

publications of limited duration. A more complete (and consequently more valuable) list might have been obtained by systematically surveying local historical societies and local ethnic and ethnic-labor organizations. Finally, I am disappointed that Hoerder limited this study to the ethnic labor press, even though, as he admitted, ethnic labor and non-labor publications often overlap, and it is frequently difficult to distinguish one genre of newspaper from the other. Certainly a fully-annotated bibliography of all ethnic newspapers would have delighted ethnic historians and increased the value of this study to researchers. Hoerder again cited financial limitations as the reason for restricting the scope of this study.

Despite these flaws *The Immigrant Labor Press in North America* is a valuable addition to the source material available on the experience of immigrants and especially immigrant labor organizations in North America. The number of newspapers cataloged, the extent of detailed information about the publishing history of each newspaper, and the brief description of the focus, history, and ideological orientation of each newspaper make it easy to forgive Hoerder for the book's limitations, and instead to applaud him for his valuable contribution to ethnic studies.

—Cary D. Wintz
Texas Southern University

Langston Hughes. *I Wonder As I Wander: An Autobiographical Journey.* (New York: Thunder Mouth Press, 1987) xii, 405 pp., \$9.95 paper.

I Wonder As I Wander, originally published in 1956, is the second and last volume of Langston Hughes's autobiography. In the first volume, *The Big Sea*, Hughes focused on his early life and his involvement in the Harlem Renaissance; to a large degree it constitutes his memoirs of the Harlem Renaissance. *I Wonder As I Wander* is more personal. It is an account of his experiences and his musings during the 1930s, after he had distanced himself from the Harlem Renaissance, while he was in the most political phase of his long career, and while his travels took him across the United States and to the most exciting and troubled areas of the world—the Soviet Union of Joseph Stalin, China during the chaotic days preceding the Japanese invasion, Japan during the period when the military was consolidating its power, and Spain during its civil war. During his wanderings Hughes crossed paths with some of his generation's most interesting people. He traveled across Soviet Central Asia with Arthur Koestler and dined with Madam Sun Yat Sen in Shanghai. However, the most vivid and interesting sections of the book describe his

encounter with common people, often black, often vagabonds like himself—Emma, the black mammy of Moscow, or Teddy Weatherford, the black jazz musician who befriended him in Shanghai.

And yet there is something lacking in *I Wonder As I Wander*. The book is a travelogue of interesting places, interesting people, and interesting events; it is anecdotal and very readable, but it is not analytical. Hughes crosses the world during the decade after the Soviet Revolution and the decade preceding World War II and the Chinese revolution, and yet gives us only a hint of the great forces of social change and violence that were at work in these places and times. Also, although the book covers the time in his life when he was a self-described “social poet,” Hughes offers little political, historical, or social insight into his experiences.

There are possible explanations for these short-comings. First, when Hughes wrote *The Big Sea*, his editors had advised him to recount his personal experiences, but to refrain from “abstract pontification and academic theorizing.” Hughes, though not pleased, accepted this advice, apparently for the second volume of his autobiography as well. More importantly, by the time he wrote *I Wonder As I Wander* in the early 1950s, Hughes faced pressure more serious than that from a publisher. In March 1953 he was called to testify before Senator Joseph McCarthy’s Subcommittee on Investigations regarding the political nature of his writings in the 1930s. Hughes did not resist the committee’s investigation nor challenge their decision to ban several of his “pro-Communist” books from State Department Information Centers. In the months following his testimony, Hughes was preoccupied with proving his loyalty. In this context it took courage for Hughes to publish his autobiography and refocus attention on his travels in the Soviet Union; likewise, it is not surprising that he avoided political analysis.

Even with its shortcomings *I Wonder As I Wander* remains an important book which should be read by all who are interested in the black experience. Langston Hughes was an accomplished writer, and this book will not disappoint his many fans.

—Cary D. Wintz
Texas Southern University

Peter Iverson, ed. *The Plains Indians of the Twentieth Century*. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985) ix, 277 pp., \$9.95 paper.

Iverson’s new volume of collected essays by authorities on reservation life serves as an invaluable aid to a further understanding of the sometimes agonizing social problems vis-a-vis the federal government.