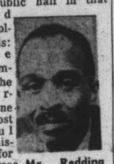
Book Review

By Saunders Redding

THE SELECTED WRITINGS OF JOHN JAY CHAPMAN, by Jacques Barzun (ed.). Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, 101 Fifth Avenue, New York. 294 (xxvi) pp. $5.00.

In August, 1911, a colored man was lynched in the town of Coatesville, Pa. A year later a bearded white man stood in a rented public hall in that town and spoke the following words:



Mr. Redding

"We are met to commemorate the anniversary of one of the most dreadful crimes in history—not for the purpose of condemning it, but to repent of our share in it.

"We do not start any agitation with regard to that particular crime . . . I live on the Hudson River; but I knew that this great wickedness that happened in Coatesville is not the wickedness of Coatesville nor of today. It is the wickedness of all America . . ."

* * *

THE MAN was used to great audiences, for as a member of Theodore Roosevelt's City Reform Club he had agitated all sorts of questions; but now his audience numbered only three — an old colored woman, a personal friend, and a spy in the service of Coatesville authorities — and he himself had hired the hall they sat in; and now he was no agitator.

He was a man doing "penance for his country." He was a man of passion, and penitence was not new to him.

While a student at Harvard many years before, he had plunged his left hand into fire to atone for an injustice he had done. Forever after that hand was useless, and forever after he was known as "mad Jack Chapman."

* * *

PERHAPS IT was this reputation that robbed John Jay Chapman of the esteem he surely deserved in his own life time.

Few men have thrown such light on the meaning of American experience, social and spiritual, as Chapman did.

Few have been so creatively involved in the intellectual life — the gnosis — of their times as Chapman was.

But once he had ceased to be a professional reformist and political agitator his contemporaries all but ignored him.

Only a handful bothered to read his brilliantly expository **William Lloyd Garrison** (1913), or the social essays and speeches in **Memories and Milestones** (1915), or his perceptive criticisms of Whitman, Emerson and William Jones. It was with him as he had said it was with Garrison: he "made his compatriots uncomfortable."

* * *

EVEN COLORED persons, in whose problems he was deeply involved, and on whose behalf — as a matter of social morality — so much of his genius was put to work — even colored people did not fully appreciate him.

None of the standard academic "Negro histories" give him more than a line or two.

Of the important colored periodicals of 1912, only the **Crisis** edited by W. E. B. DuBois noted the act of penance in Coatesville.

And when Chapman died in 1933, the only colored person of national reputation who remarked publicly on Chapman's passing was that same Dubois.

* * *

BUT NOW perhaps John Jay Chapman may begin to be recognized for the brilliant catholicity of his mind, the passionate rightness of his judgments.

His books are hard to come by, but thanks to Jacques Barzun, who has collected Chapman's most representative writings (including the complete **William Lloyd Garrison**; one more of the truly diagnostic "intellects of the past" may be recovered from oblivion.

Professor Barzun's introductory essay provides exactly the angle of vision that most fully reveals the scope of Chapman's intellect at work.

Our Readers Write

If you have a problem, let us help. Make letters short. Address AFRO Magazine Section, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 1, Md.

TITLES

Norfolk, Va. — It is common knowledge that WAC stands for Women's Army Corps, but what does the naval WAVES stand for?

PATRICIA JONES

Women accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service.

* * *

GOSPEL SINGERS

Newport, R. I. — At the Newport Jazz Festival Gospel singing was introduced. On the same program with Mahalia Jackson and Clara Ward singers, were two other groups, the Six Drinhard Singers and the Black Home Choir.

Can you please tell me where I can buy some of their records?

EVELYN LOPES

The entire Festival has been released on records on the Verve label.

* * *

DRESSES

Salisbury, N.C. — I am interested in a dress you printed in the AFRO Magazine Section of January 7. It was designed by Mollie Painio. Can you tell me what shops carry this dress?

MRS. OLLIE M. BURNSIDE

Naturally we can't list the shops all over the country where the dresses we publish can be bought, but if you will take a clipping of the dress to any good dress shop in your community, they can secure it for you.

Your Prayers Are Asked

For little Nuala unable to walk. . . . For brother John mentally ill. . . . For a beloved Grandpa seriously ill after an accident. . . . For a dear husband suffering from heart trouble. . . . For a dear young son suffering from a nervous breakdown. . . . For Jean and Allan's Dad dangerously ill. . . . For Winnie that her pain may be eased. . . . For a husband who has recently undergone a brain operation. . . . For brother Johnny so very ill. . . . For Laura's husband. . . . For Mrs. E. E. C. . . . For little John Phillip. . . . For a dear wife Kathleen. . . . For Sylvia that her recovery may be complete. . . . For Mrs. R. F. that her mind may be healed. . . . For a dear niece, Pat, a polio victim. . . . For daughter Doreen. . . . For Grace's husband. . . . For a wife dangerously ill in hospital. . . . For Wallace. . . . For a dear mother that her leg may be healed.

