The publication of this distinguished volume marks the successful conclusion of nearly twenty years of effort. The list of authors and the names of dozens of others who contributed to the research, organization, and writing of this volume reads like a biographical dictionary of Philadelphia scholars for the past half century. The project began to take shape in the 1960s under the leadership of Dr. Roy Franklin Nichols, then Dean of the Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania to whom, with his wife, Jeannette, the book is appropriately dedicated. As first editor, he gave impetus to the planning. When illness forced his withdrawal, Dr. Robert E. Spiller of Penn became ad-interim editor; and finally the editorship passed to Professor Russell F. Weigley of Temple University who completed the work. Nicholas B. Wainwright of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and Edwin Wolf 2nd of the Library Company of Philadelphia served as associate editors, while Lois Given Bobb served as managing editor and helped to make ready for print the work of two authors who died before completing their segments. Susan Detwiler provided the many illustrations which greatly enhance the text. This identification of a few of the major contributors gives us a sense of the size and character of the task force which has brought this book before the public in time for Philadelphia's tercentenary which it celebrates.

The volume under review is the fourth compendious history of Penn's own city and must be considered in relation to its predecessors. All of these aimed at a special commemorative date. The first, John F. Watson's *Annals of Philadelphia* (volume 1, 1830; volume 2, 1842) offers minute and particular descriptions of the domestic manners of early settlers, offered under 149 brief topical chapters with little interconnection. The first volume aimed at the city's sesquicentennial, 1832.

T. Thomas Scharf and Thompson Wescott's massive three-volume *History of Philadelphia, 1609–1884*, a city bicentennial production, gives a chronological political history in volume 1. Volumes 2 and 3 present a topical treatment of the economic, social, cultural, professional, and municipal life of the city. This set continues to be indispensable for details of the nineteenth-century story.

Ellis P. Oberholtzer timed his four-volume *Philadelphia: A History of the City and Its People* for 1907, the 225th anniversary of the founding. His first two volumes give a scholarly chronological tour of Philadelphia history with chapters on important topics interspersed. The last two volumes are paid biographies of contemporary citizens.
This brings us to the volume under review: *Philadelphia: A 300-Year History*, published in the tricentennial year—an accomplishment in itself not to be underestimated. The new book employs strict chronology as its main frame. Each of its sixteen chapters covers about two decades with a key theme stated to characterize each brief period from 1681 to 1982.

The book arouses our admiration and respect in a variety of ways. To begin, it covers three centuries of urban experience in one-third the space used by Scharf and Wescott to cover two centuries. It is thoroughly documented: 2056 end-notes occupy 56 double-column pages of small print. Five chapters offer about 200 notes each. The notes deal largely with modern scholarly articles and monographs, and less with contemporary writings and personal reminiscences than the books of Watson or of Scharf and Wescott. The financial problems which always beset the production of lengthy historical treatises were greatly eased for the editors by the early and steady support of the Barra Foundation. Watson and Wescott depended upon advance subscriptions; Oberholtzer on funds from the subjects of biographies.

The chronological schema achieves a benefit not found in the other histories. The unbroken narrative makes it possible to read the volume through—something which I suspect very few have done with any of the others. But this benefit is balanced by a difficulty inherent in the chronological treatment over a long period of any comprehensive study of a society. Each chapter—in this case, each author—must write about the same elements of city life, for these remain nearly constant. The actions change, but the topical headings stay the same: the political, the economic, the social, the cultural and all the required sub-heads under each. Since each author essays completeness and wishes to omit no significant person, institution, event or apparent trend, some material must always overlap between successive chapters. The reader also senses after a time the inevitable repetition of topics themselves.

So much of signal importance crowds into each chapter that little space can be spared for elaboration, and subjects worthy of an article or a monograph must often be treated in a page or less. As must be clear, this volume is primarily a book of reference. But it reads well and is entertaining provided it is not consumed too rapidly in too-large doses. The casual reader will enjoy it most by dipping into it and by skipping around rather than trying to swallow it all at once. Scholars or anyone seeking answers to factual questions will find it a treasure, especially the notes.

The most important historical contributions appear in the part dealing with the twentieth century as these years have not been covered so thoroughly elsewhere in one book. The last few chapters emphasize major changes in the character of the city. By the 1970s the political power had passed from the Protestants to the Catholics and Jews, and blacks dominated municipal employment. The old "Protestant establishment" had been replaced by "a whole new pluralist orientation" (pp. 678–9). The old power to control national events had disintegrated as had the power to control aggressive minorities who were making orderly government impossible. In 1976, the national bicentennial year, Philadelphia had an Italian mayor, an Irish police commissioner, a Jewish head of city council, a Polish head of the Democratic party, and a population nearly half of which was black, Spanish-speaking, or Asiatic.

