

had less money to spend on housing or education or to invest in small business.” Such conclusions are simplistic and repetitious of stereotypical interpretations of others and do not really provide an explanation about the economic condition of Polish Americans.

The book conveys a sense of shallowness and lack of an understanding of grass roots life of Polonia. What we get instead is a view of Polonia dominated by personalities or major events. This is particularly seen in the first chapter which deals with emigration from Poland and in trying to explain what happened to the immigrants in the early years of the twentieth century. Bukowczyk, however, does do us a service with this book in that he provides us with an overview of the forces working to change the Polish Americans and other ethnic groups and the challenge they face in the future to maintain their identity.

There are seven chapters and an epilogue. The book covers topics from emigration to the meaning and future of Polish American ethnicity. The bibliographical essay is perhaps the most noteworthy part of the book. The author is obviously acquainted with the extensive literature on the subject. There are also twenty-four captioned pictures which are different from those which are ordinarily found in books dealing with Polish Americans.

The author's failure to use tables, charts and maps showing the distribution of Polish Americans regionally contributes to the lack of thoroughness in telling the story of the group. Information about economic and social mobility is cursory and vague. The lack of such information significantly contributes to the book's overall weakness of failing to convey a clear picture of Polonia.

Books like this could be valuable for use in courses on immigration/ethnicity or general U.S. survey. There is a need for general surveys of ethnic groups. However, because of the unsupported conclusions and occasional emotional interpretations, I would hesitate in recommending it to instructors and readers who are unfamiliar with other works on Polish Americans.

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Carlos Bulosan. *America Is in the Heart: A Personal History*. Introduction by Carey McWilliams. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1973) xxiv, 327 pp., \$8.95 paper.

First published in 1946, *America Is in the Heart* has reached a seventh printing (1986). Carlos Bulosan's "personal history" has evidenced remarkable staying power, and that mainly in the Asian American

ethnic communities and the academic programs which describe and support them. This is all the more remarkable in a book that has been damned by Philippine critics for giving a distorted view of the Philippines, and by American critics for distorting the history of the Filipino in America. Despite all this, the popularity, and the sense of "rightness" that surrounds the book can be explained rather easily once certain limiting presuppositions are removed. *America Is in the Heart* is an emotionally and esthetically true account of the immigration, spiritual and physical, of the pinoy, the young Filipino with all his village innocence, focused on an America "in the heart," which, like the white women in his life, always promised more than it was willing to give. It is the quintessential experience of the pinoy migrant worker in fisheries and fields, up and down the western coast of these United States given rough shape by some of the outward facts of Carlos Bulosan's life. True, the book can be read against the historical record of events noted, the characters can be roughly identified, but it is the literary accomplishment of containing a certain group experience within the narrative limits of a single life that marks the success of the book. There are other sources for the facts of the labor movement in the fields of California or on the sliming lines of the Alaskan canneries. There are few other records that speak as truly to what it meant to be Filipino in temptress America, standing on the sidewalk looking in.

America Is in the Heart is one of the classics of Asian American literature as well as a classic in the literature about Asian America. While the original publication may have owed a part of its critical success to what N. V. M. Gonzalez has called Bulosan's "unique ability to play upon white liberal guilt," the emergence of *America Is in the Heart* and Carlos Bulosan as cult figures among a new generation, not only of Filipinos, but other Asians as well, suggests that there is something more to be said. That is, simply, that Carlos Bulosan speaks to the heart of the matter.

The introduction by the late Carey McWilliams to this edition helps set the work in perspective as well as adding a personal note; Bulosan and McWilliams were friends in the thirties. An excellent companion volume for biographical background and a judicious selection of Bulosan's poetry is Susan Evangelista's *Carlos Bulosan and his Poetry: a Biography and Anthology*. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1985).

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