Book Reviews:


(Göttingen: Niedersachsches Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen, 1989, Pp. 1807, $100.00.)

This two-volume work is part of a years-long, transatlantic project to locate and catalog all German-language materials printed in early America, thus building on and improving the work of earlier bibliographers. In the 1970s Karl Arndt and May E. Olson cataloged and published three volumes of newspapers printed in the United States and the rest of the Americas (*The German Press of the Americas. Die deutschsprachige Presse der Amerikas*, v. 1, 3rd rev. ed., Munich: Verlag Dokumentation, 1976), v. 2, Pullach bei München: Verlag Dokumentation, 1973; v. 3, Munich: Saur, 1980). Simultaneous to the appearance of these volumes, plans were made to publish a catalog which would supersede the well-known, pioneering bibliographic work of Oswald Seidensticker (*The First Century of German Printing in America 1728-1830* [Philadelphia, 1893]), and that of succeeding generations of bibliographers who published addenda and supplements. These two new volumes in the series *Publications of the Pennsylvania German Society* represent the culmination of part of this project. Entries for 1,100 to 1,200 broadsides could not be included in these volumes and will appear in a later, supplementary volume.

Forerunners to this project date back to the 1950s, and include important work done by Wilbur H. Oda and Annelies Muller, but it was in 1982 that the Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen, under the financial sponsorship of the Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft (German Research Council), began supervision of the comprehensive bibliographic project, for which these two volumes represent the first fruition. The initial bibliographer, Werner Tannhof, visited 112 libraries, archives, societies, and private collections of Germanica Americana in more than sixty places, primarily in Pennsylvania, to compile about one third of the entries. Gerd J. Bötte replaced Tannhof in 1986 and finished the project.

The contribution this work makes to the study of printing, literature, religion, and other social and cultural aspects in and around Pennsylvania, as well as political developments, is incalculable. The comprehensiveness of the work as a whole, and the detail of each individual entry make it an invaluable tool for historians, bibliographers, and students of the German language in early America. There are a total of 3,151 entries, 1,584 in volume 1, which covers the period 1728-1807, and 1,567 entries in volume 2, which covers the period 1808-1830. This is more than twice the number in Seidensticker's work covering the same period.

These volumes, together with Arndt's earlier bibliographies of the newspapers and the pending volume containing broadsides, will allow researchers to quickly grasp what printed materials are available for any given time during the first century of German-language printing in America. Moreover, each catalog entry gives important information about place of publication,
publisher, and the location of all known existing copies. This will greatly facilitate researchers in establishing not only what they should be looking for, but where they can find it. Other catalog information includes pagination, collation formula, size and format, general annotations, selected bibliographical references, notes on particular copies (e.g. of variants), and state of preservation and manuscript notes.

Entries are listed chronologically, not alphabetically, which is a great benefit to historians. They are numbered consecutively, and for each year the compilers ordered them by place of publication (by state, then city or town), then printer, and finally author or title. This allows a researcher to quickly see, for example, which printers were active in Pennsylvania during the Stamp Act Crisis in 1765, and where and what they published, as well as where in Pennsylvania or elsewhere copies may be viewed. Some entries include information on type styles and ornaments, which helped identify some of the printers. Although almost all titles are in German, the other bibliographic information is in English. The editors and compilers used an internationally accepted format, applying the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd ed. (Chicago, 1978) in accordance with the Library of Congress manual Bibliographic Description of Rare Books (Washington, DC, 1981). They also used “experience gained” from the Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue and North American Imprints Program, and a modified version of genre terms for subject headings prepared by the Standards Committee of the Rare Books and Manuscript Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries/American Library Association, Genre Terms: A Thesaurus for Use in Rare Books and Special Collections Cataloguing (Chicago, 1983).

A brief preface and introduction begin volume 1, and there are several indexes at the end of volume 2. The preface contains a thorough explanation of the origins and execution of the project, as well as the methodology employed. The introduction explains the scope of the project, the format of each entry, and the indexes. There is no statement by the editors concerning the meaning of the volumes or their potential for facilitating research, nor is there a critical, analytical, or even narrative discussion of German-language printing in early America—this was strictly a bibliographic project. The main index, which follows the last entry in volume 2, lists titles and authors in alphabetical order. It is followed by an index of printers, publishers, and stereotypers, an index of places of printing and publication, and an index of genre terms.

The complete picture of early German-language printing which is emerging reflects a very religious, colonial immigrant society in transition and upheaval during the Revolution and the era of early nation building. As early American historians increasingly tap into the rich German-language sources available for the study of Pennsylvania and the surrounding colony/states during this period, these two volumes in the Publications of the Pennsylvania German Society series, together with the pending volume on broadsides, will be of immense importance.

Aaron Fogleman, University of South Alabama
Books on military history are usually about heroes, strategy geniuses and significant battles. Logistics are casually mentioned, sometimes assumed, and hardly ever emphasized. Yet few subjects are more important to the winning or losing of wars. In *Logistics of Liberty: American Services of Supply in the Revolutionary War and After*, James A. Huston focuses upon this subject as he examines the efforts of Americans to move men and supplies during the Revolutionary War. He also looks at the postwar reorganization and the establishment of a national arms system.

That the Americans faced all kinds of logistical problems in their rebellion against the mother country is generally understood. Experiences gained during the French and Indian wars were of limited use in grooming the colonial armies. American hopes hinged upon the ability and resolve to bring men and supplies together to get the military job done. This was never easy, and, when efforts failed, defeat was imminent. Too often officers lived on the edge of total disaster. Everyone is familiar with George Washington’s ordeal in keeping his army intact as he wintered at Valley Forge and campaigned through Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Financial and transportation difficulties were at the heart of the logistical problems. Only through the gallant efforts of men like Robert Morris, noted financier, and quartermaster general Nathanael Greene did a supply system emerge to reduce those problems. Even when supplies were paid for, there remained the reality that they might not be delivered. Huston shows how poor transportation often hampered operations. He concludes that supply sources of the interior might have been better tapped had greater use of inland waters been made.

