

Book Notices

Luxembourgers in the New World, edited by Jean Enschede, Jean-Claude Muller, and Robert E. Owen. Revised edition based on Nicholas Gonner's *Die Luxemburger in der Neuen Welt*. 2 volumes. Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg: Editions-Reliures Schortgen, 1987. 393 + 682 pp. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. \$54.00 paper.

REVIEWED BY JOSEPH W. WALT, SIMPSON COLLEGE

Luxembourgers in the New World is a thorough revision and update of Nicholas Gonner's *Die Luxemburger in der Neuen Welt*, published in Dubuque in 1889. Gonner, who emigrated from Luxembourg to the United States in 1866, settled six years later in Dubuque, where he took over as publisher of the fledgling weekly German-language *Luxemburger Gazette*. He wrote, edited, and published that newspaper until his death in 1982, and he also edited a Catholic weekly, *Iowa*. In these newspapers he became known as "the personification of all things Luxembourg in America." A colorful editor in the grand tradition of nineteenth-century journalism, he was a militant Catholic, Democrat, and antiprohibitionist.

Gonner's 1889 book was the best compendium of information about Luxembourg emigration to the New World. The revised edition, available for the first time in English, is the work of editors Jean Enschede, head of the population bureau of the City of Luxembourg; Jean Claude Muller, a Luxembourg historian who holds degrees from Bonn, Oxford, the Sorbonne, and Yale; and Robert E. Owen, researcher and graduate of the University of Wisconsin, associated with Heritage Surveys. The translation into English is the work of Muller and Gerald L. Liebenau, a German-born graduate of Yale. The first volume includes a detailed, decade-by-decade story of Luxembourg emigration to America during the nineteenth century, a state-by-state record of settlements in the United States of nearly twenty-four thousand Luxembourg immigrants, most of whom came to the Midwest (five thousand to Iowa alone), and a useful account of Luxembourgers in politics, the military, and religious and ethnic organizations. The volume also contains some helpful sections for genealogists, including ship passenger manifests, an emigration bibliography, an inventory of archival sources on emigrants in Luxembourg, and a guide to family history research in the Grand Duchy. The second volume contains a huge index, the work of Jean Enschede, of the

Luxemburger Gazette from 1871 to 1918, including a list of personal names, of Luxembourgish surnames, and of localities (in Luxembourg and America).

This revised edition of Gonner's book is surely the best work on Luxembourg emigration to North America, and readers will be grateful that it is updated and available in English. The index volume should be a boon to genealogists. The only other similar work that exists on emigration to the United States from another very small European country is Norbert Jansen's *Nach Amerika*, chronicling the story of emigrants from Liechtenstein to North America up to 1976.

Personal Writings by Women to 1900: A Bibliography of American and British Writers, compiled by Gwenn Davis and Beverly A. Joyce. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1989. xv, 294 pp. Chronological appendix, topic index. \$65.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY JUDY NOLTE LENSINK, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

This reference work brings together citations of published personal writings by British and American women published from 1475 to 1900. The entries are drawn predominantly from three sources: the British Museum's *General Catalogue of Printed Books*, the *National Union Catalog, Pre-1956 Imprints*, and the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) database. The compilers note, "Personal writing, as we define it here, covers a range of types and genres, from spiritual autobiographies to accounts of lawsuits, from explorations of the African continent to diaries of domestic life in villages. The main criteria are that these works represent women's accounts of their feelings and pursuits in their own words and that they appeared in printed books" (vii). Thus, while correspondence and a wide range of autobiographical writing are included, biographies are not.

There are almost five thousand citations, including numerous cross-listings of women's natal, married, and pen names. Each citation gives the title of the work, its publication date, a brief annotation, and the finding aid source. The chronological appendix groups texts in fifty-year categories. Index listings include subject matter (abolitionism to zenanas), geographical location, the author's public role, and type of writing (captivity narrative, journal, memorial).

The appendix and index allow researchers to find similar writings by women previously listed in disparate reference works. On the other hand, this volume is only an intermediate finding aid, since the locations of the sometimes rare published writings are not included in the citations. If shelved next to the *National Union Catalog of Manu-*

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