The 1976 bicentennial celebration gave to Philadelphia an "improved image
and atmosphere,” a new enthusiasm for the city's many and varied cultures. After years of decline during the twentieth century, Philadelphia began to regain its traditional optimism. The book's epilogue expresses the hope that Penn's once green town might be the first “to point the way for a restoration and rebirth of the older industrial cities of America” in the twenty-first century.

The Pennsylvania State University

PHILIP S. KLEIN


There exists a neglected area of the commonwealth extending to the northwest from State College, a region isolated economically, politically, and historically from the rest of the state. Thus one welcomes a new study from this quarter of the state, one which, moreover, sheds light and understanding. Other than local works, this book is the first fresh look at Elk County since the 1890 volume History of McKeans, Elk, Cameron and Potter Counties, a work recently reissued by the Elk County Historical Society.

The state established Elk County in 1843 from portions of Clearfield, Jefferson, and McKean counties. It had originally been settled through the efforts of the Holland Land Company, but settlement had been slow. Elk had been formed to ease resolvement of legal affairs since the distance to the other county seats was so great. Its principal towns are Ridgway, St. Marys, and Johnsonburg.

This history is a compilation assembled from the contributions of numerous authors, the majority of whom are local chroniclers of their boroughs and/or townships. As with so many works of this nature, the results are uneven. Some of the articles (such as that for Johnsonburg) are impressionistic in part; others are mainly lists of names (i.e., “Who was Who” in St. Marys). There is little attempt at interpretation, and, on the whole, analysis as to the importance of the presented facts is left to the reader. As far as can be determined, every community, past as well as present, has at least a short description of its role in the county.

The emphasis throughout is primarily on the development and progress of industries and on the transportation facilities necessary to sustain economic life in this rural area. The important aspects of county life are described along with the trivia. For example, the exploits of “clairvoyant” Leroy Lyman are discussed at some length in addition to tales of some interesting disappearances of individuals. Still, these asides should not detract from valuable narrations of developments in the lumbering, railroad, coal, paper, carbon, and other industries. The importance to the region of financial institutions as well as social organizations, particularly churches, are adequately described.

Line illustrations of the persons, buildings, industries, artifacts, etc. pertinent to the articles involved are located throughout the book. The quality of the drawings range from superb to dreadful. It must, however, be stated that all contribute to an understanding of the article concerned. The most serious deficiency for future researchers is the lack of an index of any kind. It should be pointed out, though, that the compilation of such an index would have been difficult and, to be useful, probably excessively lengthy.
In summary, this book provides an enormous amount of information on Elk County, its inhabitants, and its industries. Some of the articles provide most entertaining reading. Further, it is probably the best history we will have on this county for the foreseeable future. As historians of the commonwealth, we should thank the editor and the contributors for their efforts to increase our knowledge and comprehension of the development of northwestern Pennsylvania.

Kane, Pennsylvania  
JAMES D. ANDERSON


Made in Western Pennsylvania: Early Decorative Arts, published to accompany an antiques forum and exhibition by this title at the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, is a major contribution to the growing body of studies of American regional antiques. It is the first major examination of furniture and decorative arts made in Western Pennsylvania and as such is very valuable. The title, unfortunately, misleads, for the geographical area actually represented is only part of southwestern Pennsylvania, namely the counties of Beaver, Washington, Greene, Fayette, Somerset, Westmoreland, and Allegheny.

This catalogue contains a brief introduction and seven sections, entitled “Inlaid Furniture of Western Pennsylvania, 1790–1840,” “Nineteenth Century Decorated Furniture of Soap Hollow, Somerset County, Pennsylvania,” “Southwestern Pennsylvania Clockmaking,” “Early Pittsburgh Silver,” “Decorated Stoneware of the Monongahela Valley,” “Pottery of Beaver Valley,” and “Bottles and Flasks from Pittsburgh Area Glasshouses.” Each section contains a good introductory essay, which provides a thumbnail sketch of each subject. This reader found the essays on inlaid furniture, Soap Hollow furniture, and clockmaking very informative. The essay on clockmaking clearly explains the relationships between the English and the Pennsylvania Dutch (Germanic) clockmaking traditions which exist in this area. The essays on stoneware pottery would have been more helpful if they had established a clearer relationship, if any, between these two major centers of production and those in the remainder of the region.

There are several interesting questions which this catalogue and exhibition bring to mind. First, were there no pewterers working in the area? None is mentioned. Secondly, is there a relationship in terms of design between Soap Hollow furniture and the painted furniture of the Pennsylvania Dutch in the rest of Somerset County and of the Pennsylvania Dutch in eastern Pennsylvania? Finally, what relationships exist between the early glass houses producing bottles and flasks and the slightly later production of pressed and cut glass for the production of which Pittsburgh is renowned? Although Pittsburgh glass has been well studied, a few early examples of cut and pressed glass would have enhanced this part of the catalogue.