With transportation a major concern, the long marches of American armies seem so much more remarkable. Huston includes the surprising achievements of those Americans who made their way to Quebec under Benedict Arnold, crossed the Mississippi with George Rogers Clark, and with John Sullivan moved against the Indians in western New York. Despite these heroics, the author makes it clear that the Americans owed a good part of their success to French assistance.

The book’s great strength may well be found in the author’s penchant for detail. Huston’s painstaking descriptions of inventories, commissary orders, and troop strengths underscore that which determined relative capabilities of opposing armies. Admittedly, the amount of detail drags the reading along. Why must everything from the number of flints to the exact weight of peas be specified? On the other hand, statistics on finances and troop availability point to two key elements in any military plan. They are helpful in understanding some of the constant fears of colonial leaders and their commanders.

In his extensive research, the author makes good use of the sources he cites, both primary and secondary. He relies heavily upon letters, official documents, and legislative records. Generally, however, the impressive list of nearly 200 secondary titles reveals scant use of recent scholarship. Only sixteen sources were published after 1970, and most of the works cited are from
before 1960. In the background chapter, "The Colonial Experience," only two works of some three dozen mentioned in the endnotes were published after 1950.

Well written, and with good illustrations and maps, this book is a fine contribution to a neglected aspect of military history.

Robert D. Ilisevich, Meadville, Pa.


The more than 800 items included in these two volumes reveal much of the frustration felt by Washington and by the confederated states as he and they turned from military activity to peacetime development. The opening letter of volume 1 is his circular letter to the state Societies of the Cincinnati calling for a meeting of the Society to be held in Philadelphia in early May 1784. A good percentage of the items that follow in the first volume—and some in the second—focus on the Society which had not been Washington's idea and about which he vacillated as to his support. He had agreed to take the lead, however, and he fulfilled that commitment even to the point of accepting the presidency that May, albeit with strong reluctance and reservation. His frustration showed through when a number of officers did not attend for what Washington obviously felt were suspiciously thin excuses.

After seven years with his army, Washington wanted to get back to his family and his plantation. Mount Vernon was run down. Many of these letters concern hiring craftsmen and obtaining supplies from agents in Philadelphia, Richmond, and Baltimore. In this regard, we get a glimpse of Washington's emotionalism as he described a visit in February 1785 to the ruins of Belvoir, his boyhood home. His western lands and tenants, particularly in Pennsylvania, needed attention so he journeyed westward in the fall of 1784. Part of the reason for that trip revolved around his continuing interest in opening the Potomac River for commercial transportation, a project that runs throughout these volumes. Many of the letters are from Lafayette, Rochambeau, Lincoln, Sullivan, and other officers, domestic and foreign, who had served under him. Some went so far as to plead with him for pardons which he simply could not even contemplate, much less grant. The very forthcoming of such requests caused Washington some embarrassment and added further to his frustration. Of course, numerous items are letters of approbation which he appreciated except that he felt obliged to answer them all. This added to his personal stress for there were so many other things that he needed to do and, as he mentioned on occasion in letters to good friends, that he would rather be doing than writing.

Washington made a strenuous effort to have his papers saved and organized, an effort the
editors spend some time describing, but they undoubtedly reveal more personal characteristics than he ever thought would be brought to light. He demonstrated responsibility by avoiding duties he simply lacked time or expertise to fulfill, such as acting legally for the Taskervilles. Washington railed repeatedly against the tardiness of the postal service. He showed disappointment that General Nathaniel Greene would not come to Philadelphia for the Society meeting and evinced chagrin at having to be in Annapolis in late December 1784. Despite his concern about the soundness of the government under Congress, Washington kept correspondence with legislators polite and informational, actually referring to the Confederation at one point as a "rope of sand." On rare occasion his aloofness could turn swiftly to passion as when in November 1784, he referred to the illness of his nephew, George Augustine Washington. He displayed humor, referring to Jack Asses sent by the King of Spain, and wit, sarcasm, and annoyance, to those with whom he truly enjoyed corresponding—Knox, Robert Morris, Lafayette, and Jefferson. He was refreshingly human when he wrote to Elias Boudinot that he had not yet received his grass seed when in fact it was on the way to him. Washington was never cynical.

By any standard this is a tour de force of editing. The notes are explanatory without attempting to be all-inclusive. Identifications are clear, connections are drawn, and cross references are made, ahead as well as backward to the correspondence, and most helpfully to the previously published Diaries. It was thoughtful, indeed, for the editors to dedicate volume 1 to Francis Berkeley and volume 2 to Sara Jackson, each of whom made enormous contributions to this 25-year old project. This reviewer quibbles over only one factual note that places Shays' Rebellion in 1791, apparently a minor publication gaffe. As we would also expect, these appear to be superb publication products. One should not look here for illustrations except for a frontispiece of Washington in each. The editors might consider devoting a page showing calendars for the time covered. The reader must search elsewhere for a calendar to learn that February 1, 1784, was a Sunday, probably a factor as to why Washington wrote so many letters on that date.

It needs to be said that there is something mysteriously compelling about reading these or any of the volumes of The Papers of George Washington. They seem exceedingly serious. Washington dealt with facts and those who corresponded with him fairly regularly learned to be succinct. Wordiness upset Washington. Thus these volumes, like his diaries, very brief on many days, move right along. They cover little time simply because there are so very many letters both to and from the great man, but most are short and to the point. One wonders if Washington would have approved of their publication. On the other hand, it was he who was principally concerned about their preservation. For the enlightenment of a man and a period which, in spite of all our previous interest still remains cloudy in our understanding, this project must continue under the expert and artful guidance of editors Abbot, Twohig, Chase and their staff.

Frank C. Mevers, New Hampshire State Archives

(Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992, each Volume $49.95.)

