

as if there were heroic figures contesting within it, violently and passionately, and natural shapes replace the foreground human ones, while the same escape route points to a distant spot of peace which Constable described in his favorite historical landscape [Titian, 'Martyrdom of St. Peter Martyr;' fig. 68] as 'a vision of angels.'

Without Christ to complete the objective meaning of the Passion, the Crucifixion, the Entombment, what happens to "desire"? Its object is displaced, and landscape gradually decays, strangled by 'taste', to the Buddhistlike water lilies of Monet and the tychistic psych-ejaculations, "the landscape-like skeins of Pollock." The old rainbow of the Covenant becomes a drowned hope (137): "like the rainbow bubbles of The [Morning after the] Deluge" (by Turner 'fallacies of hope.')

There is a very arresting side to Literary Landscape, one that indicates that Paulson is using Modernism as a language in order to communicate with Modernists. His tone and manner are frequently sly, not to say mimetically lubricious, but the message of this book is well worth the careful reading of it. Although only 172 pages long, Literary Landscape is desnely written. There are 27 pages of notes and an excellent index. A good deal of time will be spent referring to the illustrations, often in vain -- since the reproductions are sadly lacking in clarity. This is a challenging book, opposing the Georgic landscape of traditional Christian iconography to the Failed Pastoral Landscape of objectless subjectivism; the 'river' to the 'pond' of self-involuted, radically arrested Narcissism.

Nathan Cervo

BRIEFLY NOTICED

Hanno Helbling, Leben meinem Lied: Lyrik des 19. Jahrhunderts in Vier Sprachen. Insel Verlag, Frankfurt/Main, 1982. 205 pp. \$23.10. (U. S. Distributors: Suhrkamp/Insel, 380 Green Street, Cambridge, MA 02139)

Mr. Helbling's anthology is based on the provocative idea of giving the reader a sense of the poetry of one century (1800-1900) through representative examples. The texts are quadrilingual --