

---

not only general economic modernization but also a remarkably rapid integration into another language and culture in the course of one lifetime. Only an insider who had lived through this change and remembered the oral traditions of Brittany's "civilization of the soil" could so compellingly transport us to the world of his grandfather, a man "too poor to buy any other horse" who said, "at least the Horse of Pride will always have a stall in my stable."

—Walter M. Pintner ('78)

**FOUNDATIONS OF  
CHRISTIAN FAITH:  
An Introduction to the  
Idea of Christianity**

by Karl Rahner  
Seabury, 1978  
485 pp. \$19.50  
L of C 77-13336  
ISBN 0-8164-0354-6

Germany's Karl Rahner, 74, is the world's best-known Catholic theologian, renowned for his breakthrough thinking on a vast range of difficult questions. At the age of 72, having published many volumes of his collected essays, he composed his first full-scale work of theology, setting forth his reflections on the basic idea of Christianity. His goal was to show the overall intelligibility and credibility of Catholic Christianity without getting entangled in detailed historical or exegetical investigations. This fruit of a lifetime of study and meditation glistens with original insights into nearly every aspect of the Catholic message. Although it lacks the timeliness and passion of some of Rahner's shorter pieces, readers with a taste for the philosophical analysis of religious experience will spontaneously hail *Foundations* as a classic of its kind.

—Avery Dulles, S.J. ('77)

**A PRETTY GOOD CLUB:  
The Founding Fathers of  
the U.S. Foreign Service**

by Martin Weil  
Norton, 1978, 313 pp. \$12.95  
L of C 77-25104  
ISBN 0-393-05658-9

At the outset the author quotes I.F. Stone: "To do a book on the State Department, you would need Drew Pearson for gossip, Karl Marx for social forces, Henry James for social nuances, and Max Weber for institutional patterns." On his own, Weil does a fine job of telling the story of "a small group of Christian gentlemen who founded the profession of diplomacy on a permanent basis in America" during the first half of this century. Few emerge as heroes. Many emerge as second-raters: in their snobbism, their aping of aristocratic European diplomats, their disdain for Washington and for domestic politics, the