

*and the People's Party*, published in 1931. McMath's book has some limitations—more might have been said about Southern Alliance activities in Iowa and the Dakotas, and the author fails to explain adequately why the Southern Alliance lost out so completely to the Northern Alliance in Nebraska. The early chapters are a chore to read, but fortunately, the study becomes much more lively. The chapter on "Brothers and Sisters: The Alliance as Community" is superb. More importantly, Professor McMath cogently develops his thesis of the Southern Alliance as the Populist vanguard.

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*Russian-German Settlements in the United States*, by Richard Sallet. Translated by La Vern J. Rippley and Armand Bauer. Fargo: North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, 1976. pp. xii, 297, \$9.50.

In the eighteenth century, Russian empress Catherine the Great, who was of German origin, granted liberal terms for Germans who wished to settle in Russia. Thousands did so, clustering near the Black Sea or the Volga River. For the next century these migrants retained their German language, religion, and culture within Russia. After 1870 when the Russian government threatened to make them subject to military service and in other ways restricted the liberal terms Catherine had granted, some of them migrated to the United States. The migration continued until World War I, by which time the Russian Germans had made a substantial place for themselves in American life as wheat and sugar beet farmers on the Great Plains.

As a young man in the 1920s Richard Sallet came to know these people in his capacity as editor of the *Dakota Freie Presse*, a weekly which circulated among the group. He spent some of his time traveling among different settlements soliciting subscriptions. Arthur Schlesinger, Sr., suggested the suitability of the topic for a thesis and Sallet produced the original manuscript in German for a Ph.D. at Gottingen. In 1931 it was published in the United States in German. Unknown to each other, La Vern Rippley and Armand Bauer began working independently on a translation into English. Later they combined forces to produce this version. Several other persons including Sallet read the translation critically, and at various points translators and readers provide corrective footnotes to some of Sallet's original assertions. Rippley has also written a useful introduction to help the reader follow Sallet's text.

Unfortunately such an introduction is necessary because Sallet's work is disjointed and poorly organized. It is easy to become confused and lose inter-

est among the welter of obscure place names and to be put off by some of Sallet's more filiopietistic statements. However, the patient reader can glean much useful information and insight about a group whose first and second generation members reached 300,000 people in 1920.

Sallet repeatedly stresses the importance of religion as a social dividing line. Contrary to some popular beliefs, the Russian Germans were not all Mennonites; most were Evangelical with more Catholics than Mennonites. Religion was more important than place of origin in Germany in determining settlement patterns in Russia, and this tradition of religiously exclusive communities continued in the United States. The author devotes considerable attention to geographical distribution, noting that the Dakotas, Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado contained the largest number of Russian Germans according to the census of 1920. At the end of his text, Sallet makes a few brief comments about "Americanization" and the conflict between the first and second generations over which language should be used at home and in church services. In his travels he observed parents speaking to their children in German and the children responding in English. Many churches switched over to English during the 1920s in order not to lose their young people completely. While Sallet's work does not measure up to the highest standards of conceptualization and composition, it is nonetheless a useful addition to the literature on immigration and ethnic groups in the United States.

In addition to Sallet's text and the original appendix, this volume contains a list of place names of German colonies in Russia and the Rumanian Dobrudja by Armand Bauer and a brief discussion of prairie architecture of the Russian German settlers by William C. Sherman. A number of maps, illustrations, and an adequate index add to the overall usefulness of the book.

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*Womanhood in America—From Colonial Times to the Present*, by Mary P. Ryan. New York: New Viewpoints, 1975. pp. 496, \$5.95.

Mary Ryan adds a valuable dimension to women's history in America in this analysis of the definitions of womanhood—i.e. the various roles which women have been expected to play throughout the history of the United States. Womanhood, she points out, is an artificial mold into which history has shaped the female sex. It is a social and cultural category which in various forms has imposed restraints upon women and given them secondary status.

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