Volume ten and eleven of the *Documentary History of the First Federal Congress* are a testimony to "the public's access to legislative debate and the freedom of the press to print it" (p. xi). Like the other parts of the series they invite careful study of the most formative period of the country's legislative history. The debates in the House of Representatives as reported by the newspapers, however, do not make for easy reading. First of all, there was no tradition of opening parliamentary debate to the citizens for observation or to the press for report to the public—hence there was no widely-accepted precedent to follow. Second, in an era without even a standardized shorthand for accurate note-taking and without any electronic recording devices, the difficulties in reporting proceedings in the House affected the content as well as the scope of the recordings quite irrespective of the additional constraints that such factors as the costs of publication and the editorial policies of the newspapers imposed. Finally the sheer volume and complexity of the records of the first federal congress—as reflected in its multi-volume documentary history—makes intensive study of the debates often cumbersome by requiring the consultation of several parts of the series (a maddening problem if libraries failed to obtain the complete set).

The organization of the two volumes of the *Debates* is clear, and can be grouped into three major parts: the introduction; the debates; and the apparatus of supporting information. In the introduction, the discussion of traditions in England that led only in the last quarter of the eighteenth century to the acceptance of the publication of the debates of Parliament in pamphlets and newspapers is important; as is the outline of the development of the coverage of legislative proceedings and sessions in the American colonies and the newly founded United States. Both are essential for an understanding of the nature of the published deliberations of the House that constitute the documents of these volumes.

Equally critical to the fundamental question of access to and reporting of the House debates is the information about the circumstances under which the reporters who covered the first session worked and published. The time and costs involved in producing public accounts determined not only their content and form but also affected how such recordings were disseminated among the population and across the land. Reports ranged from immediate summaries of the debates, which appeared promptly in daily newspapers as one among many items of news coverage, to comprehensive accounts which constituted publications primarily or even exclusively devoted to covering congressional deliberations whose publication schedules lagged increasingly behind the legislative agenda of the House. The introductory section on the sources of the first session (pp. xxix-l) is therefore indispensible, for it provides a comprehensive
characterization of each of the papers that printed original accounts (The Congressional Register; The Gazette of the United States; The [New York] Daily Advertiser; and The New York Daily Gazette) and the type and range of their coverage. The notes of Thomas Lloyd represent a particular and especially insightful case, because they demonstrate the intricacies of rendering personal, compressed, and abbreviated handwritten notes into comprehensive and highly readable published accounts. If this was a complex and time-consuming task for the reporting author and publisher, Thomas Lloyd, the transcription and rendition of the unpublished portions of his idiosyncratic notes attest to the enormous difficulties the modern editor faced in preparing such text for publication (pp. ivi-xlvi).

In the main section of this part of the documentary history, the variant accounts of the printed debates themselves are arranged chronologically according to the order of their creation (Editorial Method, p. xliii [a running footer would have made it possible to distinguish at a glance each source appearing under the same date]). Editorial comments and annotation are sparse throughout the main text, because the editors benefited from and the readers can draw upon the many important materials already published in this series. In effect, the prefatory materials, such as the list of members of the House of Representatives (pp. liii-liv), the lists of the first session House and Senate bills (pp. lvi-lix), and the list of subjects debated in the House and reported by the newspapers (pp. li-xiv), as well as any comprehensive reading of the debates rely heavily on information in other volumes (a brief, comprehensive overview of the series to date and as planned would have been helpful), especially the Senate Legislative Journal (Vol. 1); the House of Representative Journal (Vol. 3); the Legislative Histories (Vols. 4-6); and to a lesser degree The Diary of William Maclay and Other Notes on Senate Debates (Vol. 9). For example, tracing the short and largely non-controversial issue of the government of the Northwest Territory as presented in House Bill 14 involved the consultation of seven volumes in the series. While that is a testimony to the importance of the First Federal Congress project, it may discourage some readers from exploring and assessing the debates fully—a task, which the editors insist, is up to the user (p. xliii) and for which the name and subject index (pp. 1515-48) is a requisite and reliable tool.

In other words, the Debates as published here are just the starting point in gauging critically and systematically the impact of opening the doors of the House to the public on the discussion among citizens and inhabitants of the federal legislative agenda and their representatives' deliberations and on the political process in the new nation. Although the Debates of the first session (April-September 1789) defy summary in a brief review, even a cursory reading of the reports underscores the enormity of the task before the congressmen to make the federal government work and especially to solve the most pressing financial matters; it also highlights the sheer scope of the legislative agenda and the speed with which it was advanced in only six months, and it illuminates the increasingly obvious divisions in the House that reflect fundamental differences of opinion and visions about the proper role of government in addition to factionalism that stemmed from particular regional and personal interests. There can be no doubt that the
first federal Congress set crucial signals for the new nation and that the Debates offer an important perspective of the public's knowledge about proceedings in the House of Representatives. Marianne S. Wokeck, Indiana University, Indianapolis


The opening metaphor of Richard White's The Middle Ground is that of the pays d'en haut—the Great Lakes region—as a pane of glass, first sketched by intertribal warfare, then cracked by disease, and finally, shattered by the "hammer blows" of the expansionist Iroquois. White's metaphor is convincing and memorable, as is the one which is quickly substituted to carry forward this prelude of a fragmented world—the "middle ground." The middle ground is White's term not for some geographical place, but for the process of accommodation between Indian and European peoples in the region. At the moment, stories of accommodation seem to be the vogue in the writing of Indian history, a sincere attempt to redress old narratives of inevitable European conquest or newer ones of cultural persistence. White tells his piece of the accommodation story masterfully, painting through both a synthetic sweep of sources and the well-chosen anecdote a vivid portrayal of the shared world of the French, British, and Algonquians of the Great Lakes region.

