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remain more or less anonymous.

Although Carsten is writing in English, his roots in a German conception of history are undeniable. He is evidently trying to show *wie es eigentlich gewesen*, letting the documents speak for themselves, a tact which can be a shortcoming for some, a strength for others. Although this work is flawed because of an obsession for particulars, Carsten nonetheless does remain impartial throughout. He does not betray any sympathies or antipathies to any of the parties involved and thus cannot be accused of political bias. Carsten's painstakingly detailed study will therefore prove to be a source of valuable information for the specialist, breaking new ground in its field, but of little appeal to the general reader.

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Robert Stewart Earl of Orkney, Lord of Shetland, 1533-1593. By PETER D. ANDERSON. Atlantic Highlands, N. J.: Humanities Press, 1982. Pp. 245. Maps, appendices, glossary, abbreviations, notes, bibliography, index. \$31.50.

This well-written and erudite book is a fine example of the biographer's art well practiced and is destined to become a classic for scholars and dilettantes alike. It is at once a very good biographical study of the first Stewart earl of Orkney and an excellent constitutional history of the islanders over whom he reigned. Anderson's principal concern throughout the book is to place the career of Robert Stewart into the context of the factions, families, and feuds that shaped the history of sixteenth-century Scotland and her northern islands. To that end, Anderson, after briefly recapitulating the tumultuous history of the Orkney Islands as a Scottish dependency, presents the career of Robert Stewart as one of continuous interaction between Stewart and his family, his factions, the royal governments, and his Orcadian and Shetlander subjects.

The image of the earl of Orkney that takes shape on the pages of the Anderson text is that of the all-too-familiar figure in Scottish history: the ambitious man whose career was alternatively helped or hindered by the constant ebb and flow of factional and familial fortunes; a frustrated man who never knew exactly if he was on the verge of success or failure. The reader cannot help but be reminded of the similar roller coaster careers of Robert Stewart's contemporaries, James Douglas, earl of Morton and James Hamilton, duke of

Chatelherault. The Anderson book goes a great way toward confirming this tragic model of insecurity in a man's career as one of the few consistencies in sixteenth-century Scottish history.

Anderson tells the story of Stewart's life by recounting his assizes and courts in Orkney. Consequently, the book is an intriguing study of the Orcadian legal system in transition from its traditional Norwegian roots to that of a Scottish dependency. As such, the book suggests an interesting parallel between Orkney in union with Scotland and the later case of Scotland in union with England. In both cases the natives were most concerned with preserving their ancient rites and customs in respect to their stronger southern neighbor.

The greatest strength of this book is Anderson's understanding that "Scotland" in the sixteenth century was little more than a geographical expression. There was the Scotland of the Lowlanders, the Scotland of the Highlanders, and the Scotland of the Islanders. It was a land of many perspectives and no central identity. Scotland in the sixteenth century can only be understood in terms of the microcosm: in terms of the region, the rivalry of factions, and the career played out for the most part among one group of "Scots," the Orcadians, provides much needed answers to how the various groups managed to work with each other. Anderson has given us a fine account of the man and his island domain.

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The Political Nature of a Ruling Class: Capital and Ideology in South Africa, 1890-1933. By BELINDA BOZZOLI. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1981. Pp. xi+384. Notes, bibliography, index. \$40.00.

With the 1886 discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand in the Transvaal, the economic, political, and social development of southern Africa was revolutionized. Moving from a rural-agrarian society to urban centered industrialization and from British imperial rule to greater local economic and political autonomy, the next four decades were crucial to the formation of the modern South African state. The already complex issues of race, imperialism, and Boer separatism were further exasperated by the emergence of aggressive, English-speaking capitalists. While industrialization went forward