

Hamlin Garland, Prairie Radical: Writings from the 1890s, edited by Donald Pizer. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2010. xxvii, 162 pp. Notes, index. \$45.00 cloth.

Reviewer Joseph B. McCullough is Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is the author of *Hamlin Garland* (1978) and coeditor of *Selected Letters of Hamlin Garland* (1998).

Hamlin Garland's productive and varied literary career, during which he published almost 50 volumes, secured him a place in the literary history of the United States. His reputation rests principally on his fiction written before 1895, and particularly on his volume of short stories, *Main-Travelled Roads* (1891), and his autobiography, *A Son of the Middle Border* (1917).

In *Hamlin Garland, Prairie Radical*, Donald Pizer reprints several neglected stories and essays exemplifying Garland's radical fiction and nonfiction from 1887 to 1894, including four of his most outspoken stories depicting the harsh farm conditions experienced by mid-western farmers. As Pizer points out, "almost every one of the many causes Garland took up during this relatively brief period constitutes a significant phase in late nineteenth-century American radical belief and writing" (viii). The stories and essays also embody vivid examples of Garland as a staunch evolutionist and an advocate of woman suffrage and the single tax, a radical economic policy that proposed eliminating the private ownership of unused lands, which he derived from his reading of Henry George's *Progress and Poverty* (1879). Since Pizer's intent in this volume is to aid in the rediscovery of Garland as an 1890s prairie radical, he excluded better-known works by Garland that are readily accessible, such as the stories collected in various editions of *Main-Travelled Roads*. Two of the four works of fiction and all of the nonfiction items are collected here for the first time. Because Garland's knowledge of prairie farm and village life derived principally from the more than ten years (1869–1881) that he spent in Iowa during his formative years, it is not surprising that Iowa is the setting of most of his middle-border fiction. Of the six stories in the 1891 edition of *Main-Travelled Roads*, three ("A Branch Road," "Under the Lion's Paw," and "Mrs. Ripley's Trip") are set in Iowa, as are several sections from *A Son of the Middle Border*.

The four stories in the first section of *Hamlin Garland, Prairie Radical* reveal the basic configuration of Garland's radical interests over the course of his early career. "A Common Case," "John Boyle's Conclusion," and "A Prairie Heroine" dramatize the prairie farmer's plight largely in economic and political terms. By the time he wrote his novella "The Land of the Straddle-Bug," the final piece in this section,

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.

Reviewer Catriona Parratt is associate professor of American Studies at the University of Iowa. Her research and writing have focused on gender issues in the history of sport and leisure.

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.