White's chronicle of the middle ground begins with the colonial era's common but complex world of Indian refugees, and the social fabric woven in the wake of Iroquois aggression. A bewildering array of Algonquian peoples—Fox, Ottawa, Ojibwa, Pottawatomis, Sauks, Kickapoos, Miamis, Illinois, and others—and a much smaller group of Iroquoians—Hurons, Petuns, Neutrals, and Eries—struggled to create alliances via gift exchange, intermarriage, and adoption. Into this diaspora village world stepped French missionaries and traders, who quickly allied with the Algonquians due to renewed Iroquois aggression. In a blend of anecdote and analysis, White shows how the middle ground, based on face-to-face social interaction of French and Indians, was a subtle and shifting mosaic of mutual understandings. The misunderstandings of the middle ground are equally attended to, particularly the volatile realms of sex and violence. White emphasizes the different ways in which killing was understood by the French and Algonquians, as murders continually threatened the alliance. In his examination of treachery or kinship, the ceremonial world or the private world, White extracts meaning out of small incidents that herald incipient cultural change, especially that required by the ever-shifting game of cultural accommodation.

In keeping with his middle ground metaphor, White adopts a modified substantivist position toward the fur trade, and in his discussion of Algonquian besoins, as well as an ingenious
analysis of both archaeological and historic data about the trade of the pays d’en haut, he convincingly argues against an early date for Algonquian dependence on French trade goods. When the British came bearing gifts, they succeeded the Iroquois as the impetus for cautious maintenance of the middle ground, but White shows how this fragile alliance fell apart in the 1740s. The poverty and social disruption brought on by the unrestricted rum trade and by pressure on their lands forced Pennsylvania Shawnee and Delaware to join with a variety of Algonquian and Iroquois migrants to form multiethnic villages—the region’s first republics—in the Ohio Valley. These republics, which existed outside of either French, British, or Iroquois authority, were viewed by France and Great Britain as the key to their imperial struggle, but in the midst of their alliances, White shows how the Ohio Indians essentially waged a parallel war to that of the Europeans. British victory meant defeat for the Algonquian hopes of ousting the invaders, and the end of the middle ground.

For students of Pennsylvania history, White’s book will be a welcome volume of the “new Indian history,” especially for its treatment of white-Indian violence on the western frontier. Despite the organizing power of the middle ground metaphor, the recurring tales of mutilation and torture suggest that there is a more fundamental ground yet to be explored and explained.

Kevin Dann, Rutgers University

By Iver Bernstein, The New York City Draft Riots: Their Significance for American Society and Politics in the Age of the Civil War.

(New York: Oxford University Press, 1990. Pp. xii, 363. $35.00.)

In mid-July 1863, shortly after the Battle of Gettysburg, New York City erupted in rioting triggered by the Union’s first federal draft. The five days of violence left at least 105 casualties. Standard histories of the American Civil War pay scant attention to the home front, but they invariably reserve some space to sketch New York’s draft riots. In that familiar story the villains are predominantly working class Irish, enraged at the class-biased conscription laws and the specter of black emancipation; the victims are local blacks, whose fate is evoked through etchings of solitary figures hanging lifeless from lampposts.

In this fascinating political history Iver Bernstein does not propose to rewrite that narrative. Rather, he reconsiders the riots through the prism of class and—more importantly—he seeks to place them in the broad chronology of New York’s nineteenth century development. Working in the mode of David Montgomery and Sean Wilentz, Bernstein has created an historical “stone soup,” in which the draft riots are merely the central stone which he flavors with a complex assortment of individuals, organizations and vignettes.

Bernstein begins his tale in the middle, with a concise description of the riots, dividing the conflict into two phases and separating both workers and elites into carefully delineated camps. Among the rioters, some favored a circumscribed protest against the draft and related institu-
tions, whereas others opted for a much bloodier assault on local blacks and all signs of Republi-
can rule. New York's leadership split over how to answer the crisis, with conservative Democrats
favoring conciliation towards white rioters and resistance to martial law. Radical Republicans
generally called for a heavier hand in putting down the violence and greater benevolence toward
the black victims.

Having identified the various players, Bernstein then embarks on a detailed analysis of the
antebellum decades, explaining how local workers and elites came to behave as they did in July
1863. Then he turns to the postwar years and the rise and fall of Boss Tweed’s Tammany Hall.
Tweed’s ascendancy reflected his deft manipulation of the political “possibilities” open to him
when the war came to a close. By stressing patriotic nationalism, white supremacy, and metro-
politan expansion, Tammany Hall managed to dominate New York politics for nearly six years.
But by late 1871 the house of cards had started to fall under charges of corruption, Irish violence,
and interracial cooperation among workers.

Bernstein is least satisfying when addressing issues around his own periphery. He draws
interesting comparisons with Paris in 1848, but has very little to say about rioting in other Civil
War cities. And although he does not completely discard race and ethnicity in his pursuit of class,
such concerns are relegated to minor importance. The black victims of the riot become little
more than symbolic outlets for workers’ angst. Women, too, play an occasional role in the narra-
tive while never appearing as conscious actors. Closer to his own agenda, Bernstein’s portrait of
the Republican Party as a unified force for centralization stands in contrast to his subtle analysis
of his own characters.

The New York City Draft Riots is most successful in crafting a finely nuanced portrait of
nineteenth century New York City’s interconnected economic and political life. Neither workers
nor elites move in monolithic blocks. Rather, Bernstein finds clear differences in attitudes and
behavior, generally reflecting each group’s relationship to the city’s recent economic develop-
ment. The result is an admirable portrayal of the complex forces at play in an evolving nine-
teenth century city.

J. Matthew Gallman, Loyola College in Maryland

By Marilyn Irvin Holt. The Orphan Trains: Placing Out in America.
(Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1992. Pp. 248. $27.50.)

