarkable German-American, Carl Schurz, took his youthful stand for freedom in the revolution of 1848, came to America, and left his mark upon our history. Henry Villard was a newspaperman and railroad magnate—he bought the *New York Evening Post*, the *New York Nation*, and the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1881. The *Nation*, which had under the Godkin-Garrison editorship become a towering political weekly, had lost much of its influence in the early years of the twentieth century. In the years of Oswald Garrison Villard's editorship, 1918–1932, the *Nation* might well have carried on its masthead the prophetic words of the editor's grandfather "I will be heard." And indeed he was. The reforms he advocated, the causes he sponsored, the groups he led—one wonders how he ever found time to write—characterized what has come down to us as the little, but highly articulate, liberalism of the Twenties. A liberal could know not only where he stood, but where his political friends stood by reading Villard's *Nation*.

I would have preferred it if Miss Humes had drawn more deeply upon the *Nation* files, where the immediacy of action statements has vibrancy, and less upon Villard's recollection in *Fighting Years*—and if she had included more documentation of quoted material. However she has brought together accurately material that has needed not only statement for the record, but also repetition for the edification of a new generation of conformists.

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ARTHUR S. LINK. *Wilson: The Struggle for Neutrality, 1914–1915*. Pp. x, 736. Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press, 1960. \$10.00.

As in his previous volumes on Woodrow Wilson, Arthur S. Link, in this study, lives up to his own standards of excellence. The scholarship is thorough, the style readable, and the analysis sound. He is successful in avoiding repetition as he writes his successive books, despite their common denominator, the life and personality of Woodrow Wilson. In this volume, it is interesting to trace the evolution in the outlook of the American leader as he is confronted in 1914 and 1915 with the complex problems arising both from the outbreak of the First World War in Europe and from developments in Latin America and the Far East.

The crisis over the sinking of the *Lusitania* and President Wilson's handling of the situation stand out in the analysis. Despite various claims, behavioral research in decision-making can add very little to historical accounts which are as skillfully and brilliantly presented as this one by Dr. Link. True, the process by which the President reached his decisions in the *Lusitania* crisis, the various pressures bearing upon him, and the psychological aspects of personality can be clothed in different terminology, and hypothetical insights can be advanced. But when stripped to essentials, the version cannot be basically altered from that given by the author. If any change should occur, it will come through the discovery of new documentation, which is in this case unlikely, not through the application of new methods of analysis. After more volumes of this type are published, a better balance will be achieved between what the behaviorist and the nonbehaviorist, each in his own frame of reference, can realistically contribute to decision-making.

In his chapter on the Far Eastern crisis of 1915, focusing on Japan's twenty-one demands to China, the author carefully provides background that will be of more value when he eventually considers Wilson's China policy at the Paris Peace Conference. Dr. Link correctly concludes that the "decision to play an active role as China's defender," reached during the 1915 crisis, "was made by President Wilson almost alone."

The foreign policy of the United States

in the Wilsonian era affords excellent opportunities for study and evaluation. Contributing factors are the key role of the President, his methods of operation, and the preservation of documentation. Many times Wilson himself typed short memos signed "W.W." which are invaluable for the researcher. It is hoped that Dr. Link will continue in his future volumes the excellence of this latest one in which he begins to consider the President more and more as a world figure.

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LAWRENCE H. LEDER. *Robert Livingston, 1654-1728, and the Politics of Colonial New York*. Pp. x, 306. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press for the Institute of Early American Culture at Williamsburg, Virginia, 1961. \$6.00.

Robert Livingston, son of a Scottish clergyman, came to America in 1673 at the age of nineteen. He was already bilingual and experienced as a merchant—the result of living in exile for nearly a decade with his parents in Holland. His knowledge of the Dutch language gave Livingston an immediate and permanent advantage along the Hudson. Many of his records—for half a century—and much of his preserved correspondence are in Dutch. This biography is the first study based on translations of these records, which contribute much to the understanding of an outstanding career.

This was a many-sided career, and it is futile to speculate wherein Livingston accomplished the most. His success was obviously the result of his—and his wife's—skill at combining politics, land-grabbing and development, and the activities of a colonial merchant-skipper. Although the title of this biography, and the headings of fifteen of the seventeen chapters, emphasize the political life and times, the narrative also provides the best evidence yet published on the other aspects of a well-balanced career. The Dutch records, especially, show the full influence of Mrs. Livingston—Alida Schuyler Van Rensselaer—who contributed almost as indispensably to the development of Livingston Manor,

and to mercantile management, as she did to the founding of a family that is represented by nine listings, under the surname alone, in the *Dictionary of American Biography*. It is possible that Robert Livingston could have ended in debtors prison, as did several of his illustrious contemporaries, had it not been for his ability, for years, to draw funds back and forth between private mercantile and land ventures and governmental contracts, which were very speculative and uncertain in payment, but apparently eventually profitable.

Professor Leder well portrays the political career of Livingston as a local official in the town of Albany, as Indian Commissioner and Secretary for Indian Affairs, as leader of the anti-Leiserians and later of the more moderate middle group in colonial politics, as colonial man of affairs lobbying successfully in London for payment of his own accounts—and occasionally for the colony, as member of the Governor's Council, and as Speaker of the Assembly and friend of the Royal Governor. In many of these capacities, Livingston's primary interest was evidently to secure payment of his personal, usually long overdue, claims as victualer of the troops and contractor in other matters to the colonial and British governments, and in his salary as an official. His descendants profited most from the income from Livingston Manor. According to this author, the creation of this landed estate by Robert Livingston was based on "one of the grossest land frauds ever perpetrated in an age noted for unethical dealings." Livingston bought three hundred acres, later acquired two thousand acres, and then obtained some kind of title to some intervening Indian lands later not considered sufficiently important to justify mentioning in a vital lawsuit. The Governor was persuaded to confirm these holdings by a patent to lands which, when surveyed many years later, covered 160,000 acres.

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