And for all sick and suffering people wherever they may be that it may please God to heal them. And that Peace may prevail in the world.

HOUSING

Baltimore, Md. — That table you had in the article, "Philadelphia Tops in Housing," in the January 18, Magazine Section is all wet.

You say that Baltimore is 10th on the list with 15,684 colored homes owned. Actually the figure is more than twice that.

ROBERT HALL

If you read the article Mr. Hall, you would know that the accompanying table represented figures taken from the 1950 census. The home-ownership figure has more than doubled all over the country.

HARDEST

Raleigh, N.C.—We've got a beer bet on this, and have appointed you to judge. I claim that a diamond is the hardest substance known. My knuckle-headed friends, evidently all hopped up over all this space talk, says it isn't. Who wins?

LESLIE DOBBS

Afraid that your knuck—er, your friend wins. Diamonds used to be the hardest substance known, but a Dr. Robert Wentdorf, of New York, has created an even harder substance, known as borazon.

It's manufacture involves the use of pressure of more than a million pounds per square inch and heat of over 3,000 degrees (Fareinheit) Borazon can scratch diamond and withstand twice as much heat.

* * *

WHY 1958

Washington, D.C.—I'd like to know who first decided that dates should be calculated from the birth of Christ, and for how long this has been done?

ERNEST BRISTOL

This was first suggested about 1,300 years ago, by a Russian monk, Dionysius, a scholar and astronomer who became an abbot in Rome.

But it was not until about 300 years later that the use of A.D. was generally adopted. It was the calculations by Dionysius of the birth of Christ that were adopted by the Church.

Scholars now believe that they were wrong, and that Christ was born earlier than he reckoned, probably about five years B.C.

* * *

BIBLE DATE

King and Queen Courthouse, Va.—In what year was the King James Version of the Bible first published?

MRS. E. A. SEELEY

Authorized version of English Bibles, ordered by James I in 1604, was published in 1611.

* * *

FIRST LADY

Philadelphia, Pa.—How old is Mamie Eisehower, and where is she from? At a discussion recently, someone said that she is a southerner. I disputed it.

JOHN MONROE

She was born November 14, 1896 in Boone, Iowa, later moved to Denver, Colo.

Legal Advisor

By ROBERT WATTS
Baltimore Attorney

HOW DOES the NAACP raise money to finance its legal cases?

Answer—There are several sources of income. Most of the money comes from the sale of memberships from $2.00 up to $500.00. Many give directly to the legal defense fund, for it can be deducted on your income tax.

Others carry on fund raising campaigns in churches, lodges, through the sale of Christmas seals, etc.

* * *

I am a widow and have been so for five years. Someone told me I was entitled to a "widow's pension." Could you tell me if I can get a widow's pension as I need the money badly.

ANS.: I don't know what you mean when you say a widow's pension. If your husband paid social security, you might be entitled to payments under that program or if your husband was under a pension plan, you might be entitled to that. There is nothing called a widow's pension as such. I suggest you see your local lawyer and he will check on the matter for you.

* * *

A friend of mine claims he can get his divorce in two weeks. My divorce took over two months. I want to know what is the quickest a person can get a divorce?

ANS: In Maryland, the quickest one can obtain a divorce is thirty days counting from the day the Bill of Complaint is filed. This is only true where the other party files an answer promptly.

* * *

I took my boyfriend to court to make him support my child. He is the father, but now he claims he isn't, because he has some woman who is good to him. In court his lawyer asked for a blood test, and I want to know if they can pay a doctor to say he is not the father.

ANS: You will be sent to the hospital and given a test. The results of the test will be made available to the court. The person taking the test and analyzing it is unknown to your husband so it is difficult to ever make any contact. This is the best answer I can give except to say there is little likelihood of anybody paying off in such a case.

Looking For Someone

If you want to locate missing friends or relatives, enclose $1 in an envelope along with a description of the person, where and when he was last heard from. Send it to Missing Persons Editor, AFRO-AMERICAN Magazine, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, 1, Md.

Persons with information concerning these missing people address all correspondence to Missing Persons, c/o AFRO-AMERICAN, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 1, Md.

Odis Britt of Bowdon, Ga. is looking for a man named Harvie Tramel. He was last heard from in Pittsburgh, Pa. He was then 12 years old. His father's name is Linard Tramel.