Certainly this catalogue substantiates Peter Chillingworth’s view that the furniture and decorative arts of southwestern Pennsylvania are worthy of attention. This volume is very useful. The photographs are excellent, the documentation and notes are well done, and the select bibliography is helpful.
While there are many unanswered questions, this is an excellent beginning and should lead to greater research in this area. The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania is to be commended for sponsoring this exhibition and catalogue.

Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County  ROYCE E. WALTERS


The long title of Professor Anthony Wallace's book provides the focal point for his work. This volume is another contribution in his scholarship on the social context of technological innovation in the Industrial Revolution. He views technology as a social process and examines the organizations in which inventors did their work.

Using Francis Bacon's utopian essay, New Atlantis, to establish his major theme, Wallace has divided his book into three chapters: the first on bureaucrats, the second on families, and the third on heroes. When Bacon wrote about Salomon's House, or the College of the Six Days Works, he clearly envisioned the place of government bureaucracy for effectively encouraging scientific and technological advancement. Wallace notes that Bacon, who spent most of his life as a public official, was familiar with the Royal Office of Ordnance. This office encouraged and aided British inventors to harness the powers of steam and air. Wallace explains how inventors of the steam engine such as Thomas Savery and Thomas Newcomen benefited from this department's policy. In chapter 2 on "Families of Iron" Professor Wallace shows how marriage and family ties play an important role in creating technology. Again he cites the significance Bacon assigned to the family in this regard. The network of the extended family proved to be instrumental in developing the British iron industry. Wallace uses the ventilation of coal mines to demonstrate how individuals became heroes by making important inventions. In Bacon's eyes an individual achieved such status by inventing something beneficial to mankind. Since gases in coal mines killed many men every year, improvements in detecting gases and mine ventilation made inventors of such things as safety lamps heroes of society. In treating this topic Wallace devotes the final chapter to coal mining in Great Britain and the town of St. Clair in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

Professor Wallace's book provides a different way to look at the history of technology. He did a capable job examining the subject, drawing from a fairly extensive body of secondary scholarship. The only noticeable errors appear on page 41 where two dates are given for the nineteenth century instead of the seventeenth century.

This book is clearly a contribution to the history of technology, and students of the subject will find it worthwhile. Only thirty-six pages are devoted to the Pennsylvania anthracite industry. Students interested in this topic will find a few interesting facts in these pages.

Bloomsburg State College  H. BENJAMIN POWELL

In this slim volume Thomas R. Winpenny examines the formative years of the factory system in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and the impact of industrialization on the community. The study focuses on the establishment of the Conestoga Steam Mills in the late 1840s and the following three decades. Professor Winpenny maintains that this industrial revolution brought progress and economic benefits without social upheaval and labor strife. Lancaster was able to absorb the factory system without discord because of local circumstances such as the wealth of the countryside, the stability of the long-established town, and the ready supply of resident workers. In a narrower variation of Thomas C. Cochran’s geo-cultural concept, Winpenny argues that the character of the industrialization experience is molded by local conditions and that problems often associated with industrial progress are rooted in the environment in which industrialization occurs.

The major portion of Winpenny’s study surveys the evolution of Lancaster’s industrial sector which began with an increased demand for manufactures following the introduction of new techniques and implements in farming. This agricultural revolution and the wealth of the countryside as manifested in grist mills and iron plantations generated investment capital for industrial development. By the 1840s Lancaster had evolved from a community of merchants and craftsmen to a more diversified economy which included “factory-like activity” (p. 16). In 1845 Charles Tillinghast James, a promoter of steam-powered cotton mills from Rhode Island, persuaded Lancaster merchants to organize the Conestoga Steam Mills. With local capital the company built three mills which introduced the industrial factory system. Because of financial problems the three mills became separate firms by 1855, and all surrendered to Philadelphia interests by 1860. Nevertheless, the Conestoga Steam Mills inspired construction of three additional mills by 1872, and textiles contributed substantially to Lancaster’s economic growth. In 1880 cotton textiles created one-third of value added by manufacture and employed one-third of all workers in Lancaster. From 1850 to 1880 the industrial sector remained diversified including the production of locomotives, cigars, shoes, carriages, boilers, bricks, and farm equipment, but the relative importance of different industries changed over time. Although textiles continued to dominate, Lancaster did not become a mill town because the industrial sector remained diversified.

Industrial Progress and Human Welfare also considers the conditions of labor in attempting to explain the benign industrial revolution. Workers and the community were prepared for the factory system by the earlier evolution in manufactures, and the cotton mills promised additional employment opportunities. The new jobs drew mill hands from local households but did not attract farmers and immigrants to Lancaster. Females between fifteen and nineteen years of age constituted the largest component of operatives, and with few exceptions they were daughters of laborers, widows, and skilled workers. With over 85 percent of the operatives living at home and at least half working with siblings in the mills, family values were reinforced daily. Numerous religious,
social, and educational institutions enhanced the quality of life for docile teenage operatives and cemented community ties. Most females remained for less than a decade in the mills, but their wages enabled working class families to improve their standard of living. Although mill hands risked accidents and lung diseases, most workers were better off in 1880 than in 1850 and, therefore, they welcomed and accepted the factory system.

