

at the very least—an accurate rendition of that past. The story of the 54th is too important to be mangled, and *Glory* is too good a film to be reduced to irrelevance.

Notes

1. James M. McPherson, "The 'Glory' Story: The 54th Massachusetts and the Civil War," *New Republic*, 8–15 January 1990, 22.

2. David Nicholson, "What Price 'Glory'?" *Washington Post*, 21 January 1990; Marilyn Richardson, "What Price Glory?" *Reconstruction* 1 (1990): 40–41.

3. Alan A. Stone, "Glory: A Failure of Reconstruction," *Reconstruction* 1 (1990): 42–48.

4. *Ibid.*

5. This, of course, is putting matters kindly, for *Glory's* presentation of the 54th as personality types participates in an older—and less enviable—American cinematic tradition. Donald Bogle in *Toms, Coons, Mulattoes, Mammies, and Bucks: An Interpretive History of Blacks in American Film* (New York: Viking Press, 1973) explicated a typology of black characters that bears close resemblance to those in *Glory*. From Bogle's perspective, Tripp corresponds to the Buck, Searles to the Tom, and Jupiter—in a tragic reversal of the Stepin Fetchit character—the Coon. Only Rawlins transcends these types, making him easily the most interesting character in the film. I would like to thank Anthony Speranza for this point.

6. See the editorial in the *New York Times*, 1 February 1990, which recommends *Glory* be required viewing for all teachers and students in the New York school system because "the men of the 54th were models of discipline, the results of months of rigorous training by a commander who knew first hand what hell warfare is and directed his men enough to prepare them for it."

7. Steven Z. Starr presents evidence of Montgomery's concern for black soldiers in his opposition to the appointment of the notorious Charles Jennison as a commander of a Kansas black regiment. *Jennison's Jayhawkers: A Civil War Cavalry Regiment and Its Commander* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1973), 30–36, 45–46, and esp. 107; and Albert E. Castel, *A Frontier State at War: Kansas, 1861–1865* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1958).