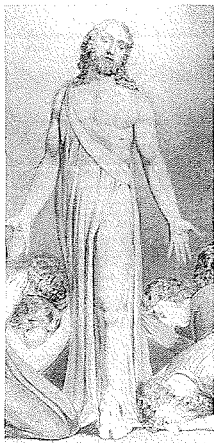


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**NEW TITLES**


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*History*
**JESUS THROUGH  
THE CENTURIES:  
His Place in the  
History of Culture**

 by Jaroslav Pelikan  
 Yale, 1985  
 270 pp. \$22.50


Consider the various and sometimes conflicting images men have formed of Christ. Francis of Assisi, the 13th-century Italian saint, believed that he was imitating Christ by renouncing the world and living in poverty; by contrast, Charles Sheldon, a 19th-century American author, presented Jesus as the model corporate businessman. In the spirit of the Age of Reason, Thomas Jefferson edited the "rubbish" from the Gospels to present a "purified" account of Christ as enlightened moralist. And to Romantics such as William Blake, Jesus was nothing less (or more) than the embodiment of the "poetic." Recounting the genesis, use, and abuse of these and other images, Pelikan, the noted Yale historian, has produced a work of scholarly virtuosity. It is also an insistently moral book. Pelikan asks, for instance, whether anti-Semitism would have been such a dark blot on Western history if later Christians had not forgotten (or suppressed) the earliest image of their Savior—that of Christ as Rabbi Jeshua bar-Joseph. Interpreting visual as well as written sources, crude Anglo-Saxon crosses as well as the novels of Dostoyevsky, Pelikan demonstrates that, to believers and non-believers alike, Jesus of Nazareth has been "the dominant figure in the history of Western culture for almost 20 centuries."

**THE CRABGRASS  
FRONTIER:  
The Suburbanization  
of the United States**

 by Kenneth T. Jackson  
 Oxford, 1985  
 352 pp. \$21.95

To the early 19th-century American city-dweller, *suburban* had unsavory connotations. By 1870, things had changed: Americans yearned for suburban homes, although they still wanted the city to serve as the hub of their activities. Inexpensive building materials, cheap transportation, new construction techniques, federal tax benefits for homeowners—all helped to ease the exodus from the central city. The Federal Housing Administration, created by Franklin Roosevelt in 1934 to insure long-term mortgages, also contributed by favoring new-home construction over inner-city renovations. In 1980, two-thirds