A fundamental weakness of this study is insufficient historical evidence. The narrative is developed primarily from population and manufactures census records which provide decennial snapshots of the community. While the book contains twenty-five tables constructed with census data, this evidence and the information from Lancaster newspapers, scattered business records, and cited secondary works do not provide adequate explanations for changes over time. Too often a passage concludes with possible explanations and a suggestion of the most plausible interpretation. Likewise, discussions of several industries and entrepreneurs lack appreciable depth, and the depression of the 1870s escapes attention. The presentation might be enhanced by a more effective organization and a reduction of redundant passages. Maps of Lancaster in 1850 and 1880 and a bibliography would be welcome additions. While Professor Winpenny offers evidence supporting his general thesis, additional information is required to render his arguments more convincing.

Kutztown State College

ROBERT M. BLACKSON

Self-Help in the 1890s Depression. By H. Roger Grant (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1982. Pp. xii, 163. $11.95 paper.)

This is a story about human resiliency. Roger Grant, with the publication of Self-Help in the 1890s Depression, adds his voice to the chorus of historians who in recent years have discovered courage, initiative, and adaptability among those previously assumed to have been ground into dust. Thus, just as workers, slaves, and immigrants were more resilient than once supposed, so too were the victims of the depression of the nineties. Through the creation of self-help projects such as community gardens and farmers' railroads, struggling citizens often improved their condition, gained a sense of control over their lives, and learned to work together in a common effort—surely a foreshadowing of Progressivism.

In reconstructing the crisis of the 1890s Grant underscores the idea that “hard times” reached the farmer long before they reached others. On the urban front he reminds the reader of successful public works projects in Boston, St. Louis, and Seattle, and awards high marks to many private charities for their effectiveness. Most pronounced in this overview is the author’s claim regarding the sanctity of the work ethic in the nineties. Grant contends that the “commitment to work permeated the national psyche” and that the “able-bodied craved employment.” It logically follows that nineteenth-century forms of “workfare” were lauded while relief was viewed with great caution.

The author’s major contribution to our understanding of the period, however, resides in five “case studies” offered as proof of the vitality and success of self-help. The first and most convincing concerns community gardens. In 1894 Detroit’s Mayor Hazen S. Pingree, inspired by the sight of idle land, launched a major program that provided gardens for the poor of the city. The first year nearly one thousand families worked plots around the edge of the city ranging
from a quarter acre to an acre, dutifully learning that squash and pumpkins grow like weeds. "Pingree's Potato Patches" received nationwide publicity, and the program became a model for other municipalities.

G. B. DeBernardi, author of *Trials and Triumphs of Labor* (1890), initiated a program of "labor exchanges" in which individuals produced what they needed and deposited the surplus in a warehouse in return for a labor check. This labor check could then be used to purchase items deposited in the warehouse by someone else. By 1897 DeBernardi claimed fifteen thousand followers in 325 organizations—the majority in the Midwest and West. This scheme to reduce the number of middle men and circumvent the need for cash rarely warmed the hearts of traditional merchants, and yet hard-pressed merchants often accepted labor checks.

Cooperative stores or buying and selling as a group in order to move goods or services directly from the producer to the consumer was surely not new in the 1890s, and yet Grant notes that such arrangements flourished and successfully eliminated many wholesalers, retailers, and their profits.

A fourth category focuses on what—with a little bit of imagination—the author calls farmers' railroads. In those instances in which railroads could not be tamed or intimidated with plans for public ownership or regulation, farmers of the great plains determined to build their own. The heroic yeoman of Minnesota and North Dakota learned how difficult it is to finance a capital-intensive project not intending to make a profit. Furthermore, the reader marvels at their desire to provide better service and lower freight rates at the same time they were committed to raising wages and easing the work load of railroad employees. Nevertheless, a few such projects were launched, and they gained the attention of the Great Northern and ultimately contributed to better service.

A final category that somehow seems out of place in this book and carries the unfortunate label "Intentional Communities" examines both the literary and real utopian schemes of the period, with particular attention being paid to Charles W. Caryl's plan for the New Era Union Model City, first revealed in 1896. These utopian communities and other self-help plans allegedly functioned as "safety valves" by providing either instant relief or long range hope for a better life.

In the interests of a "useable past" the work concludes with "Self-Help Brought Up To Date" in which Grant contends that the self-help and initiative of the 1890s and 1930s would prove enormously useful in the hard times of the 1980s. Grant avoids the nasty question of whether the values of the unemployed in the 1980s differ from those of an earlier period.

