

ian ends. He juggled many interests during his New Deal career until recurring ill health doused the flames of ambition, which had included the presidency itself, and transformed him into the selfless true believer and Assistant President, who, quite literally, spent his life after 1940 in the war effort.

Henry H. Adams, a retired naval officer and teacher, has, according to his publisher, written the "first full-scale, objective biography of Harry Hopkins, a monumental work that reveals the private man within the context of his historic role." The author treats the first forty three years of Hopkins' life (1890-1933) in a single chapter and, consequently, there is little discussion of the roots of Hopkins' weltanschauung; the checkered set of values he inherited from his parents, his social gospel progressivism, his social work and public health experiences, his administrative predilections, his simmering personal ambitions and chronically poor health, and finally, the emergency-charged ambiance of the New Deal and the Second World War. Although the author uses recently declassified documents at Hyde Park, he often cites secondary sources when the originals were available; Adams relies too heavily on Hopkins' personal correspondence, ignores current research on the professionalization of social work, the relationship between the Progressive Movement and the New Deal, the emergence of the welfare state and the imperial presidency and FDR's use of the analogue of war. Except for one mention of the Columbia Oral History Collection, Adams gives no evidence of using any manuscript collection outside of the FDR Library.

Adams brings no historiographical or thematic perspective to his "objective" study of Hopkins, except his unflinching support for Hopkins' public policies; the author places too great an emphasis on a factual, chronological approach to his subject, resulting in an unimaginative and uneventful journey with Hopkins. Adams fails to question his companion thoroughly, thus giving the impression that he was not as familiar with Hopkins as Sherwood was. The latter's portrait of the wartime Hopkins as the President's alter ego, prodding industrialists and generals, smoothing the rails of international diplomacy and anticipating FDR's needs and responses, remains the definitive account of the final six years of Hopkins' life when the selfless servant played the moth to Roosevelt's flame.

—Frank J. Rader
Empire State College-
New York

In Small Things Forgotten: The Archaeology of Early American Life, by James J. Deetz, Garden City, New York: Anchor Press, 1977. pp. 184. \$2.50. (paperback)

In Small Things Forgotten is mainly for the professional, not the amateur reader. Deetz does not intend the book to be simply about old things found in archaeological digs but a major theoretical statement about the young dis-

cipline of historical archaeology. Although Deetz does include discussions of objects to exemplify his thesis, the purpose of the work does not center upon the dating and description of antiques and would not be useful in such a study. He addresses his book to the general public, but the reader without some background in archaeology would comprehend it with difficulty. Knowledge of the intellectual atmosphere which produced the work will aid those who wish to assess Deetz's contribution to the field of historical archaeology.

There are three areas of concern in his book: (1) *In Small Things Forgotten* is one of a growing number of statements defining the field of historical archaeology, (2) Deetz also shows his considerable interest in what the common man did and most importantly how he perceived his surroundings, and, (3) he presents a theoretical framework for the development of early New England history which grows out of his concern for the common man. These three purposes become closely and perhaps confusingly intermingled throughout the book.

Deetz defines historical archaeology as ". . . the archeology of the spread of European culture throughout the world since the fifteenth century and its impact on indigenous people (p. 5)." Through examples, Deetz shows how such sources fill in gaps left in the archaeological record. However, he mistakenly believes that the artifact is a more objective piece of data than the other parts of the historical record (pp. 22, 60). As historians scrutinize the plausibility of different sources of data, the historical archaeologist gains understanding of his artifacts by associating his objects with their context. No historical data are more objective than others. Whether artifact, written word, pictorial document, or oral communication, each has its own set of failings and requires some judgements as to accuracy and potential use by the scholar.

Deetz objects to the historian's propensity to study wealthy individuals and their participation in major events. He emphasizes the study of the common man and his everyday life as reflected in the seemingly inconsequential objects he leaves behind. Such an historical understanding is not possible through written documents only. Deetz carefully explains how the study of artifacts fills gaps left by written sources. The historian must be aware of major trends which serve as a context for the comprehension of local events.

By the study of the common man Deetz refers to a general understanding of lifestyle, not to specific events. He desires to explore how they saw their world. His primary task here involves the study of how people in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries saw their world differently from those of the twentieth century. For example, Europeans since the late eighteenth century viewed a balanced, symmetrical world: a world which he may know and control. Men prior to the mid-eighteenth century were more inclined to let nature take its course. They did not attempt to superimpose their rules upon it. As a result, the artifacts of this time period lack the symmetry of the later period. Many of Deetz's examples dealing with ceramics, architecture,

gravestones, and other household objects make such a distinction.

Deetz sets up an historical framework by which he interprets the material culture of New England. This framework stresses his orientation toward the history of the common man and is based upon the alteration in world view in the eighteenth century. Deetz's most fundamental question addresses the causes of this change in world view beginning in the 1760s (p. 133): "Did attitude and perception change our material world, or did the advent of the new Renaissance-inspired architectural and decorative orders work a change on our world view?" In perhaps the clearest discussion of this question, Deetz suggests that the new world view was accommodated by existing perceptions to create a new outlook—the Georgian mind set. He attempts to prove this proposition concerning the alteration of American world view in the 1760s by examples from different categories of artifacts excavated from sites in New England. Although the theory appears well established, the reader must view it as a problem which still needs further investigation (see p. 133).

In Small Things Forgotten is essentially a theoretical work by a man commanding considerable respect in his field. The author attempts to announce to a broad audience the existence of historical archaeology as a discipline. There is a constant and understandable defensive undercurrent. The young discipline has yet to gain recognition as a scholarly endeavor from the remainder of the archaeological community. Unfortunately, the general reader without some background in the ideas now current within historical archaeology will experience difficulty understanding the significance of Deetz's work. It is an excellent introduction to the field for those who seriously wish to pursue the subject.

—Joyce McKay
Clermont, Iowa

Researching, Writing, and Publishing Local History, by Thomas E. Felt.
Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1976. pp.
xi, 150. (paperback) \$6.00.

Very few books have a title which reveals their contents more clearly than does this one. The author has written a handbook for the beginner, that also can be useful as a refresher for those who have done it all before. The organization is simple, and follows the order of the topics mentioned in the title. Of course this is the logical sequence to be followed by a practitioner. The author assumes that the subject, local history, is an important one, and one worthy of being written about. To be written about, it must first be researched. And once something has been written about, it is only sensible to publish it, so that the public at large has access to the gems of information uncovered during the diligent, painstaking research, and set forth in the clear, concise writing.

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