* * *

Anna Cormary of Allentown, Pa., is looking for her nephew, Bernard Jones whose last known address was Philadelphia, Pa. He is tall and thin, dark brown-skinned and about 38 years old. He was born in Newport, Pa.

* * *

Johnnie Johnson of Warwick County, Va. is looking for his brother George Johnson. When last heard from he was living somewhere in Baltimore. Md. 12 years ago.

* * *

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Carlton Leonard Smith, age 23, brown skinned, black hair, please tell him to come home right away, or call Milton 3-9291 or Milton 8-9750 in Richmond, Va.

* * *

Mrs. Marie Johnson of Washington, D.C. would like to hear from her uncle, Samuel Green who left Columbia, S.C. in 1920. He has a wife, Laura Green and two daughters, Sister and Nina.

* * *

Mrs. Isabella Spann of Gainsville, Fla., is looking for her son Mr. Walter Spann or Spain. He was last seen September, 1946.

He is dark brown complexioned, about 6 feet tall, weighs 200 pounds and is 40 years old. Last known address was Norfolk, Va. Last known whereabouts Baltimore, Md. or Washington, D. C. It is very important that he is found so he can receive property left by his deceased father.

* * *

W. H. Jones of Buffalo, N.Y. is looking for Joe McNeal who was born in Ocola, Fla. He is about 60 years old. His wife Robena Dunn is desirous to locate him.

* * *

Raymond Thompson of Vineland, N.J., is looking for his family. They may be going under the name of Mack which was his mother's name before marriage.

The Bridge Table

Nether side vulnerable
North dealer

NORTH
♠—Q J 10 5 4 2
♥—A Q
♦—A 3
♣—Q 8 4

EAST
♠—A
♥—K J 10 9 6 3 2
♦—J 8 7 6
♣—9

WEST
♠—K 9 8 6
♥—8 7 5 4
♦—K 9 5 4
♣—2

SOUTH
♠—7 3
♥— - - -
♦—Q 10 2
♣—A K J 10 7 6 5 3

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	4 ♥	5 ♣	Pass
5 NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: 4 ♥

More often than not, getting rid of sure losers early in the play will aid in bringing home those borderline contracts.

The bidding was interesting, to say the least after a normal one spade opening by North, East chose to pre-empt to four heart.

Non plussed South carried on to 5 clubs, and after North's slam-interested 5 no trump call, took the plunge to a small slam try in clubs.

The four of hearts was opened, the ace put up and a spade discarded in the closed hand. The best line of play, decided declarer, was to establish the long spades; accordingly the two of spades was led.

* * *

EAST'S ACE TOOK the trick and returned the king of hearts, declarer ruffing with the ace. Dummy was re-entered via the queen of clubs, declarer making sure to play the seven from the closed hand, trumps being picked up en route.

The spade suit was continued, and ruffed with the king. Dummy again re-entered with the eight of trumps, another spade ruffed and re-entered for the third time with the four of trumps and a spade ruff established the suit.

The spades were reached via the ace of diamonds, the losing diamonds discarded on the two established spades.

AFRO
MAGAZINE SECTION
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HERE IS MILDRED

Doo-Dads & Knick-Knacks

Ever heard of "gilding the lily"? Our gal Mildred sounds off on the good old American practice of adding unnecessary ruffles and flourishes to everything.

By Alice Childress

Hey there! What you doin', Marge? . . Crochetin' edges on towels?

People are gettin' ready to take off for the moon and there you sit edgin' towels! That's one reason we can't get up off the ground: we are too busy addin' doo-dads to things that are finished already!

The towel is complete and ready to use and you gonna take ninety-leven hours to put trimmin' on the edge; the trimmin' won't do a thing but scratch up your face!

Oh, I beg your pardon! . . . You are not going to use the towel, you're plannin' to hang it up just to look pretty, it's a **guest** towel? . . .

Well, won't the guest scratch up her face too?

. . . Oh, I see, the guest is gonna use those little paper towels with "Use Me" printed on 'em! . . .

In other words, nobody is allowed to use the towel? . . .

Girl, I repeat, that is the reason we can't get off the ground!

* * *

WE ARE the greatest "adders" in the world! We never know when something is finished, never want to take a fling at something new; would rather keep addin' doo-dads to the old, finished job . . .

Yes, I like things pretty, but we should learn a lesson from Mother Nature; the only time she prettifies something is when it needs it.

Have you ever seen an egg with fringe on it? . . . No, because the egg doesn't need it!

* * *

JUST THINK of the millions of hours we spend puttin' edges and trimmin's on everything we can think of!