This is a creative little book that carries our attention back to the "other great depression" and reminds us that Americans of the 1890s were made of the right stuff. A concluding chapter linking this self-help of the nineties with Progressivism would have been considerably more satisfying than "Self-Help Brought Up To Date." Roger Grant writes well and yet the story does not flow as it might. This occurs because he presents not five case studies (as claimed) but rather five categories and several cases within each category. This ultimately wears the reader down. Having said this, the book is a welcome addition to the literature of self-help and our understanding of the 1890s.

*Elizabethtown College*  
*THOMAS R. WNPENNY*

Pennsylvania's Little New Deal chronicles the political and legislative history of the commonwealth under its three governors during the 1930s. The Republican reformer, Gifford Pinchot, is succeeded in 1934 by the Democratic reformer, George H. Earle III, and Earle, in turn, is followed by his Republican critic, Arthur H. James. As the title suggests the major focus of the book is on Earle's administration, but approximately one-fourth of the total details Pinchot's response to the crises of the early depression years. In helping to raise the public's awareness about utility regulation, taxation, and adequate appropriations for relief Pinchot functions as a catalyst for the Little New Deal. His role here suggests to this reviewer the one played earlier by the New Idea Republicans prior to Woodrow Wilson's governorship in New Jersey.

The key bastion of resistance to reform proposals under both Governors Pinchot and Earle had been the Republican-controlled state senate. Keller, therefore, highlights the special meaning for Pennsylvania of the nationwide Democratic sweep in 1936, when for the first time since 1871 the Democrats achieved a majority in the senate. With control of both the legislature and the executive the triumphant Democratic coalition of reformers, longtime professional politicians, ethnics, and labor, filled "two fat law books" (p. 287) with their own New Deal. Relief payments were increased and adequate appropriations were provided, an antiquated system of workmen's compensation was revised, the tax burden on private and corporate wealth was increased, and a Little Wagner Act was passed for Pennsylvania. In some respects the Little New Deal anticipated rather than followed its national counterpart, for Pennsylvania enacted wages and hours legislation a year before the Fair Labor Standards Act. Keller is clearly in sympathy with the aims of the Earle administration and credits it with an "impressive record of humanitarian legislation" (p. 262).

Governor Earle was prohibited by the Pennsylvania Constitution from succeeding himself and in 1938 bitter factional fights in both the gubernatorial and United States Senate primaries weakened the Democrats. In addition, Keller suggests that charges of corruption, a national swing by the middle class back to the Republicans, and lack of effort by some Democratic party workers were factors contributing to the Democratic defeat in the general election. In his discussion of the 1938 campaign Keller ably integrates his oral history materials with the more traditional newspaper sources available to the political historian.

During the campaign some of the Republican rhetoric suggested repudiation of major Little New Deal measures, but, with some exceptions in the labor relations field, this was not the case. "For the most part, the James administration marked no great departure from the policies of the Little New Deal" (p. 395). It would seem that Keller's findings here could be easily integrated with the interpretation of the consensus school of American history which stresses the essential agreement on values that unites both major parties in their preemption of the broad middle ground of the American political spectrum.

However, it seems to this reviewer that the discussion of the James administration is not representative of the book's basic conceptual frame. Once again Keller takes us back to the world of the progressive historian where the reformers, representing the masses, battle the special interests. Although
reformers can be Republicans—and Pinchot is an obvious case in point—they are more likely to be Democrats, while the preferred vehicle for selfish business interests has been the Republican Party. Keller ably demonstrates that there is a good deal in the historical record to credit such a view, not only in the rhetoric used at the time, but also in the crucial infighting over proposed legislation. Accepting the dictum that politics is the art of the possible and using a comparative standard which sets the legislation of the thirties in contrast to archaic or nonexistent predecessors, Keller has a solid base for finding the Little New Deal truly progressive.

A New Left historian might well not be as sanguine. More might be made of the Socialist/Communist challenge to the adequacy of the relief payments accepted by the Earle administration. Keller's judgment that the corporations and utilities did in fact "shoulder a greatly increased share of the tax load" (p. 260) lacks the backing of any sophisticated economic analysis, and could be disputed. In short, alternative methods or a sharper critical edge might well modify some of Keller's judgments.

When Keller completed his study in the early 1960s it broke new ground with its focus on the political history of a single state during the 1930s. Subsequent studies concentrating on specific aspects of Pennsylvania's history during this period have appeared in the interim. Keller's study, however, remains a solid base line from which historians may pursue new questions, challenging or corroborating Keller's work in the process.

Hobart and William Smith Colleges

ROBERT A. HUFF


This volume of memoirs by one of the central figures of Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Brains Trust" explores Tugwell's career from his freshman year in college in 1911 to his appointment as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture in 1932. During this period Tugwell evolved from a mild Progressive reformer to one of the leading proponents of economic planning. As such, these memoirs provide a very useful insight both into the development of Progressive thought in the post-World War I period and also into the forces which shaped much of the early New Deal.

