
NEW TITLES

History

**GOLD AND IRON:
Bismarck, Bleichröder, and
the Building of the German
Empire**

by Fritz Stern
Knopf, 1977, 620 pp. \$17.95
L of C 76-26128
ISBN 0-394-49545-4

Columbia historian Fritz Stern, using new archival material, including the recently uncovered papers of the wealthy Jewish banker Gerson Bleichröder, argues that political, more than economic, forces controlled and shaped imperial 19th-century Germany. By focusing on the exceptionally close collaboration between Bismarck and Bleichröder for over 30 years, Stern reveals what other historians have ignored or minimized—that Bismarck understood the political uses of money and consciously employed economics as an instrument of policy. He shows how the banker acted as the chancellor's political and financial adviser, helped him to amass a large personal fortune, and served him as diplomatic agent and financier of his wars against Denmark (1864) and Austria (1866). Portraying Bleichröder as a striver for social acceptance, Stern, in passing, demonstrates how Prussian anti-Semitism barred this conservative nouveau riche financier from assimilation into the aristocracy.

**THE EMPIRE OF
REASON: How Europe
Imagined and America
Realized the Enlightenment**

by Henry Steele Commager
Doubleday/Anchor, 1977
342 pp. \$10
L of C 76-2837
ISBN 0-385-11672-1

The modern tendency, writes Commager, is to view the American Revolution "against the foreground of our own time." Conscious of its limitations, we neglect its greatest accomplishment: If the Old World imagined the Enlightenment, only the New World achieved it. The Revolution's debt to such men as Montesquieu and Locke has long been acknowledged. But in this sweeping rummage through the 18th century, Commager shifts perspective to examine Franklin, Adams, Jefferson, and others as *philosophes*—but also as men of affairs, who could create a rational system of government unthinkable in the old societies across the sea. A romantic in the grand historical tradition,

Commager is above all a stylist. His lavish citations of Enlightenment thinkers (Manasseh Cutler of Ipswich, von Haller at Göttingen, Linnaeus at Uppsala, "the intrepid Van der Kamp" at Leyden) lend a tone of animated omniscience to this volume.

YOUNG MAN THOREAU

by Richard Lebeaux
Univ. of Mass., 1977
262 pp. \$12.50
L of C 76-44851
ISBN 0-87023-231-2

At a time in his own life and in American history when other young men and women were following the lure of the Western frontier, David Henry Thoreau (as he was christened) was discovering his inability to stray far from his native Concord and the hearth of his domineering mother. In this psycho-biography, Lebeaux, assistant professor of American Thought and Language at Michigan State, cites Thoreau's early journals to show how the young man gradually came to see his fixation on the familiar as an opportunity for unique artistic and spiritual growth. The book covers the period from Thoreau's Harvard graduation (1837) at the age of 20 to his decision to take up residence at Walden Pond eight years later. Had it not been for neighbor Ralph Waldo Emerson's friendship and transcendentalism's liberating rationale for an outwardly sedentary life, Lebeaux suggests, Thoreau's talents as a writer and naturalist might never have matured. Although he lapses too often into the jargon of psychology, Lebeaux brings into human focus the "traveller in Concord" who inspired Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. and became a cult figure in the United States during the 1960s.

THE BOSTON MONEY TREE

by Russell B. Adams, Jr.
Crowell, 1977, 320 pp. \$11.95
L of C 76-27338
ISBN 0-690-01209-8

How Boston money has been made, invested, and preserved. Journalist Russell B. Adams, Jr. begins with the early 17th century and progresses through the years dominated by the great names—Faneuil, Cabot, Boylston, Lowell, Lee, Hancock. In the 1960s, the "New Boston" of urban developer Edward L. Logue and technology's "Golden Semicircle" (Route 128) spawned its only New York-style "go-go" financier: Shanghai-born Gerald Tsai, Jr.,