

Dirk Hoerder, ed. *The Immigrant Labor Press in North America, 1840s-70s: An Annotated Bibliography*. Vol. 1, *Migrants from Northern Europe*. (New York: Greenwood Press, 1987) vii, 278 pp., \$39.95; Vol. 2, *Migrants from Eastern and Southeastern Europe*. (New York: Greenwood Press, 1987) xvii, 725 pp., \$65.00; Vol. 3, *Migrants from Southern and Western Europe*. (New York: Greenwood Press, 1987) xv, 583 pp., \$65.00.

Dirk Hoerder has undertaken a truly mammoth task—the identification, analysis, and the location of surviving collections of the immigrant labor press published in the United States and Canada from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. For the most part his efforts have been successful. Without question he has provided researchers interested in the American immigrant experience or American labor history with a valuable research tool.

Hoerder divides his three-volume bibliography into five sections, each based on the geographical origins of European migrants. Each volume contains a user's guide; Hoerder introduces each section with a brief essay. The bibliography material on each ethnic group is collected by scholars, usually European based, who are familiar with the immigrant group, its language, and its newspapers. These contributing scholars introduce the bibliographical material on the labor press of their ethnic group with an essay, written from a European perspective, which helps place each nationality's ethnic/labor press within the broader immigrant experience. To maintain uniformity, each bibliographical entry follows a standard format; in addition to the bibliographical information on each newspaper, most selections also include a bibliography on the ethnic group and its press, title, place, and chronological index of the newspapers, and a list of depositories where copies of the newspapers cited are available.

Any project as ambitious as this is certain to have flaws. The most obvious in this case are those related to limits placed on the study and to its methodology. The most serious weakness is that Hoerder almost totally ignores non-European immigrant groups. There is no material on the Asian immigrant press nor on that of Middle East immigrants, and virtually nothing on the press of Hispanic groups. The black press and the native American press are also excluded from the study. Hoerder states that he did not expand the study to encompass non-European ethnic groups because he lacked adequate funding. This may be true, but the result is to perpetuate the image that the ethnic experience is exclusively a European-American phenomenon. American scholars are finally rejecting this view—I wish that Hoerder had also done so. A second problem is methodological. Hoerder initially identified ethnic newspapers by surveying “general bibliographies and other reference works for non-English language periodicals published in the United States and Canada.” This strategy undoubtedly missed small, regional

publications of limited duration. A more complete (and consequently more valuable) list might have been obtained by systematically surveying local historical societies and local ethnic and ethnic-labor organizations. Finally, I am disappointed that Hoerder limited this study to the ethnic labor press, even though, as he admitted, ethnic labor and non-labor publications often overlap, and it is frequently difficult to distinguish one genre of newspaper from the other. Certainly a fully-annotated bibliography of all ethnic newspapers would have delighted ethnic historians and increased the value of this study to researchers. Hoerder again cited financial limitations as the reason for restricting the scope of this study.

Despite these flaws *The Immigrant Labor Press in North America* is a valuable addition to the source material available on the experience of immigrants and especially immigrant labor organizations in North America. The number of newspapers cataloged, the extent of detailed information about the publishing history of each newspaper, and the brief description of the focus, history, and ideological orientation of each newspaper make it easy to forgive Hoerder for the book's limitations, and instead to applaud him for his valuable contribution to ethnic studies.

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**Langston Hughes. *I Wonder As I Wander: An Autobiographical Journey*. (New York: Thunder Mouth Press, 1987) xii, 405 pp., \$9.95 paper.**

*I Wonder As I Wander*, originally published in 1956, is the second and last volume of Langston Hughes's autobiography. In the first volume, *The Big Sea*, Hughes focused on his early life and his involvement in the Harlem Renaissance; to a large degree it constitutes his memoirs of the Harlem Renaissance. *I Wonder As I Wander* is more personal. It is an account of his experiences and his musings during the 1930s, after he had distanced himself from the Harlem Renaissance, while he was in the most political phase of his long career, and while his travels took him across the United States and to the most exciting and troubled areas of the world—the Soviet Union of Joseph Stalin, China during the chaotic days preceding the Japanese invasion, Japan during the period when the military was consolidating its power, and Spain during its civil war. During his wanderings Hughes crossed paths with some of his generation's most interesting people. He traveled across Soviet Central Asia with Arthur Koestler and dined with Madam Sun Yat Sen in Shanghai. However, the most vivid and interesting sections of the book describe his