

Book Reviews

Jack London on the Road: The Tramp Diary and Other Hobo Writings, edited by Richard W. Etulain. Logan: Utah State University Press, 1979. pp. xi, 209. Illustrated. \$7.50, hardbound; \$4.50, paperback.

Jack London has been more popular in the Soviet Union and several European countries than he has in the United States. It is rather extraordinary, for example, that the French reader has available to him a fuller set of London's works than does the American reader. More and more of his works are being reprinted in this country as they are losing their copyright protection. Until the day arrives when some publisher is willing to produce cheaply a collection of London's complete works, we must be grateful for the appearance of each new anthology of his works. Three such anthologies appeared in 1979. The academic community has until recently ignored London, who has usually been described by them as the author of dog stories for children.

London was many things: a novelist, short story author, dramatist, journalist, a traveler, a farmer, a socialist, and a tramp. *Jack London on the Road* is a collection of fourteen pieces based on London's experiences as a hobo, chiefly when he was a member of Coxey's army of 1894 that marched on Washington. Of these fourteen pieces, "The Tramp Diary," pp. 30-60, will probably be of the greatest interest to the London fan and scholar, for this diary is published here in complete form for the first time from the manuscript in the Merrill Library of Utah State University. Earlier it had been almost completely published without editorial apparatus in *The Palimpsest*. This is the first time that "Frisco Kid's Story," "And 'Frisco Kid Comes Back," "Jack London in Boston," "Rods and Gunnels," "The Tramp," and "The Worker and The Tramp" have appeared in anthologies. Thus they have become newly available to the general reader who does not immediately have at hand the early twentieth century magazines and newspapers in which they were originally published. "The Princess" is reprinted for the first time since 1918 when it appeared in London's *The Red One*. "The Road" was first published in 1971 in *Jack London Reports*. "Local Color" was last anthologized in 1926. "How I Became a Socialist," "What Life Means to Me," and "The Apostate" have often been reprinted.

One may ask what the *Annals of Iowa* is doing publishing a review of this book by a California writer. The answer to a certain degree must be that according to the map on the back inside cover, London, when he marched with Coxey's army, arrived in Council Bluffs on April 19 and left Des Moines on May 9, and that he later used many of

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his experiences on this trip in both his fiction and nonfiction. In short, his Iowa experience was part of his overall experience as a tramp.

Etulain's preface is chiefly a discussion of his acknowledgments. On p. x, he notes that "the present collection includes the first complete printing of London's tramp diary." In addition, all of London's fiction, essays and other writings dealing with his tramp experiences are reprinted here—except his book, *The Road* (1907) . . . The "Introduction" includes a summary of the trip of 1894, commentary on London's writings about hoboes, and a discussion of American attitudes towards tramps in the early twentieth century. Each essay and story in the anthology is prefaced with information about its creation and publication."

Etulain's notes are quite useful. He is a specialist in the history and literature of the American West. I would have liked to have seen a little more attention paid to London's vocabulary, for I am sure that some of his vocabulary has so far not found its way into dictionaries of either American English or American slang and thus notes on it would have been of interest to the student of the English language in the United States. Etulain has done students of London and American literature a favor by bringing these various London stories and articles together. He made many of them much more accessible to today's student and critic and thus should make the critic's study of London easier.

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Western Movies, edited by William T. Pilkington and Don Graham.

Albuquerque, New Mexico: University of New Mexico Press, 1979.
pp. ix, 157. \$6.95, paper.

Western Movies is a useful book because it strikes a middle course between the usual sorts of studies published on Western film. It is not the encyclopedic historical volume that George N. Fenin and William K. Everson produced in *The Western: From Silents to the Seventies* (rev. ed., 1973). Nor is Pilkington and Graham's volume a narrow, specialized work like *Six Guns and Society: A Structural Study of the Western* (1975) by sociologist Will Wright. Instead, *Western Movies* collects twelve essays analyzing fourteen significant Western films.

The editors' brief introduction is especially helpful for nonspecialists. Beginning students in film studies and scholars in western litera-

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