With all the current posturing on the subject of family values, historians should feel bound
to look critically at how the people of the United States have treated their children. In Orphan
Trains, Marilyn Irvin Holt analyzes the well-intentioned efforts of individuals and groups to pro-
vide more wholesome lives for the distressed children of northeastern urban centers by placing
them out in homes in middle western and western states. Not surprisingly, her study of the plac-
ing out system reveals much about prevailing attitudes, not only on childrearing, but also on the
effects of the environment on character, the purity of rural life, the depravity of the cities, and the superiority of life in almost any family to life in almost any institutional setting.

*Orphan Trains* is a substantial book that foregoes the melodrama inherent in its subject matter in order to examine the reasons why the placing out system worked for more than seventy years, between 1853 and 1929, but then collapsed under a growing weight of criticism. The book is not strictly chronological, tackling first the advocates of the system, and then its opponents. Holt might have paid more attention to changing opinions on the issue of child labor. Many families, it seems, accepted orphans as additional hands in the productive work of the household. Others regarded the placed-out as new family members to be cherished. Holt discusses a shift from the former scenario to the latter between the mid-nineteenth and the early-twentieth century, but does not analyze very deeply the tensions inherent in this conflict of values. Rather, she emphasizes, as a cause for the downfall of placing-out, the whimsical nature of the system in contrast to the increasing professionalization of social work by the third decade of the twentieth century.

Although Holt makes good use of case studies, it is horrifying to modern sensibilities just how few systematic studies there were of individuals who were placed out and families who accepted them. The charitable organization who operated the system apparently possessed a naive faith in the wholesomeness of country life and the trustworthiness of rural families. Record-keeping on placements was haphazard, and, as Holt makes clear, follow-up visits were sporadic at best. Twentieth-century sophistication in the fields of psychology and family dynamics make the old system seem lackadaisical to the point of being sinister.

However imperfect their supposed panacea, the advocates of placing out did seriously confront the problems of children without parents, children of single parents (for not all of the placed-out were orphans), children living on the streets, and those mired in poverty. Unfortunately, the solution they offered relied upon an unquestioning faith in the traditional rural family unit, a faith that seemed dangerously misguided by 1929. This makes one wonder about the latter-day advocates of traditional family values. Are they—are we—really concerned about the welfare of all children, or only of those who families conform to some cherished, but lost ideal?

Bonnie Stepenoff, *Columbia, Missouri*

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Imagine dying in Philadelphia at any time from the 1880s to the 1940s. During this period, one disease predominated in the death rolls—tuberculosis. Yet, virtually everything known
about TB and all that was done for it changed. From an inscrutable agent of fate, "consumption" was gradually reconceived as a contagious disease caused by the tubercle bacillus. Religiously-motivated relief programs for poor consumptives were soon translated into secular public campaigns to prevent infection and seek a scientific cure. Therapy shifted from prescribed regimens of medicinal tonics, milk diets, and fresh air, to the first uses of antibiotics and surgical collapse of an afflicted lung. The location of therapy moved from the home to hospitals and sanatoriums dedicated to tuberculosis care. Nevertheless, until the middle of this century, TB remained the "White Plague," the "Captain of Death." This dynamic ubiquity of TB makes it a superb historical subject, and not just for the medical-minded scholar.

Barbara Bates has written a book worthy of the subject's potential. Using TB as a powerful calculus, she reveals the variables that differentiated patients and care-takers along lines of class, income, race, and gender, while also showing how these people and their social situations integrated to form a complex system of health care.

_Bargaining for Life_ possesses the virtues of an aptly-chosen and well-focused case study. Bates' main protagonist is Dr. Lawrence Flick, a Philadelphia physician who was "arguably the most innovative of all the leaders in the nation's campaign against tuberculosis." [p. 4] Building upon the city's Christian charity efforts to help impoverished consumptive, Flick established the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in the early 1890s, and then within a decade founded The Free Hospital for Poor Consumptive, followed by White Haven Sanatorium located in the Pocono mountains south of Wilkes-Barre, and the Henry Phipps Institute on 238 Pine Street, Philadelphia. Each of these institutions, as Bates shows, served many concurrent functions and were sustained by complex relationships between patients, doctors, nurses, the state government, and other members of society. For instance, the Phipps Institute was a conglomerate of dispensary, hospital, and laboratory, kept afloat by the philanthropic patronage of its namesake, yet operating under the penumbra of the University of Pennsylvania. At this level, the book is an engaging and sophisticated multi-institutional history.

But it is another facet of Bates's study that makes it so compelling: the experiences of patients with TB and the health care system. Flick preserved the voluminous correspondence that he had exchanged with patients over the fifty-odd years of his career; Bates uses the letters from these patients to tell their side of the story. Entire chapters are devoted to life as a patient at home, in hospitals, and at sanatoriums. The voices of these common people emphasize, above all else, the centrality of their families in their struggles with TB. When patients finally turned to outside help, they were suppliant or rebellious, grateful or peevish, hopeful or desperate. Bates matches her exploration of these diverse patient experiences, by recounting the lives of nurses involved in hospital, private duty, and home visiting care.

In Bates's history, each person was engaged in some level of bargaining, whether it was for public funds, personal autonomy, career advancement, respite care, scientific ideals, or life itself. She provides a lively account of how TB institutions prospered or failed, and—more importantly—what motivated patients, doctors, nurses, and administrators to involve themselves in
such ventures. At its deepest level, then, the book examined the complex and often contradic-
tory connections between private and public responses to the threat of TB.

One might read *Bargaining for Life* as an analysis of context and contingency, of strong
characters and the social circumstances that shaped the responses, public and private, to TB in
eastern Pennsylvania. In the end, however, through the specificity of her historical vision and her
sensitivity to local and personal nuances, Bates generates themes and conclusions that reach
beyond the boundaries of her case study. Chief among these is her concern for the interpersonal
and public policy dilemmas that chronic illness poses in a society wedded to the ideals of
medical cure, but largely unwilling to face the realities of dependency and the need for care.
While no historical account can claim to delve into every aspect of such complex problems, let
alone solve them, *Bargaining for Life* will do much to deepen our understanding.

