

et la grande grève de l'arsenal en 1845. La dernière partie du livre est consacrée à Toulon pendant la période révolutionnaire: fief du socialisme puis de Ledru-Rollin la ville ne se soulèvera pas lors de la chute de la République, au contraire de la campagne varoise, la reprise en main gouvernementale ayant été faite dès 1849-50 par la bourgeoisie locale et l'administration préfectorale.

Ce survol n'a pas la prétention de résumer les trois ouvrages en question mais d'en indiquer la richesse et la variété; et il manquerait surtout à ce résumé la présence et la vie de tous ces hommes et de toutes ces femmes qu'on apprend à connaître au fil des pages et pour lesquels Maurice Agulhon montre l'amitié qu'entraîne une longue fréquentation fraternelle. Ce n'est pas là la moindre qualité de ces études.

Jacques Grandjonc

Michael Vester, *Die Entstehung des Proletariats als Lernprozeß. Die Entstehung antikapitalistischer Theorie und Praxis in England 1792—1848* (= Veröffentlichungen des Psychologischen Seminars der T.U. Hannover), Europäische Verlagsanstalt, Frankfurt 1970, 454 S., kart., 28 DM.

This examination of working class movements in England between 1792 and 1848 covers very familiar ground. A survey of this kind can hardly hope to reveal much that is new and what Dr. Vester offers is his own interpretation of movements and events that can be studied in detail elsewhere. The book appears in a series sponsored by a University Psychology Seminar and the author's approach to his subject is that of a sociologist rather than an historian.

English workers — domestic craftsmen, farm workers, factory hands — reacted in various ways to the situation in which they found themselves as the result of the industrial and agrarian revolutions. From the Luddite riots to the Sheffield outrages there were desperate men who were prepared to use force and to shed blood in order to oppose those whom they regarded as their oppressors. Others expressed their opposition to the evils of industrialization in a less violent fashion. They formed trade unions through which they could put pressure on their employers and they established political organizations like the National Charter Association to put pressure on the government. Again, there were workers who tried to help themselves by joining mechanics institutes, benefit clubs and co-operative societies. On these, and on many other topics, Dr. Vester has much of interest to say. He regards these activities as a »learning process«. Certainly the way in which the English proletariat gradually adapted itself to a new economic and social system is a matter on which sociologists have a useful contribution to make. Perhaps the author overestimates the significance of such early critics of capitalism as Thomas Hodgskin and William Thompson. And there are some astonishing omissions in the bibliography. Since the book covers the period 1792—1848 one would have expected to find some reference to the standard works of such well known economic historians as Mantoux, Ashton, and Clapham.

W. O. Henderson

*The Life of Robert Owen* written by himself. With a Preface and an Introduction by John Butt, Charles Knight & Co., London 1971, 249 pp. £ 3.

Robert Owen. *Prophet of the Poor. Essays in Honour of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of his Birth*, ed. by Sydney Pollard and John Salt, Macmillan Press Ltd., London/Basingstoke 1971, 318 pp., £ 3,90.

The 200th anniversary of the birth of Robert Owen has been marked by the issue of a new edition of his autobiography and a volume of essays which admirably summarises the results of recent research on many aspects of Owen's career. Since Owen's earlier