concentrates on a handful of representative cases. Readers learn how an urban apprenticeship demanded new manners and new clothing in place of rural customs and how, over a few years, a callow youth developed enough knowledge and experience to set out on his own as a retailer. We learn about the upward path of mobility for farmers who sought to get ahead by “skinning” the land, thereby sacrificing long-term productivity for immediate profit. We also follow the downward path of those whose inherited landholdings were too small to provide a livelihood and who often became tenants, laborers, and craftsmen. Most women’s careers, however, seem to have changed little as mill operatives do not figure into the story. A Crisis of Community is beautifully written. Fuhrer’s prose is clear, imaginative, graceful, and appealing. Though her attachment to some of her subjects is evident, the analysis is objective and insightful. Many scholars have enriched our understanding with carefully researched town studies, but few have so successfully integrated local, regional, and national studies with social, cultural, political, and economic history.


Gary Scharnhorst’s biography of Julian Hawthorne (22 June 1846–14 July 1934), the middle child and only son of Nathaniel and Sophia Hawthorne, is a “must read.” Julian led a life stranger than fiction, and Scharnhorst, who writes with humor and an eye for detail, has offered a riveting account of the extraordinary events, pitfalls, and relationships that comprised his subject’s life. The biography begins on 15 October 1913, the day Julian was released from federal prison after having served seven months for his role in a scheme to sell worthless mining stock; it ends in 2004, at Nathaniel Hawthorne’s bicentennial celebration, when two descendants from Julian’s secret double-life appeared, as it were, from out of nowhere. Julian considered Hester Prynne, the adulteress from his father’s classic work A Scarlet Letter, to be a “heroic figure because she was both a free lover and a good mother” (p. 208). When Julian died at age eighty-eight, he possessed two scarlet letters of his own as well as a federal prison number, 4435.
Nathaniel Hawthorne died a month before Julian’s eighteenth birthday, perhaps fateful timing, for Julian, who betrayed juvenile tendencies, could have benefited from a father’s influence. Julian had attended the Concord School, run by Frank Sanborn, but needed additional tutoring to gain admission to Harvard. In Cambridge, he promptly faltered—majoring, as Scharnhorst points out, in gymnastics and becoming famous for feats of strength and stamina. After being expelled from the university, he moved around—Dresden (where he flunked out of Dresden Polytechnik), Concord, New York, London, Jamaica, California—often to evade his creditors.

Mostly a hack writer, who took to his pen for the money, he published in many genres (novels, including crime fiction, short stories, poems, newspaper columns, exposés and other investigative reports), but he consistently failed to earn enough to support his families. By Scharnhorst’s calculation, he “out-published his father by a ratio of more than twenty to one” (p. x), but few scholars would be able to name one of his titles beyond the books devoted to his father and mother, *Nathaniel Hawthorne and His Wife* (1884) and *Hawthorne and His Circle* (1903). Julian published his first novel, *Bressant*, in 1873, after which the *New York Times* predicted that Julian would eventually “‘rank side by side’ with his father.” The *Christian Union* complained, however, that the novel was “without hero or heroine, without purpose, without a point” (p. 64). Scharnhorst classifies the work as a “thinly disguised account of the love triangle involving George Lathrop and [Julian’s] sisters,” Una and Rose (p. 63). Julian went on to write 18 more novels as well as more than 150 short stories and novellas.

Julian seemed to have more talent for nonfiction than for fiction writing. Most of his novels received mixed reviews, which grew increasingly negative after the publication of *Idolatry* (1874) and *Garth* (1875). In 1895, he won a $10,000 literary contest—Scharnhorst found evidence that it was fixed—sponsored by the *New York Herald* for the novel *Fool of Nature*, which he wrote in three weeks. Scharnhorst considers *The Subterranean Brotherhood* (1914), a firsthand exposé of conditions in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, one of Julian’s best books. A collection of comic travel sketches, *Saxon Studies*, drew some accolades, as did a satiric guide to the Columbian Exposition of 1893 (*Humors of the Fair*).