Tugwell, the son of an affluent New York gentleman farmer and banker, began his freshman year at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in the fall of 1911 aspiring to a business career. His education, however, quickly changed that goal. The Wharton School by 1911 had already moved beyond the conservative intentions of its benefactor, Joseph Wharton, who had stipulated three decades earlier that students be indoctrinated in the benefits of the high protective tariff. Tugwell was instructed by such Progressive economists as Scott Nearing and Simon Nelson Patten who were sharp in their criticism of classical economics. Patten's goal at Wharton was to "train enough experts [so that] business will simply not be able to hire all of them and some will become available for the public service. In that way business regulation will become effective..." (p. 6). It was to these goals of public service and business
regulation which Tugwell was firmly committed by the time of his graduation in 1915.

The evolution of Tugwell's thought was influenced strongly by his appointment in the fall of 1917 as the head of the University of Washington's Marketing Department. Teaching economics from the textbooks of the day convinced him more than ever that classical economic theory was inadequate to explain the modern world. But the condition of wartime Seattle had an even more profound effect on him. Seattle in 1917 was a rapidly developing city plagued with wartime strikes. To Tugwell the city's growth seemed a haphazard waste of natural resources which was producing an ugly, inefficient city. The industrial strife, moreover, suggested again to him the inability of laissez faire economics to regulate wages, prices, and production. The experiences of the 1917 winter in Seattle, then, led Tugwell beyond his Progressive belief in business regulation into a search for collective solutions and economic planning.

Tugwell's views on planning matured in the 1920s during his tenure in the Economics Department of Columbia University. The advent of the large, impersonal business corporation in the 1920s indicated to him that America had gone through "a later industrial revolution of even greater consequence than that which had furnished the material for the theories of [Adam] Smith and his successors" (p. 160). At Columbia Tugwell's thinking on planning was furthered by the broad view of human affairs he was encouraged to take by teaching in the College's Contemporary Civilization course. Of greatest importance to his thinking, however, were his encounters at Columbia with such notable Progressives as John Dewey and Herbert Croly whose own views on planning were already well developed. Out of this mixture of forces Tugwell came to the conclusion by the late 1920s that the need for America's future was a comprehensive, integrated system of economic management. The Great Depression served only to underscore his convictions.

Tugwell's memoirs are important to historians of twentieth-century America for a variety of reasons. They show in clear detail how Progressive economists like Tugwell concluded that classical theory no longer explained modern industrial economies. More significantly, Tugwell's memoirs shed light on the link between Progressive reform and New Deal reform. Historians have long debated whether Progressivism and the New Deal were two manifestations of the same reform impulse or whether they were two distinct impulses. This volume seems to indicate that the latter is true. Tugwell's thinking in the early New Deal was not simply a revival of Progressive reform, but rather was the product of a Progressive mind modified by the economic conditions of World War I and the 1920s.

Muhlenberg College

JOHN W. MALSBERGER


Inspired by the radical movements of the 1960s, Paul Lyons has looked back at the Old Left of the 1930s, particularly those who belonged to the Communist Party for two decades. Using interviews with thirty-six Philadelphians, he draws a collective profile and examines why they joined the CP, their ethnic and
cultural backgrounds, family lives, and social values. He contrasts them with scholarly portraits and common stereotypes of the CPUSA to find similarities as well as differences. The author concludes that despite their radical politics, Philadelphia Communists of the 1930s and 1940s had a somewhat conventional lifestyle and values toward women, home and family, as opposed to the New Left’s counter-culture of the 1960s. While the Old Left reached out to organize the working class, the New Left seemed to alienate this group and did not engage in union activities to the extent of its predecessor. The author poses interesting questions, conducts a novel oral history search, and presents a fine current bibliography of the secondary literature on American Communism.

But historians familiar with the era and the urban context will be disappointed with this book. Because of its topical rather than chronological approach, the reader gets no feel of Philadelphia in the 1930s—the economic, social, and cultural milieu in which these people became radicalized. There is no discussion of the impact of the Great Depression, industrial slowdowns, strikes, or the campus atmosphere at the University of Pennsylvania and Temple, all of which might have influenced young radicals. Lyons is also weak in his presentation of specific neighborhoods. He mentions Strawberry Mansion as an area where many of his subjects lived, but he does not locate it on the map, presents no hard evidence of its social or ethnic make-up, and no account of community organizations and women’s groups. Not until the next to last chapter, entitled “Problems and Crises, 1939–1956,” does the author give any detail of key events as they are experienced in Philadelphia, and even here Lyons does not offer a distinct local picture. For the election of 1948, for example, he fails to note that the Progressive Party convention was held in Philadelphia, and he offers no discussion of the campaign on the district level.

