

greater use of Iranian material than has been made until recently" (p. xvii), it is perhaps regrettable that he did not extend his investigations further in this direction. Such an undertaking might have better illuminated the complex fifth-century Irano-Greek world in which the surviving Armenian Agat'angelos cycle was compiled. Given the fact, however, that Professor Thomson's avowed interest lies in the "'received' tradition" (p. viii)—the conscious image of itself being created in Christian Armenia—it is perhaps unreasonable to expect him to give undue attention to the underlying Iranian realities, which the clerical makers of that tradition were sedulously rejecting and denying during the second half of the fifth century as part of the life and death struggle against Zoroastrianism, mobilizing all the energies of Armenia at the time. Be that as it may, Professor Thomson's contribution has given us ample reason to be grateful. We can only hope that equally useful publications will continue to make the all but unknown Armenian medieval sources at long last available to Western scholars.

NINA G. GARSOIAN
Columbia University

ARMENIA: CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION. By *David Marshall Lang*. Revised ed. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1978 [1970]. 320 pp. + 8 pp. plates. Illus. \$29.00.

The reissuing of David Marshall Lang's survey of Armenian history and culture is testimony to the interest in and need for an accessible one-volume treatment of the Armenian past. Focusing primarily on prehistorical, classical, and early Christian Armenia, Lang's work provides the nonspecialist with pertinent information and an easy narrative, accompanied by an abundance of photographs. The story breaks off with the fall of Cilician Armenia in the fourteenth century, and the last half-millennium is discussed in eight pages. Professor Lang also gives us a cursory review of the leading figures in Armenian art, architecture, literature, and music.

Already established as the leading Western historian of Georgia, in this study Professor Lang ventures into an alien field. As a contribution to scholarship, his book has nothing new to offer. Indeed, the frequently flamboyant prose, the nearly complete emphasis on political history and personalities, and the allusions to national characteristics give the text a distinctly old-fashioned quality. No attempt is made to analyze the centrifugal forces operating in Armenian society (the *naxarar* system), the influence of geography, the effect of living between great and hostile empires to the east and west, or the weight of Islamic rule. Historiographic disputes and controversial issues are skirted or ignored, although they could give the reader a more precise picture of how much historians still do not know about Armenian civilization. Despite Professor Lang's erudite effort, the need for an analytical survey of Armenian history remains as palpable as ever.

RONALD GRIGOR SUNY
Oberlin College

THE STRANGE ALLIES: THE UNITED STATES AND POLAND, 1941–1945. By *Richard C. Lukas*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1978. x, 230 pp. \$12.50.

American-Polish relations in 1941–45 represent a strange, but by no means unimportant, historical episode. It was over the Polish question that the first American-Soviet diplomatic skirmishes, subsequently leading to the Cold War, were fought. The subject has received considerable attention in the memoirs of various personalities involved in those events (especially on the Polish side), and references to it abound in virtually all general historical works on World War II. Yet, so far only one major