Julian Hawthorne had a lengthy career in journalism. He covered the drought and widespread starvation in India, the Galveston flood, and President William McKinley’s assassination. He pretended to be a firsthand witness to the sinking of the *USS Maine*, when, in fact,
he had left Cuba before the explosion occurred. As a sportswriter, he reported on several memorable heavyweight fights and the 1915 spring training of the Boston Braves and Boston Red Sox, where he interviewed future Hall of Famers Tris Speaker, Honus Wagner, and a twenty-year-old Babe Ruth, whom he called a “born pitcher” who “can hit, too” (p. 202).

As extraordinary as Julian’s public life was, Scharnhorst’s biography makes the most of his private life. Julian sporadically feuded with his sister Rose and her husband, George Lathrop, over control of Nathaniel’s story and surviving manuscripts. He trashed Lathrop’s A Study of Hawthorne, tried to impede the research that would lead to Henry James’s Hawthorne, and later defamed James Russell Lowell to prevent his writing and publishing a book on Nathaniel. (For his part, Julian tried to capitalize on his father’s reputation by publishing a heavily doctored version of Dr. Grimshaw’s Secret.)

Julian’s romantic life was equally tumultuous. He married his first wife, May Albertina Amelung, known as “Minne,” in 1870. They had nine children, seven of whom survived them. Drawing in part on archival materials from the Bancroft Library in Berkeley, Scharnhorst reveals details about Julian’s secret second life and family. While still living with Minnie, Julian fathered two children with a mistress, Minna Desborough. Scharnhorst discovered and decoded a memorandum book Julian kept in 1899, when the affair began, and in which he crudely recorded their sexual encounters with an “X.” In his will, Julian acknowledged his relationship with Minna and recognized their daughters, Mayflower and Joan. Julian had a second affair, with Edith Garrigues Hutchinson, whom he married a month after Minne’s death in 1925. They lived together in California for the remainder of his life.

I suppose no review would be complete without a complaint or two. Mine are minor. I wish Scharnhorst had included some appendices. I think readers would appreciate a genealogical chart, especially given the scope of Julian’s secret family. He fathered eleven children in total, and it would be helpful to see their years of birth and death as well as a record of their children. The book would also have benefited from a calendar of Julian’s publications, especially since Scharnhorst has discovered texts previously unidentified. Otherwise, Julian Hawthorne is as fascinating a biography as you will ever read. A prodigal son, indeed, Julian led a scarlet-letter life.

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By Cornelia H. Dayton and Sharon V. Salinger. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014. Pp. xii, 260. $34.95.)

The poor, eighteenth-century New Englanders knew, will always be with us. The community, knit together as one, therefore had an obligation to care for the needy, the displaced, the widowed, orphaned, and ill. In this extraordinarily rich book, Cornelia Dayton and Sharon Salinger re-create colonial Boston during the years of imperial crisis (1760s–1770s) through the peripatetic observations of Robert Love, commissioned by the town to “warn out” strangers who might require public aid.

Dayton and Salinger demonstrate that warning out did not equate with casting out, nor was it a product of Yankee stinginess or Puritan aversion to outsiders. Rather, warning facilitated access to one of the largest pools of public welfare funds available anywhere in the American colonies, or perhaps the Atlantic world. Bostonians took seriously Winthrop’s injunction in “A Modell of Christian Charitie” (1630) to “abridge ourselves of our superfluities to the supply of others necessities” and to “make others conditions our own.” Taxpayers in each Massachusetts town paid to relieve their own poor. The province, too, had a fund—unique among the American colonies—for needy strangers, with 10 percent of its annual budget allocated for that purpose. In performing his duties, Love did not presume to be a gatekeeper: over the course of a decade, he warned three thousand parties, only thirty of whom were ultimately removed.

In the 1760s and 1770s, Boston’s economy was shrinking. While New York was building one hundred new houses per year, Bostonians only managed to erect twenty. Shipbuilding, leather processing, meat-packing, and hardware manufacturing declined. During his tenure, Love encountered immigrants from throughout New England whose hometowns fared worse than Boston. British troops who had been stranded in America following the end of the Seven Years War added even more strain to colonial economies. Love warned fifty British war veterans, including Richard Wiggins, who had been discharged in 1765. Wiggins and his family had arrived in Massachusetts Bay