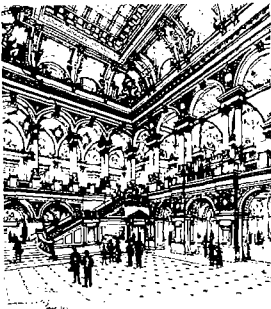


**THE AMERICAN
RENAISSANCE, 1876-1917**
edited by the Brooklyn
Museum
Pantheon, 1979
232 pp. \$25



Turn-of-the-century American artists, together with the Vanderbilts, Rockefellers, and Morgans who patronized them, believed that their society would rival, even surpass, the great civilizations of the past. Artists and architects did not seek an original style but appropriated, without shame, "the best from all cultures, even our own." The neo-Baroque Library of Congress was decorated with neo-Renaissance murals and sculpture, the dome of San Francisco's City Hall was modeled after that of St. Peter's, and the homes of the rich on New York's Fifth Avenue and in Newport, R.I., were derivations of French chateaux and Italian villas. Art historians generally slight the period; this book's three essays demonstrate that its studied eclecticism, even when bordering on the grotesque, was not a failure of imagination but a creative response to America's new wealth and position. U.S. artists saw themselves as "new bearers of the torch of Western civilization." Their mission: to articulate the link between America and cultures of the past, while celebrating and strengthening homegrown virtues. Indeed, the authors observe, wealthy art consumers, for all their vanities and greed, were benefactors; they financed our cities' great libraries, museums, and parks as symbols of America's destiny.

—Wanda M. Corn ('80)

**THE ZERO-SUM
SOCIETY: Distribution
and the Possibilities for
Economic Change**
by Lester C. Thurow
Basic, 1980
230 pp. \$12.95

MIT economist Thurow provides a shrewd analysis of America's ailing economy—but he offers disappointing political recipes for recovery. Sluggish growth, he asserts, has reduced the American economy to a "zero-sum" condition. No more pie is being baked; if Peter is to get a larger piece, it must be taken from Paul. Politicians, unions, consumers, and businessmen have all tried to forestall the economic pains that would accompany a necessary cutting back of low-productivity enterprises. Among the results: regulations that bind railroads to unprofitable lines and subsidies to keep the inefficient shipbuilding industry afloat. The United

States, says Thurow, must devise a political process capable of allocating financial losses. His prescriptions include elimination of the corporate income tax, with stockholders paying higher taxes on dividends; a reduction in antitrust and regulatory laws, accompanied by taxes to discourage the production of specific goods; and federally funded programs to relocate workers from "sunset" to high-productivity "sunrise" industries. In my view, compelling as Thurow's economic insights are, his proposed partnership between the private sector and government to plan the economy—a U.S. version of Japan, Inc.—would only result in heavier lobbying by interest groups afraid of being left out.

—J. William Futrell ('80)

**ETHICS IN THE
PRACTICE OF LAW**

by Geoffrey C. Hazard, Jr.
Yale, 1978, cloth; 1980,
paper
159 pp. \$12.50 cloth, \$5.95
paper

Who is a client? To whom is a corporate attorney responsible—the board of directors, stockholders, the public? Who is served by a government lawyer—his departmental chiefs, his agency, the President, the people? The American Bar Association's Code of Professional Ethics does not answer these questions; lawyers' disciplinary committees handle only the most egregious cases of misconduct. The bar's code developed from the demands of trial procedure, notes Hazard, a Yale law professor. But today's lawyer, representing business or government or a family, often must be, in Justice Louis Brandeis's famous phrase, "lawyer for the situation." The attorney is, in effect, a mediator. His first duty is not loyalty to an individual; it is to muster his skill, honesty, and practical wisdom in an effort to treat all parties fairly and empathetically. Hazard also examines ethical issues in criminal cases: What is a lawyer's responsibility for the crimes, sins, failings of his client? How much moral advice is he to give? First published three years ago, this is the sanest treatment available of the ethical dilemmas encountered by the legal profession.

—John T. Noonan ('80)