

auxiliary. Jenkins suggests that there may have been a link between the KKK's crusade for moral order and the granting of woman suffrage in 1920. Were any evidence available, Jenkins should have expanded his speculations and included them in the text proper, rather than inserting them as an aside in the book's final two pages. Were, for instance, regional records of the Women's Christian Temperance Union available? Jenkins makes no use of such records but does note (102) that the KKK and the WCTU joined forces in Youngstown to attack bootleggers.

Jenkins notes in his preface that *Steel Valley Klan* represents "an effort to continue the work" (viii) of other scholars. In that the book succeeds admirably.

Democracy Delayed: Congressional Reapportionment and Urban-Rural Conflict in the 1920s, by Charles W. Eagles. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1990. xiv, 173 pp. Tables, notes, bibliography, appendix, index. \$25.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY STANLEY PARSONS, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

In *Democracy Delayed*, Charles Eagles uses a wide variety of sources and methods to illustrate a relatively new historical concern, the history of congressional reapportionment, and a rather old concern, the role of rural-urban conflict in America during the 1920s. Heeding Morgan Kousser's recent complaint that historians are attracted by works that totally replace previous interpretations rather than build on what has been written before, Eagles directs his research toward reaching a more exact understanding of the nature of rural-urban conflict. While doing that, he also provides an interesting and original account of the difficulties of securing reapportionment in the House of Representatives.

Eagles introduces his study with a thorough discussion of the major historiographical interpretations of the 1920s, ranging from Frederick Lewis Allen, whose *Only Yesterday* depicted the twenties as dominated by the disillusionment caused by World War I, to the more recent emphasis on rural-urban conflict. It is the subtle variations of the rural-urban theme that concern Eagles.

To accomplish his objective, Eagles selects the epic struggle to reapportion Congress during the 1920s. For the only time in American history, Congress went an entire decade without apportioning the number of seats given each state in the House of Representatives. That occurred because the census of 1920 had revealed that for the first time more Americans lived in urban areas than on the farm. For

many rural Americans that melancholy fact signaled not only the decline of their influence but also the decline of all traditional American values. Hence the extreme cultural conflicts of the twenties.

Eagles illustrates the nature and intensity of rural-urban conflict in two ways. First, he offers a long narrative chapter detailing the struggle to apportion as well as the strategy and tactics of the farm state congressmen who attempted to retain their numerical strength in the House. For evidence he uses many of the statements farm state representatives made during House debates. Cyrenus Cole of the Fifth Iowa District, for example, claimed that agrarians should have more representatives because "a home on the farm stands for something more than a tenement in the city. . . . to protect the nation, therefore, the rural representation should not be diminished." More convincing than isolated quotations, however, is evidence secured from the analysis of roll call votes on eight key bills calling for reapportionment during the decade. Here Eagles thoroughly explores the various cross-pressures on congressional voting. He presents a more complex picture than previously shown by those who viewed the issue from only one perspective. The most important factor in describing anti-reapportionment congressmen was not whether they represented urban or rural districts, but what their home state was. All congressmen who lived in states that would lose representatives voted against reapportionment; conversely, all who lived in states gaining seats voted for reapportionment. Only after state loyalties had been served did some congressmen seem to be directed by urban-rural issues. Even then only the Democrats seem affected; the more homogeneous Republicans were not divided on the issue.

Although the evidence presented by Eagles is extensive, it is not altogether convincing. His extensive use of congressional debates yields some inflammatory quotations from farm state representatives, but who is to say that these represented the opinions of more than a few? A colorful statement can be culled from any lengthy debate. A more structured analysis of the content of the debates would have yielded a more precise measure of the amount of anti-urban rhetoric. The quantitative portion of the study is also somewhat narrowly based. One would certainly expect farm state representatives to complain about urban power when they were losing congressional seats to the cities. A more substantial test of rural-urban conflict would have been to use roll calls on some of the more culturally divisive issues of the time: prohibition, immigration restriction, or sumptuary legislation.

Eagles has presented us with a useful study. It builds on and adds new dimensions to our understanding of the nature of rural-urban

cleavages in the 1920s. I hope it will inspire others to aim their research towards expanding our understanding of generally valid theories rather than the entrepreneurial search for "new" interpretations.

America's Favorite Homes: Mail Order Catalogues as a Guide to Popular Early Twentieth-Century Culture, by Robert Schweitzer and Michael W. R. Davis. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1990. 363 pp. Illustrations, charts, notes, glossary, bibliography, index. \$49.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY FRED W. PETERSON, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS

America's Favorite Homes introduces readers to a history of mail-order catalogue houses from about 1895 to 1941 sold by Sears, Roebuck, and Company; Montgomery, Ward & Co.; the Aladdin Company of Michigan; the Gordon Van Tine Company of Iowa; and others. In the first of the three major sections of the study, the authors discuss architectural styles, house construction materials and methods, the development of a market for mail-order catalogue houses, and the growth of the companies that designed them, advertised them, and specified ways to efficiently build a house in a balloon frame or platform frame construction by using the companies' processes of assembling the precut pieces of the structure.

The second and third sections of the study contain surveys of the architectural styles of mail-order catalogue houses as divided into two historic periods. The National period from 1900 to 1920 is characterized in part as a transitory stage from older nineteenth-century styles to new American designs and the emergence of those new designs in Prairie, Craftsman, Bungalow, and Foursquare houses. The third section presents houses from what the authors call the Academic period from 1920 to 1941. Designs in this period are carefully rendered reproductions of Tudor and Colonial originals adapted to new requirements and amenities of twentieth-century life styles.

America's Favorite Homes provides coverage of a broad, complex development in American building technology. There is a distinct advantage of being able to perceive the mail-order catalogue house phenomenon as a pervasive, major force in creating a popular esthetic in domestic architecture design from the 1890s to 1940. Anyone surveying the built environment of the Midwest and Iowa is certain to discover examples of house designs illustrated in *America's Favorite Homes*. Foursquare, Bungalow, or Colonial Revival houses can be identified in city neighborhoods, on shaded avenues of towns, and on farmsites. The floorplans for these familiar houses as illustrated in the

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