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## Lehman: THOMAS JEFFERSON, AMERICAN HUMANIST

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THOMAS JEFFERSON, AMERICAN HUMANIST. By *Karl Lehman*. New York: Macmillan. 1947. Pp. ix, 273. \$4.50.

Dr. Lehman attempts to define the common denominator underlying and motivating that versatile early American, Thomas Jefferson. The author came to this country in 1933 after a distinguished career as an archeologist and scholar in prewar Germany; he is now Professor of Fine Arts at New York University and has studied Jefferson devotedly since his arrival here. In this book he describes Jefferson's insatiable appetite for knowledge of the Ancients, his linguistic accomplishments in Greek and Latin, his great admiration for Roman architecture, and his philosophic combination of Epicureanism and Christianity. He describes Jefferson's impatience with translations and compilations and his preference for reading Greek and Latin originals whenever possible; his critical comparisons of originals with translations and with each other. He goes on to show the effects of this Humanism, this preoccupation with the ancient Greeks and Romans, on his ideas on science, religion, education, architecture, and even politics. Finally, he shows that Jefferson's very ideas on the art of living were shaped by his classical bent. Through all Jef-

person's activities and accomplishments Dr. Lehman finds the common thread of Humanist philosophy molding and shaping the result. This common denominator, he believes, is the key to the man.