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Review of the book:

Henry George: Citizen of the World, by Anna George de Mille
Reviewed by: Broadus Mitchell

This is a filial interpretation by George's youngest daughter, and has the benefit of a charming "Note about the Author" by her daughter, Agnes de Mille. The book does much to supplement the picture we have of Henry George in his own works and in the accounts by Henry George, Jr., Louis F. Post, and George R. Geiger. While personal recollections of a child and young woman (her father died when she was twenty) are scattered throughout these pages and form the most valuable part of the story, Mrs. de Mille, eager to be historical and objective, went back to many of the documentary sources. There is less appraisal of Henry George's economic doctrines and advocacies, especially as they apply in our own times. Mrs. de Mille was not an economist or economic historian. The omission of the place of George's thought is as it should be. Henry George's intellectual perception was keen. His arguments were better than resourceful, they were searching. His stature as an economic thinker, as in his refutation of the wage-fund theory, is of size. Yet it was the moral qualities of the man that made him great and perpetuate his memory. With him the conclusion from analysis, the formation of policy, and persistent propagation of that policy were in tight sequence. Never did philosopher live less in a vacuum. He killed himself as editor, lecturer, and political candidate. Since George's day the progress of large-scale capitalist enterprise has impressed on many minds the importance of socializing more than economic rent, and hence his preference for individualism and competition appears outmoded. Maybe the American, of the natural law school, could have learned much from his contemporary, Marx, but George thought socialism was a messy proposal. It is still true that Henry George would be America's best nominee for an international economic hall of fame; his nearest competitors, perhaps Alexander Hamilton and Henry C. Carey, for

different reasons are some distance behind him for that honor. Those who knew Mrs. de Mille will be grateful for this book as a record not only of her father but of herself, for she knew much of his secret of devotion.