Another major problem concerns the sample of thirty-six and the almost total reliance on interviews for evidence. The author accumulated ninety-five names, of which thirty-six granted an interview. “Of the remainder,” he explains, “five were no longer in the area, one had died, sixteen could not be located, and seventeen were eliminated because they would tilt the sample away from any semblance of ethnic representation.” Seven proved inappropriate because of age or lack of experience in Philadelphia, and thirteen declined. The author’s conclusions, therefore, rest solely on thirty-six people out of over three thousand Philadelphia CP members between 1936 and 1948. To disguise the subjects, Lyons not only changes their names, but to prevent biographical details from leading to identification, he presents some information in composite form. The readers, therefore, never get a precise picture. Beyond the disguises, the author does not probe for rich details or has chosen to omit facts from the text. One teenage girl, for example, was radicalized by factory work, but the year and the factory remain a mystery. A young man, involved in his school ASU chapter, helped to make it the largest in Philadelphia. But again, the date is omitted, as well as the school, and we have no idea of his organizational activities. Such sketchiness exists throughout. To illustrate many key points, Lyons turns to quotations, at times rather lengthy ones, from Communists outside of Philadelphia, like Jessica Mitford, George Charney, and Eric Bentley, or the works of others, like Vivian Gornick and Mark Naison. And, at the same time, he relegates the Philadelphia data, like the Wallace vote in the city, local attitudes toward the Nazi-Soviet Pact, and statistics on military service, to footnotes.
Beyond the sample, the author has not combed the sources on Communism in Philadelphia. Although he cites the Daily Worker, he merely mentions the Pennsylvania Sunday Supplement. He fails to make use of campus newspapers, labor periodicals, manuscripts of union locals, and the black press. Hearings, like the House Un-American Activities Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Internal Security, include testimony relating to Communist activity in Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania. Although such materials are obviously unsympathetic, they do provide rich details.

Lyons has undertaken a provocative topic and asked important questions about Communism at the local level. His answers, however, only scratch the surface.

New York, New York

BONNIE FOX SCHWARTZ


In late 1970 the nation’s business and financial communities were stunned by the declaration of bankruptcy by the Penn Central Corporation. Many investors and financial analysts believed that the merger of the New York Central Railroad and the Pennsylvania Railroad into the Penn Central Corporation was the last and best hope for a solvent national railroad network. Railroad observers hoped that the merger would allow the railroad enough capital to reverse the declining fortunes that it had suffered since the early 1930s.

The collapse of such a massive corporation stimulated many rumors and explanations for the Penn Central failure. Additional to the reasons offered by popular press newspapers, trade periodicals, and financial journals were the accounts offered by several government investigating committees, and a number of monographs. Several of these treatments, such as The Wreck of the Penn Central by Joseph Daughen and Peter Binzen and the report of the House Committee on Banking and Currency chaired by Congressman Wright Patman of Texas, were highly critical of the Penn Central’s chief financial officer, David C. Bevin. Stephen Salsbury attempts to refute these interpretations in his book, No Way to Run a Railroad: The Untold Story of the Penn Central Crisis. Salsbury is currently Professor of Economic History and Dean of the Faculty of Economics at the University of Sydney in Australia. The author describes his volume not as a history of the Penn Central Railroad or as a case study in business management, but as “a story of both a man, David C. Bevin, and a bankruptcy—it is a business biography.” True to the author’s definition of this unique genre, the book never removes its attention from Bevin.

The work is divided into two separate parts. The first section traces David Bevin’s career through the Pennsylvania Railroad and then the Penn Central Corporation. Bevin’s rise in the Pennsylvania Railroad, the predecessor of the Penn Central Corporation, receives much attention because it was during this pre-merger era that he systematized the financial procedures of the company and accrued much responsibility and power. In the seventeen years that Bevin was chief financial officer of the “Pennsy,” he developed a data-processing system which allowed extremely accurate budget and economic planning, was instrumental in introducing modern accounting methods, engineered a debt
retirement program which was quite successful, and, most importantly, headed an asset diversification program for the railroad. As long as Bevin was the chief financial officer of the Pennsylvania, his importance and responsibilities multiplied. Partially due to his efforts the railroad demonstrated a slight, but encouraging financial renaissance. However, after 1963 his influence within the highest circles of Pennsylvania management declined, due to the corporate presidency of Stuart Saunders, a lawyer and promoter, who failed to support Bevin’s programs as had previous Pennsy executive officers. Salsbury believes that the reason for this was that “operating men” had Saunders’s ear for their expensive physical renovation projects and the “financial men,” led by Bevin, had little support from the president. According to Salsbury this functional split grew during Saunders’s presidency of the Pennsylvania and developed to a critical stage after the merger with the New York Central.

