

Albertine Loomis, *For Whom are the Stars?* Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1976. Pp. xix, 229, illustrations, maps, bibliography. \$9.95.

Albertine Loomis' latest book, *For Whom are the Stars?*, is a most timely addition to the bibliography of Hawaiian history. With native land claims of the present day based to a large extent on the revolution of 1893, any additional light on that particular era should be most helpful. Miss Loomis takes no sides, but merely chronicles the events of the revolution--which was supported by the American minister to Hawaii using American military personnel--and the two unhappy years that followed. Even though the action was soon repudiated by the United States, the damage had been done.

Her title, although meaningless to those unfamiliar with Hawaiian chants, poses an intriguing question concerning the source of power in a national state and whether a monarchy, oligarchy, or democracy is most appropriate. The scope of the book is indicated by the words, "Revolu-

tion and Counter-revolution in Hawaii, 1893-1895," although these are shown on the cover more as an explanation than as a subtitle. A further description tells us that this is "An informal history of the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy in 1893 and the ill-fated counterrevolution it evoked."

Descendant of some of the original missionaries to Hawaii, Miss Loomis is no stranger to students of Hawaiian history, having previously written a tale of missionary days, *Grapes of Canaan*. Having retired from teaching English in Michigan, she now lives in Hawaii.

She recalls for us the unhappy tale of the toppling of Queen Liliuokalani's regime, the initial struggles of the Republic of Hawaii to secure annexation to the United States and finally the ill-fated attempt by supporters of the former queen to restore the monarchy. Here is a poignant recital of sadness, frustration, and occasional bitterness. There are no heroes and those that might be described as minor-league villains come across as more frightened and defensive than really evil and malicious. Those Hawaiians today who are looking for evidence of duplicity on the part of the American government will need to look elsewhere because Miss Loomis depicts the unfortunate United States as being between the proverbial rock and a hard place, faced with the unhappy realization that two wrongs do not constitute a right. The reader is left with the necessity of determining for himself how much more pressure the United States should have applied to persuade the Republic of Hawaii to return the islands to Liliuokalani.

The book is quite readable, although the phrase "an informal history" leaves me somewhat disturbed. Loomis' *Grapes of Canaan* was a "documentary novel;" the flyleaf of *For Whom Are the Stars?* states that "while solidly based on historical fact, the tale moves along as excitingly as a good novel." While reading some of the more descriptive phrases I found myself wondering if events actually happened that way and if people actually said those words or whether there was merely some literary license being employed. Conceding the increased readability, there was still the haunting realization that this had been written by an English teacher rather than an historian. Compared with, say, *The Hawaiian Revolution*, (1893-94), and *The Hawaiian Republic*. (1894-98), the two volumes by William A. Russ, *For Whom Are the Stars?* is a bit shallow.

The lack of footnotes will be regarded by the layman as a boon. Without debating the merits of that issue, I feel that as an alternative for the scholar, a bibliographic essay or some notes on sources should definitely have been included. The absence of an index is also unfortunate. Although the list of characters which preceded Chapter I was helpful in keeping track of the royalists and the annexationists, more detailed descriptions in the text itself would have been in order. Charles B.

Wilson, for example, is merely referred to as marshal of the kingdom and listed as one of several "Friends and advisers of Liliuokalani."

The use of old newspaper sketches and contemporary photographs provided by Robert Van Dyke adds considerable interest, the principle exception being the map and accompanying notes concerning the skirmish in Manoa Valley (p. 165) which were of negligible value. The excellent maps used as end papers can be very helpful if the reader only remembers they are there.

Miss Loomis may have had trouble in deciding by whom her book would be most appreciated. The purist, very likely, would be pleased at her use of the glottal stops and macrons, although reading Lili'uokalani, Hawai'i, and **Waikiki** does get tedious. If these language symbols are to be utilized, I feel consistency demands the italicizing of *haole* and *poi* since I disagree with her footnote on page 13. The fact that she there finds it necessary to define *haole* contradicts her thesis that it is "truly a part of the English language." Further, the footnote should more appropriately be placed on page 6 where the word *haole* is first used. At times she assumes a Hawaiian audience, one that could follow her meanings with little difficulty; elsewhere she provides explanations for other readers such as her definitions of *makai* and *mauka, ewa* and *waikiki*. To have had these oft-repeated terms in a Hawaiian glossary would probably be appreciated by those who have trouble with our method of indicating directions. Also, to identify Kupihe's wife (p. 163) three pages later as Kupihewahine (p. 166) might confuse a few *malihinis*.

To point out other minor defects would be unnecessarily cruel and would amount to very little besides literary nit-picking and Miss Loomis certainly cannot be faulted for writing exactly what she says she is writing--an informal history. Her extensive research in the Spaulding Collection of the University of Michigan and her use of the papers of W. D. Alexander and Nathaniel B. Emerson--the former a participant and the latter an observer of those events of the 1890s--clearly justify the addition of her book to the literature on this unfortunate period of history.

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