

Garland's interests in the condition of women in America had moved beyond the narrow economic to the broad issue of women's rights in general and the need for a fundamental reorientation of thinking about the nature of those rights.

The six selections in the second section of the edition were selected from Garland's prolific writing for newspapers and magazines during his early career. They were chosen to reflect the major areas of his radical thought and activism during this period, as well as the focus of many of his short stories. In one essay, "'Single Tax' and Woman Suffrage," Garland makes clear that he fully accepts Henry George's position that economic reform is the key to achieving the goal of equal rights for women. He revisits the single tax issue again in "The Land Question, and its Relation to Art and Literature." Pizer also includes essays in which Garland argues for the need for American writers to pursue more authentic and inclusive subjects in fiction and theater.

This collection of well-chosen and stimulating pieces may come as a surprise to many readers not familiar with Garland, and even some who are. In addition, Pizer's incisive and informative general introduction, together with his specific introductions to individual pieces in the second section of the book, as well as the careful annotations, may stimulate new scholarship on a neglected writer and on issues that are critical to understanding late nineteenth-century American literature. Finally, the book will be particularly valuable to midwestern readers and historians in Nebraska, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, and, especially, Iowa.

*Louise Pound: Scholar, Athlete, Feminist Pioneer*, by Robert Cochran. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2009. xi, 319 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$40.00 cloth.

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Robert Cochran serves his subject well in this biography of Louise Pound (1872–1958), longtime University of Nebraska professor and groundbreaking scholar in American folklore and linguistics. Pound strikes the reader as a redoubtable woman who approached every enterprise with zest, determination, and (her occasional professions to the contrary notwithstanding) supreme self-confidence.

One of the three children of westering New York Quakers who became charter members of Lincoln's elite, Pound emerged from the "frontier classics oasis" (17) of her parents' home, earned her B.A.

(1892) and M.A. (1895) at the University of Nebraska and then headed east, first to the University of Chicago and next to the University of Heidelberg, where she completed a Ph.D. in one year (1899–1900). Back home, Pound took up a position in Nebraska's Department of English, where she "rocketed through the academic ranks" (151), becoming full professor in 1912 and making a name for herself as a feisty contributor to the field of literature. By the time she retired in 1945, Pound had made an even more enduring mark as a major scholar in American folklore and linguistics; in 1955 she was honored as the first female president of the Modern Language Association. (She had already held the presidencies of the American Folklore Society and the American Dialect Society).

Cochran works the pioneering motif insistently as he charts Pound's rise to prominence. Her parents arrived in Nebraska "near the beginning and grew up with the country" (7); they battled drought, floods, and plagues of grasshoppers but stuck them out and went on to help transform "rude frontier" into "flourishing and civilized society" (8); Pound's academic success was rooted in the "little school on the prairie," which was the family home (19); and so on, until the 1930s, when the progeny of this pioneering, civilizing people took on the eastern scholarly establishment in the "ballad war." From this, Cochran writes, Pound emerged "victorious, the east goes down before the west, more than corn and hogs are raised in Nebraska" (177).

It's hard not to get caught up in this "thoroughgoing regional optimism" (44) and imagine oneself in Pound's corner, cheering on the bumptious Boeotian. And there is a lot to cheer besides Pound's academic achievements, for she was also a talented and fiercely competitive sportswoman who notched records and championship titles in bicycling, tennis, basketball, and golf. In all this, Cochran intimates, the younger Pound exemplified the educated and emancipated woman, the active (if not organizing and agitating) feminist of turn-of-the-twentieth-century America; the older Pound contributed to the cause of women largely as a mentor and advocate of other female academics.

Despite Cochran's undoubted admiration for Pound, he adduces plenty of evidence for some less endearing wrinkles in her character. She was, for example, a snob with a fine disdain for anyone and anything common. This was surely significant for Pound's "bitterest battle" (13), that with Mabel Lee over women's athletics at Nebraska. A woman of Pound's class could take her sport seriously in the privacy of the country club or the university gymnasium without much risk of transgressing social, gender, or sexual mores. Tennis and golf — and, in Pound's days, basketball — were as acceptable for cultured young

women as needlepoint or watercolor painting had been for earlier generations. By the time Lee arrived on campus in 1924, however, the politics of sport were very different, and basketball especially was freighted by associations with newer, disturbing forms of womanhood: the unabashedly heterosexual athlete-as-beauty-queen and (ironically, given speculations as to Pound's own sexuality) the "mannish" lesbian. In such a context, while Pound may have been able to adhere cavalierly to a vision of women's sport formed in her youth, Lee was constrained to advance another vision.

Cochran's methodology adds to the impression of Pound as someone who lived a life untouched by all but the elevated and immediate influences of family and caste. He eschews historical contextualization in favor of a narrower focus that, when brought to bear on Pound's professional, social, and sporting experiences, offers a fascinating portrait of her and her milieu. When, however, he focuses minutely and at length on such matters as the scholarly pedigrees of Pound's teachers and mentors, or the particulars of her academic transcript, or dissects her writings and orations (including those of her undergraduate days) — well, there is a little too much of such detail. The emphasis on Pound's work is undoubtedly important because Cochran means to rescue her from the role to which biographers of her sometime close friend Willa Cather have consigned her — as "a bit player in . . . an ongoing debate over Cather's sexuality" (61) — but his handling of that work could have been defter. As for Pound's own sexuality, a topic Cochran discusses only grudgingly, he judges that while "her deepest feelings were for women" (121) she was a celibate who devoted her passion to work and career — and maybe sublimated just a little through sport.

Cochran is probably correct in believing that his subject would herself have considered the matter too personal to be publicly aired, and irrelevant besides, so his restraint is in keeping with both the woman and her biographer's stance. Respectful and sympathetic, but not uncritical, the work accords Pound due recognition for her scholarly and athletic achievements and establishes firmly the grounds upon which she could indeed lay claim to be "first woman" (259).