

Explorations in Sights and Sounds, No. 13 (1993)

Derrick Bell's *Race, Racism, and American Law* to comprehend the limits of Jackson's work in reference to his overly inclusive subtitle.

Although the introductory chapters are weighted down with superfluous information, they aptly reduce a variety of legal cases to their simplest form without compromising the complexity of the issues involved. Included is an excellent index, bibliography, table of cases, and notes that help explain some of the legal terminology and case specifics that are not requisite in the body of Jackson's argument but are requisite to understanding the entirety of the cases. The result is a book that accomplishes Jackson's desire to write "an accessible book about a complex subject."

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Claude Levi-Strauss and Didier Eribon. *Conversations with Claude Levi-Strauss*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991) vvi, 184 pp., \$19.95 cloth.

This series of conversations between French anthropologist Claude Levi-Strauss and French journalist Didier Eribon was first published in French in 1988. Happily, it has now been translated into English and can be more widely read in the English-speaking world. It is, in a sense, a guided autobiography, although one gets the impression that Levi-Strauss resists revealing too much of himself to Eribon and his readers. Nonetheless, one gains significant insights into the man and his world in at least two different domains: the personal and the academic. Ethnic studies scholars should find both of interest.

On the personal level, there is a brief but vivid account of his struggle with anti-semitism in France, especially during the 1930s and 1940s. The discussion touches on the racial laws passed in France during World War II, the loss of a teaching job as a result of those laws, American efforts to rescue European intellectuals, and a final escape to New York to wait out the end of the war. Although he doesn't say as much, one senses that his subsequent work on racism draws in part from these experiences.

Of particular academic interest for readers of this journal, Levi-Strauss provides a succinct description of the anthropological stance against racism and of his role in that debate. In particular, he discusses his two UNESCO pamphlets, *Race and History* (1952) and *Race and Culture* (1971), and expounds on some of the issues raised in

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those works. He comments, as well, on multiculturalism in ways that should interest ethnic studies scholars. He states, for example, "All cultures are the result of a mishmash, borrowings, mixtures that have occurred, though at different rates, ever since the beginning of time. Because of the way it is formed, each society is multicultural and over the centuries has arrived at its own original synthesis. Each will hold more or less rigidly to this mixture that forms its culture at a given moment" (152-53). And he notes that "There is no country more the product of mixture than the United States, and nonetheless there exists an "American way of life" that all inhabitants of the country are attached to, no matter what their ethnic origin" (153).

"Succinct" is probably the most descriptive word for this book. It is a slim volume and at times Levi-Strauss seems like a reluctant interviewee, resisting Eribon's praise, claiming little, if any credit for his successes. Eribon, on the other hand, does a fine job of drawing out a broad range of interesting tales and of providing an intriguing portrait of Levi-Strauss, of anthropology, and of European and American cultures.

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Alain LeRoy Locke, edited with an introduction by Jeffrey C. Stewart. *Race Contacts and Interracial Relations: Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Race.* (Washington, DC: Howard University Press, 1992) xv, 114 pp., \$22.95 cloth, \$14.95 paper.

Scholars of the history of race and race relations social science should be deeply indebted to Jeffrey C. Stewart for uncovering and meticulously reconstructing these extant lectures by the philosopher better known for his later contributions to the Harlem Renaissance than his social scientific theorizing: Alain LeRoy Locke. The book is an invaluable source on the thought of an African American intellectual on the subject of the nature of race relations during the Progressive Era and on its relationship to ethnic and class relations as well. So fecund are these lectures with insights and hypotheses which deserve further investigation and analysis that it would require a work of equal length to do justice to this collection of lectures. As a consequence, this review focuses only on Locke's treatment of race, race prejudice, and race relations.

One of the numerous strengths of this African American's lectures is their assault on the conception of biological race. For