As part of the 1968 merger reorganization Bevin was stripped of his authority over several areas of responsibility critical to financial management and planning, areas such as accounting and data processing. Similarly, Bevin’s pleadings for more responsible spending and more efficient operating procedures were totally unheard. Salsbury contends that it was the removal of Bevin from the highest councils within the Penn Central that accounted most of all for the corporation’s failure in 1970.

The first part of the book is tightly argued and admirably reasoned; however, in part two of the work the author’s sympathy for Bevin overpowers historical objectivity. The second part of the work, entitled “False Allegations Concerning Causes of the Penn Central Bankruptcy,” begins with the chapter, “Scapegoat.” In this half of the book Salsbury defends Bevin’s actions against various charges made by critics of the Penn Central’s chief executive officer. The apology goes into great detail and demonstrates ingenuity of argument in defending Bevin’s personal and professional activities. Several of these chapters read much like a legal brief and are at times quite tedious and trivial to the general reader or the historian. A possible reason for the almost worshipful attitude which Salsbury reserves for Bevin is his own fascination with the economic and financial aspects of industry. This fascination leads to a glorification of the financial aspects of railroad management and a disregard if not disrespect for the engineering or operational aspects of railroad administration. While the author is infinitely capable of an economic analysis of the bankruptcy, he is overly sympathetic and uncritical of the actions of Bevin, a financial man and an economic analyst. Also, scrutiny of the sources reveals that while the work includes a variety of source materials, it relies very heavily upon the Bevin papers. The Bevin papers, a collection of materials compiled by Bevin and his attorney for use in litigation, perform their intended function admirably; that function is to defend and justify Bevin’s every action. Thus, in the writing of this business biography the author is clearly trapped by his sources.

No Way to Run a Railroad is a readable and useful book despite its shortcomings. And, although the work is not the definitive work on this aspect of American business history, it does make a sizeable contribution to the literature of this highly controversial historical event. Students of business history and management will find this work worth reading.

Oklahoma State Archives

M. Edward Holland
BOOK REVIEWS


The accident at Three Mile Island on March 28, 1979, was the greatest nuclear power crisis in American history. Philip L. Cantelon and Robert C. Williams accepted the challenge of the Department of Energy to "write a scholarly book ... useful to the department and credible to the public ... under a government contract ... within prescribed time constraints." They have achieved a comprehensive analysis of the DOE's response to the crisis at TMI, "not so much a technological event as a human and historical one." Limiting their study to the agency's role and employing chronological historical methodology, Cantelon and Williams have presented order out of chaos from the extensive log books, notes, oral interviews, and radiological data. That is my conclusion with the skepticism of a father whose daughter gave birth to a granddaughter at Harrisburg Hospital during the crisis.

Melvyn B. Nathanson's foreword indicates "a minor mechanical failure was made worse by a series of wrong decisions by the men in the control room. This almost led to the meltdown . . ." although "people living near Three Mile Island were in no danger." However, as the authors pointed out, and I can attest, "Risk perceived is risk endured."

They trace the evolution of a harrowing event through an agency role undisclosed by the media. Monitoring off-site radiation and protecting the public from it were the DOE's primary concern. By the afternoon of the accident, the Department had established a command post at Capitol City Airport across the Susquehanna River from Harrisburg. But "reality was hard to establish" after the invasion of the politicians and the media, and communications were poor. With no data from the plant itself and no evidence that their radiological data affected decisions, "too many decisions were made on the periphery" while the "media generated alarm based on contradictory and confusing statements . . ." Walter Cronkite began reporting "the first step in a nuclear nightmare" although within twenty-four hours he, too, recognized that there was "more heat than light in the confusion surrounding the incident." The NRC's Harold Denton was an effective spokesman to the press and the public, but the fact is "only the Amish . . . appear to have emerged relatively unscathed."

Seven compelling chapters with an introduction and an afterword detail the emergency from the early compounding of human errors with planning procedures and surveys which began as early as 1976 to the arrival of DOE radiological monitoring teams and the invasion of the media along with DOE scientists and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. What ensued was a battle between scientific (scientists and radiation experts) and nonscientific (government officials and reporters) forces climaxed by the major media event of President Carter's Sunday visit. The "response had become political, rather than radiological, and therefore far more difficult to bring to an end." The "most effective response (DOE) operated free of public scrutiny, but in the public interest."

This slim volume with its supplemental roster of the personnel of all involved agencies and a synoptic chronology of TMI, as well as footnotes and index, will
help us to appreciate not only the role of the DOE, but also why "the accident at TMI did not end with cold shutdown, nor will it end . . . until the years long cleanup of TMI-2 is completed," as the Presidential Commission reported.

In the final analysis, a little knowledge became a dangerous thing. This effort provides more than a little, and it is worth reading if only for the appreciation of the Department of Energy's role. Whether or nor it was a "relatively minor accident" remains a Faustian paradox.

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