

Book Reviews

Bandy, Susan J., ed. *Coroebus Triumphs: The Alliance of Sport and the Arts*. San Diego: San Diego State University Press: 1988. Pp. 224. Bibliography, index. \$8.00 (paper).

The Sport Literature Association held its first annual meeting in San Diego, in July of 1984. This volume contains the proceedings of that meeting. There are twenty papers divided into six thematic sections, and each section has an introductory essay which previews the papers and comments on common threads among them. The volume itself is introduced by Susan Bandy's essay which offers an overview of Sport and the Arts, as well as an interesting explication on Coroebus, his triumph, and the Greek approach to Sport and Art.

Part I contains the introduction by Bandy. Part II examines the Hero and Sport, and this is followed by a section titled "Knowing Sport-Analysis or Experience." Sections on Sports in Fiction, Sport and Language, Sport and the Movies, and Ancient Sport follow.

As might be expected the individual papers vary in quality of both content and style. There is very little in this volume that is not worth reading. Those who have attended any of the subsequent meetings of the SLA will not be surprised by this standard of quality. Among those papers which I found most pleasing and instructive were those by Joan Paul, Lyle Olsen and Tom Dodge in the section on heroes. Joan Paul offers an interesting analysis of Moses Coit Tyler's "The Brownsville Papers" which illustrates mid-nineteenth century American attitudes toward sport and exercise. Lyle Olsen's thoughts on the professional-amateur dichotomy in which he draws on Hughes, Hemingway, Coubertin and Giamatti (well before he was in fashion), explores that issue from a non-conventional perspective. Tom Dodge's look at Gordon McClendon's brief and unique play-by-play career will be of interest to those NASSH baseball historians who have heard or read Jim Harper's work on the same subject.

Also of special note are Christian Messenger's article on structural semantics in sports fiction. Eric Solomon's essay explores Jewish attitudes toward sport, especially baseball, in fiction, which features the work of Gerald Green. The Section on Sport, Language and War contains two especially strong pieces by Colin Veitch and Anthony Mangan which explore the world of British Sport and World War I while offering insight to both.

In the end this fine collection of papers demonstrates that from the beginning the Sports Literature Association set the high standards it has maintained. It also enables those of us who were not at the first meeting to catch up on what we missed. And finally and perhaps most significantly for those who are historians

of sport, it serves as yet another reminder that literature offers modes of expression not available to those who operate within the confines of evidence, and thus offers insights not accessible to history, as well as illumination for the work of the historian.

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