We put bumps and humps and all kinds of shiny things on automobiles, because we don't know how to make a **new** car.

We do with the car, what you are doin' with that towel!

Instead of embroiderin' the lights and bumpers we should call it a day, and start to make a **new** car.

If I was a car-maker, I'd come up with a real, useful newer than new model.

I would bring out a non-crashable model!

It would have some kind of electric beam that could adjust the speed and also avoid any on-comin' objects!

I would also invent a steerin' wheel, where the horn would blow if you relaxed your hold on the wheel! . . .

That's right, if a person fell asleep at the wheel, the whole town would know about it!

* * *

INSTEAD OF decoratin' the same old head-lights, I'd put a string of new lights all around the car; whenever some fool exceeded the speed limit, his auto would light up like a Christmas tree.

After being arrested for three light-ups, the fool would lose his drivers license!

I would install an automatic ignition switcher-offer!

If a car went off-balance and started to turn over, the ignition would go right off, that way . . . the car wouldn't catch on fire!

I'd put some blow-proof, non-skid tires on my car, then I'd pass a law that made a man paste a big red circle on his bumper for each traffic violation!

. . . Sure, you could really tell the sheep from the goats!

When I finished my job, I'd move on to something else and let the adders, timmers and edgers work on my model, whilst I completed another new thing.

* * *

MARGE, ALL you have to do is look at our table-silver, furniture, lamps and almost anything else and you will see that the edgers have been busy thinking up doo-dads and knick-knacks!

Trimming and edging is our main past-time! Umpteen years ago somebody made a knife, fork and spoon; we haven't done anything but put roses and lilies on the handles!

We need wireless-lamps to protect toddlers, magnetic stove-tops and pot-bottoms to prevent scalds and burns, electric outlets high on the wall instead of down near the floor.

We need fire-proof material, house-paint that's got something in it to exterminate and prevent roaches, ants and such.

Isn't it about time that we got more out of paint than a new color?

* * *

I THINK we have enough fringe, plastic flowers, ribbon-bows, edgings, flutings and other such fancifiers to last us for a life-time.

Let's stop these high-way accidents and make the home safe, let's get a new look, a new attitude, hold a big wake for race prejudice . . . and before you know it we'll be off the ground . . . destination moon!

Marge, I know you can't make a new car, neither can I but . . .

Let's stop killin' time, let it live!

"About as useless as a fringe on an egg."

Coloring Contest Winners

Here are the winners in the recently concluded Christmas coloring contest. Our congratulations to the lucky winners. You will receive your checks very soon. To the losers, we say, be of good cheer, you will have another chance to break into the winning circle in our big Easter coloring contest which will begin a few weeks from now.

$5 Prize Winners

BEVERLY JEAN MOTON
42 Oakland Street
Englewood, N.J.

RONALD RICH
819 N. Monroe Street
Baltimore, Md.

MARY ALICE DOWNEY
Rt. 1, Box 126
Newsome, Va.

LULA MARIE COLE
1021 Hamlin St., N.E.
Washington, D.C.

NORMA R. DUNLAP
General Delivery
Granite Quarry, N.C.

$1 Prize Winners

NOEL WOODLAND DOWNER
86 Freeman Avenue
East Orange, N.J.

BETTY EZELL
1402 W. Main Street
Lansing, Mich.

WILLIE E. BENTON
9 Lyon Street
Binghamton, N.Y.

BETTY WALLER
2108 Rosewood Avenue
Richmond, Va.

GLORIA FELTON
3206 Brighton Street
Baltimore, Md.

HAROLD COOK
603 N. 35th Street
Richmond, Va.

AVELELLA M. PAYNE
2307 Fendall Avenue
Richmond, Va.

LINDA D. WARD
322 Diamond Street
Baltimore, Md.

ERNESTINE BYNUM
1771 Darley Avenue
Baltimore, Md.

BERNICE E. MONTGOMERY
1116 49th Place., N.E.
Washington, D.C.

DENYCE BAUGHAN
Dunnsville, Va.

ROBERT JENIFER
1127 McKean Avenue
Baltimore, Md.

CASSANDRA MEACHAM
1300 Williamsburg Street
Aiken, S.C.

CAROLYN BAKER
415 Cairo Street
Baltimore, Md.

MARY CLAYTON
1607 Floyd Street
Augusta, Ga.

ANNIE J. McRAY
2200 Susquehanna Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa.

DEBORAH L. RICE
802 Seagull Avenue
Baltimore, Md.

ANNIE L. EPPES
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NO NAME
7407 Gregory Drive
Norfolk, Va.