Chris Feudtner, *University of Pennsylvania*


American naturalism in the age of the Enlightenment was primarily descriptive in style and
function. Its largely self-trained amateur practitioners located "new" flora and fauna and sent
them to European "experts" for validation. Thomas Say sent them to European "experts" for
validation. Thomas Say (1787-1834), one of our first and foremost students of insects and shells,
was a transitional figure—better educated than the likes of botanist John Bartram (Say's great-
grandfather) before him; less in awe of European patrons; and insistent on the necessity for an
autonomous American science. Say can be fairly credited with founding the sciences of
entomology and conchology in the United States; he wrote the first serious book on insects pub-
lished in this country; was a founding member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadel-
phia, and its first curator; and, among his travels, accompanied the Long Expedition to the Rocky
Mountains as a scientific advisor.

Say is a worthy figure for this, the first biography of him in over sixty years. His significance
to the history of American science is well-established and his place in Philadelphia's scientific
community is worthy of recording. The author of *Thomas Say: New World Naturalist* is neither a
trained professional historian nor a scientist, and the surviving sources bearing on Say's life are
neither rich nor voluminous. Unfortunately, Say's correspondence and professional writings
reveal little about his inner intellectual and emotional life, and less about his relationships with
others.

What we get, then, is a breezy chronological "life" of Say that adds nothing to our
knowledge of the major historical events with which he was associated—the founding of the
Academy of Natural Sciences (1812), the Long Expedition (1819), and the utopian community at
New Harmony, Indiana, where he lived for a number of years (1826-34). Instead, we get
summaries of Say's role in each, even when he was not a central figure, accompanied by the
author's claims that her subject of study was more significant than generally recognized. The
length and detail of each topical chapter seems entirely source-driven. For pages at a time there are general discussions of events only tangentially related to Say and that shed no light on his life. The result is a celebration of a second-line figure rather than historical analysis of a significant life.

There is more to know about the personal and intellectual influences that led Say to his life's work. We are told of his descent from French Huguenot and Quaker alchemists, apothecaries, and physicians—a background not unlike that of a number of Philadelphia's leading men of science. We learn in passing of his relationship with William Bartram (Say's mother's uncle), author of the *Travels*, and patron of other young scientists of Say's generation. We get some brief descriptions of Say's writings, very little about his reading, and no insight into the way his mind worked. Perhaps we should be thankful for this taxonomy of Say, a descriptive framework upon which subsequent writers can build.

Thomas P. Slaughter, *Rutgers University*

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In 1692, Charles Lodwick commented that New York City was "too great a mixture of nations" (p. 3), an observation applicable to the city from its Dutch origins to the present. In this welcome addition to the literature on pluralism in American history, Joyce D. Goodfriend analyzes the evolution of religious, ethnic, and cultural identity during a formative period of the city's development.

This study focuses on the "conquest cohort," or men resident at the time of the English conquest in 1664, and the next two generations. Although she argues that women played a major role in religion, education, and cultural transmission, her orientation is toward the male inhabitants. If the population of New Amsterdam was diverse in origins, languages, and beliefs, it had over the span of forty years become largely Dutch in culture. Following its incorporation into the British Empire, the town became both more heterogeneous and more explicitly divided along religious, ethnic, and racial lines. To the predominantly Dutch residents were added migrants from the British Isles, as well as Jews and Huguenots. Not to be forgotten were Africans, both slave and free. Through consideration of the experiences of individuals, families, groups, and society as a whole, Goodfriend illuminates the ways in which cultures were created, maintained, or adapted as the city grew in size and diversity.

She relies primarily on secondary sources and the familiar nineteenth century translation/collections of early New York documents. Statistics and charts reveal comparisons among groups in terms of occupation, wealth, slave ownership, officeholding, church membership, and choice of marital partners in addition to population growth.
Historians have only recently become interested in the colonial origins of the United States as a pluralistic society. As Goodfriend notes, the modes of conceptualization applicable to the national period are inappropriate models for the colonial period. In particular, Anglicization is insufficient as an explanation of the complexity of New York society. This synthesis argues that ethnoreligious communities developed in reaction to the diversity of society. Unlike Pennsylvania, which was founded upon an ideological basis for and commitment to diversity, the New York pattern was one of toleration or coexistence.

A limitation of this work is that it is quite narrowly focused on the city itself. It only rarely looks at outlying districts of the province or considers similar issues of religion or ethnicity in other colonies. Nevertheless, in the contest of other research on the Middle Colonies, it does reinforce the suggestion that religion was more important than ethnicity for self-identification and group interaction in early America.

Sally Schwartz, Marquette University


Patch/Work Voices presents the life of the coal miners of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Based on interviews with miners and those close to them, it tells us of their “Work and their life in the “Patch”—the company owned coal town. The text combines summary and direct quotation—the “Voices” of the title. Since the “Voices” are heard in brief quotations, and sometimes embody different opinions, the reader often experiences a sense of immediacy and authenticity as if he were listening to people speaking out in the coal patch.

This immediacy is one of the book’s virtues; the other virtue is its often detailed picture of the minutia of everyday life and work. One finds here detailed descriptions of company stores and company housing—what they looked like and how they managed. Here too are descriptions of children’s games, and the role of baseball as well as a host of cures and superstitions.

The work section seems the better of the two sides of life presented. Reading the miner’s words one conjures up a vivid impression about what it was like working in the mines before they were mechanized. We learn what the miners carried in their lunch buckets, how they got along with their fellows, and even about the animals in the mine—not just the hardworking mules and horses, but even the rats which sometimes stole food and sometimes became pets.

