

it. They are promiscuously interdisciplinary towards the social sciences, but a superstitious reverence for "art", sedulously fostered by the literary critics, keeps them chaste in their relations with literature.

Another of Mintz's methodological points, this one more explicit, deserves comment. Uneasily aware of the number-crunchers, he justifies his huddled population of five by invoking the question-begging notion of "case studies". The comfortingly social scientific sound of this phrase conceals a conceptual void. "Case studies" are often said to "reflect" — another evasive term widely used by social historians, not just by Mintz — some broader reality. The crucial point, the nature of this relationship, is papered over with a metaphor. Mintz is by no means alone with these conceptual problems: they are endemic in current social history, and heightened by the belief of many "new" social historians that research techniques are all, and presentation is non-problematic. Yet these are almost precisely the issues confronted, and in one way at least, resolved, in the classic realist novel — the relationship of the specific to the general, of the individual to society. To his credit, Mintz seems vaguely aware of this; he refers reverently, in passing, to Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*. But he does not yet have the combination of tact and deep knowledge of the period necessary to such a resolution; witness for instance his belief (p. 67) that still-life painting was a major Victorian genre. As an example of what a more felicitous touch can bring to this sort of multiple life study, one might cite the recent study on Victorian marriages, *Parallel Lives*, by the literary historian Phyllis Rose.

Christopher KENT
University of Saskatchewan

* * *

WILLIAM H. HUBBARD — *Familiengeschichte, Materialien zur deutschen Familie seit dem Ende des 18. Jahrhunderts*. Munich: C.H. Beck, 1983. Pp. 277.

This is a collection of well-presented source materials on the history of the German family. Appearing in a series "Statistical Workbooks on Modern History," part of Beck's larger *Elementarbucher* series, Hubbard's work seems designed to introduce family history at the German proseminar (mid-undergraduate) level. Hubbard sees history changing into a "problem-oriented social science" (p. 11), and *Familiengeschichte* is partly a plea for this kind of history in Germany. Despite his modest aim of supplementing rather than summarizing the literature on family history (p. 14), Hubbard gives an excellent twenty-five page resumé of major works and interpretations in the field, classified by the three approaches which have so far dominated it: demography, "feelings" (Ariès, Shorter, Stone), and economics. There is a good selective bibliography.

The source materials are grouped into "legal framework" (10 percent of the text), statistics (42 percent), and written evidence (30 percent). "Germany" is the 1871-1939 Reich, its earlier component-states, and the Federal Republic. The DDR is not represented, nor is Austria except for some statistics from Hubbard's own work on Graz. In the statistics, Berlin illustrates metropolitan conditions, Saxony an industrial region, and Bavaria a rural one.

The "legal framework" gives brief excerpts extending from the Prussian *Landrecht* of 1794 to the latest revisions of the Civil Code (BGB), illustrating the change "from patriarchy to partnership" as normative bases for family life. The statistical material is Hubbard's most original contribution. He had to collect it from a welter of sources, often

calculate his own indicators, and homogenize various regional and chronological series. Sixty-nine tables, graphs, or maps show vital rates, divorce rates, fertility rates, ages at and duration of marriage, household size, composition, and budgets, housing conditions, domestic service, working mothers, child labour, etc. Only about one-third of these statistics go back much earlier than 1871, and of these nearly half begin with the regular Prussian statistics in 1816.

Hubbard's textual extracts cluster like his statistical series: forty-nine of the sixty-eight are from the period 1870-1930. This emphasis, along with Hubbard's effort to document post-1945 changes, reflects no doubt not only the availability of sources, but also his desire to stimulate students' oral research into their own family histories (p. 15). The documents are classified as to whether they depict peasant, proletarian, or bourgeois family life, the latter two each getting considerably more space than the former. Some of the documents are quite striking: a Silesian farmer's brutally eloquent apologia for subordinating everything in life to his farm; the central role of the television set in the modern peasant stem family household; arrangements in the 1890s among Ruhr miners from the East which regularly included with "room and board" the favours of the young wife of the worn-out and prematurely aged landlord. A major failing, given the *Kleinburger's* importance in German history, is the absence of any documents reflecting lower-middle-class family life.

There are some questionable statements. Edward Shorter sees romantic love arising among the lower classes, not filtering down from the upper (p. 24). When the 1794 Prussian code refers to "mutual support" alongside procreation as a basis for marriage, it is not expressing a "new view of marriage as a dual relationship based on love" (p. 39), but simple exigencies arising from the sex-role division of labour within the traditional family productive unit. Hubbard tentatively attributes the fertility decline to "the pronounced rationality and secularization of the urban way of life", which "required the application of cost-benefit thinking in the realm of reproduction as well, resulting in adoption of birth control measures" (p. 67). His statistics do show fertility falling first in cities, and his best document on motivation does show a Saxon factory-worker of the 1890s, prompted by his wife's bitter complaints about the cost of children, investigating "'Parisian articles', pessaries, coitus interruptus, and 'things which can't be repeated in writing.'" But the wife is a peasant, and her attitude clearly reflects rural harshness rather than urban rationality (pp. 222-23).

Hubbard differentiates his statistics by occupation and social status as much as possible, but his categories are not always interpretable since they were not devised for any specific analytic purpose. Who exactly are these remarkably childless white-collar employees of Table 3.22, once we exclude "sales and office personnel", as a note tells us to do?

But these are mostly minor criticisms. Hubbard has filled a major gap and may well help stimulate the enormous research that needs to begin if a real German *Familiengeschichte* is ever to be written. Meanwhile, we can pillage his book to supplement our own courses with illustrative and thought-provoking material.

Thomas Fox
McNeese State University