Review of *Sophus K. Winther* By Barbara Howard Meldrum

Joy Ritchie

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/greatplainsquarterly

Part of the Other International and Area Studies Commons


https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/greatplainsquarterly/988

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Great Plains Studies, Center for at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Great Plains Quarterly by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

Sophus Winther, who documented the experience of Danish immigrants in the novel *Take All to Nebraska*, is often considered a strictly regional writer. Barbara Meldrum's analysis of Winther's fiction, political essays, and literary criticism provides evidence of a philosophical consistency and depth in Winther's writing which transcends regional boundaries. Writing about immigrants in rural settings, workers in modern cities, the soldier/hero in post-war fiction, or about Eugene O'Neill's plays, Winther focuses on the individual struggle against the oppressiveness of
physical and economic environments.

In this monograph, Meldrum traces the influences which shaped Winther's naturalistic view of the world, but she also emphasizes the importance in his life and work of less prominent themes. Winther's belief in the value of work, of love, and of rational action, she believes, provides a balance and a release from the pervasive pessimism found in most of his writing.

JOY RITCHIE
Department of English
University of Nebraska-Lincoln