The book’s chief shortcoming is the absence of so many interesting aspects of ethnic life in this diverse and colorful world. There is nothing about religion, fraternal organizations, music, dance, and relations within families, between ethnic groups, and with the outside world. Less than 100 words are devoted to weddings and the only holiday described is Green Sunday (Pentecost). There is no effort to distinguish the ethnic groups except in a section on “Food Ways.”
A second shortcoming is the quality of the background material provided by the editors. The explanations of the people who migrated to Southwestern Pennsylvania—who they were and why they came—is skimpy and sometimes inaccurate.

Nonetheless this is a book which can be recommended. All who are interested in the lives of working people or in Southwestern Pennsylvania will read it with benefit and enjoyment.

Bruce Weston, *California University of Pennsylvania*

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(Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1991. Pp. 188. $30.00.)

This volume represents a “modern reworking” of a manuscript compiled by Johann Jacob Schmick, a Moravian missionary to the resettled Mahicans of Gnadenhutten, near present-day Lehighton, Pennsylvania. Schmick's manuscript, which was probably compiled between 1753 and 1767, has never been published, although it represents a major source of information about historic Mahican language and culture.

The Mahicans, who were speakers of an Eastern Algonquian language, lived aboriginally in the Housatonic and upper Hudson river drainages, ranging from Lake Champlain to Dutchess County, New York. During the historic period, rivalry with the Iroquois and European competition for their lands ultimately forced most Mahicans into remote corners of their territories, and into alliances with related tribes. Moravian missionaries began work among the scattered Mahican in New York in the 1730’s and when forced by colonial authorities in 1746 to vacate their lands in New York, many Mahicans followed the Moravians to Pennsylvania, Ohio, and ultimately to Ontario, Canada.

Brother Schmick, who was born in 1714, began missionary work among the Mahican of Pennsylvania in 1753, work he was to continue until his death in 1778. His manuscript dictionary of Mahican, compiled during his years of residence with them, came into the hands of missionary Rev. John Heckewelder, who donated it to the American Philosophical Society in 1820.

Translator and compiler Carl Masthay brings a number of skills to the reworking of this manuscript, which is written in standard High German and Mahican in a difficult-to-decipher fraktur-influenced script. Masthay has alphabetized each entry according to its English translation, followed by the original Mahican terms and phrases and their German glosses. The volume begins with an introductory section discussing Mahican history, Schmick's linguistic background, and the dialect of the Mahican language represented in the manuscript, and concludes with a Mahican-English glossary and index. Masthay has also included linguist David Pentland's discussion of Mahican historical phonology in a separate section which precedes the dictionary proper, and serves as an introduction to the phonological and historical characteristics of the dialect of Mahican represented by the Schmick manuscript.

There is much in this volume to interest historians, anthropologists, and linguists. Entries often refer to daily life, family relations, material culture, and the impact of Christianity among
the Mahican, at a crucial point in their history. Their organization by English translation also makes use of the dictionary entries far simpler for non-German speaking readers. Pentland's discussion of Mahican historical phonology, although controversial on some points, (e.g., his discussion of Proto-Eastern Algonquian) is a valuable summary of the phonological history of this dialect of Mahican, which will assist linguists in placing that language within its historical and regional context.

Serious researchers will be somewhat hampered by the format, which necessitated separating some original entries, by the lack of facsimile reproductions of the manuscript, and by the sometimes confusing punctuation, emendation, and textual commentary. However, Carl Masthay has made Schmick's important manuscript easily accessible to scholars in all fields, and his book is sure to inspire important new research.

Kathleen Bragdon, The College of William & Mary

**By Robert D. Arner. ** _Dobson's Encyclopedia._


Robert D. Arner's study of Thomas Dobson's first American and Americanized edition of the _Encyclopedia Britannica_ is, in fact two books in one. One, is the first biography of one of the major transitional business figures of the Early National period. The second is the history of the manufacturing and marketing of the twenty-one volumes of what the publisher, in the spirit of growing national independence and identity, titled simply _Encyclopedia._

The details of Dobson's early life are apparently non-existent and those of his later personal life are spotty at best. He first appeared in the public record in 1777 when, at the age of twenty-six, he was married in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 1783, he, his wife Jean, and their three children decided to move to the newly independent United States. By the end of the following year the family was in Philadelphia and he was busy assembling the inventory for the bookshop he would soon open. Over the next few years, he became a typical member of the burgeoning entrepreneurial class in America's most important commercial city. Arner gives particular attention to the more important items on his book list, his minor attempts at authorship of children's books and religious commentary, and his early interest in publishing.

However, the primary purpose of this book is not to present a complete biography of Thomas Dobson since the records of his personal life do not exist. What the author has done with great distinction is to present the exquisitely detailed history of the central event in Dobson's life—the first multi-volume encyclopedia published in the United States. Serially, the central chapters of the book cover the conception and advertising of the enterprise as a work designed for the expression of American themes by American writers. They discuss, too, the progress of the _Encyclopedia_ through the press despite the uncertainties of the business climate of the 1780's and 1790's and contain a selective comparison of the _Encyclopedia_ with the third English edition of the _Encyclopedia Britannica._ Finally, these chapters offer an exceptionally
informative study of the variety of Philadelphia area artisans and craftsmen who contributed to the enterprise. In addition there is a discussion of the three supplemental volumes published during the opening years of the nineteenth century. A last chapter discusses Dobson's business activities between the appearance of the final supplemental volume of the Encyclopedia in 1803 until the time of his death in 1823. Each chapter is accompanied by complex footnotes which demand the reader's attention. Appendices provide a chronological history of the Encyclopedia, a list of engravings and engravers, and most important, a complete listing of the books Dobson published.

Robert Amer, a Professor of English at the University of Cincinnati, has written a richly detailed study of one of that myriad of important, though little known, personalities who created a national identity and culture for the new United States. More important, he has authored a much needed historical account of one of the major publishing events of the early republic.

George W. Pilcher, Ball State University


Colonial county courts held jurisdiction over civil, criminal and estate matters and performed administrative functions. As a result, court records contain information on community life and functioning of society, the evolution of the justice system, landholding patterns, debt formation, types of crime and punishment, and names of the local residents, the use of wealth by political and economic leaders to increase their power, and the roles of community leaders.

Most of the early colonial Pennsylvania county courts records that are extant have been published, making them accessible to researchers. The most recent publication is the two-volume Records of the Courts of Sussex County, Delaware containing a transcription of court records for the years 1677 through 1710. It is edited by Craig W. Horle, who brought considerable expertise to the project. Horle was associate editor of The Papers of William Penn, volumes III and IV, and director and chief editor of the Biographical Dictionary of Early Pennsylvania Legislators. The Sussex court records publication was jointly sponsored by the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania and the Welcome Society of Pennsylvania, two organizations committed to collecting and preserving documents relating to the history of early Pennsylvania. The records that were transcribed for this publication are primarily court docket books which are located at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and the State Archives at Dover, Delaware. Other supplementary records used in the transcription include the Sussex County Deed Book A and the New York Colonial Manuscripts, used for the years 1677 through 1680.

Sussex County, located in southern Delaware, was settled by the Swedes, Finns, Dutch, and English. Originally known as "Whorekill," it came under the administration of the English government in New York in 1664. The Duke of York's Laws, introduced to the area by the mid-
1670s, provided for the establishment of courts. Briefly renamed “Deal” in 1680, Sussex County assumed its present name after it was conveyed to William Penn. As proprietor of Pennsylvania, Penn took possession of Pennsylvania and its Lower Counties, consisting of Sussex, Kent and New Castle in October 1682. The Lower Counties (comprising the present-day state of Delaware) were under the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania's General Assembly which was responsible for enacting legislation that replaced the Duke of York's Laws. A Lower Counties Assembly was established in 1704 to govern the counties, separate from that of Pennsylvania.

The Sussex County court records are representative of other county courts records in the province of Pennsylvania. The courts, presided over by justices of the peace and generally held four times a year, were the center of judicial, as well as social and political activity in a frontier society. The records reveal the courts' role which was not confined to simply dispensing justice and settling disputes. The courts had jurisdiction over matters such as tavern licensing, estates administration, construction of roads and bridges, levying taxes, controlling finances, laying out townships and boroughs, and appointing local officials.

As in other Pennsylvania counties, the majority of suits before the court in Sussex County were civil, not criminal. Most of the civil actions were personal, brought to recover debt or damages, or to enforce an obligation imposed on the defendant by contract. As expected in a rural society, actions regarding land were frequently before the court, with plaintiffs attempting to recover lands or tenements. Additionally, the court recorded the acknowledgment of deeds and land conveyances, and granted town lots to petitioners upon condition of improvement. The county court also had jurisdiction over decedent's estates. It approved the sale or division of real estate, appointment of estate administrators and executors, confirmation or auditing of accounts, and selection of guardianship for minor children.

The most common type of criminal cases in Sussex County were moral offenses such as fornication, bastardy, and adultery. This type of behavior was prohibited by laws used for social control. Other crimes included the sale of liquor without a license, gambling, assault and battery, drunkenness, and theft. Punishments were swiftly administered and usually consisted of fines or whippings. Capital crimes such as murder, rape and felony were heard and tried by the Provincial Court. In addition, the county court appointed "peacemakers" to arbitrate disputes, as well as officials such as constables, fence viewers, and surveyors of highways and bridges. The court heard disputes involving apprentices, indentured servants, and maintenance of the poor.

The Sussex County records include orders to build the court house, stocks, whipping post and prison and include specifics regarding construction, cost and the names of the builders. Other recorded activities include naturalizations, branding of livestock, and births and marriages, but these are sporadically entered. The evolution of the county court is revealed in the records. Early records refer to the courts held as county courts, hearing different types of cases in a sitting. By the early eighteenth century, courts were referred to by name for the specific type of case: Court of Common Pleas (for civil suits), and Court of Quarter Sessions (for criminal cases), and Orphans' Court (for decedents' estates).
There is much to recommend about Records of the Court of Sussex County, Delaware. Volume I, which covers the years 1677-1689, and contains an introduction by Horle. The thorough "General Background" section includes a discussion of the Sussex County legal system and a detailed explanation of the various types of cases, both civil and criminal; it is very useful for those not experienced in the use of early legal records. The brief section on the history of Sussex County would have benefitted from a map of the area, but this is a slight omission. The first volume also contains a glossary of terms which defines legal terms, as well as obsolete words found in the records. There is a list of sessions of Sussex County courts which includes the court's name and date it was held, with the names of justices and commissioners in attendance.

Volume II contains the transcription for the years 1690 through 1710. The appendix is a transcription of an Appearance/Continuance Docket book dated May 1707 through June 1708 that was discovered too late for inclusion into the text. The name index for both persons and places includes variant spellings, and the detailed subject index (both of which appear only in Volume II) are very useful for researchers.

Horle has provided a faithful transcription of the records and has added letters and punctuation with brackets to preserve the original spellings and abbreviations. Editorial footnotes are used for cross-referencing with other records or are explanatory (for mistakes, references to laws, and spelling variations).

The published records of the Sussex County courts are a valuable source of information for genealogists, colonial, social and legal historians, and other researchers interested in primary sources of colonial history. The records reflect a litigious society and bring the early colonial world to life.

Lynn Ann Catanese, Hagley Museum and Library


In his latest volume John Hostetler, author of the widely acclaimed Amish Society, has assembled a collection of essays and remembrances, written mostly by Amish men and women since 1950. Some entries, such as those describing bluebird boxes or a Nebraska prairie fire, are more common to agrarian life in general, but most describe Amish distinctiveness. Themes of humility, family, community, and obedience to God recur frequently in depictions of family, church, school, and farm life. Those unfamiliar with the close-knit Amish subculture, held together by religious faith, large families, and shared work experiences, will find the book especially worthwhile.
Hostetler, who was raised in an Amish household, generally allows representatives of this well-known but poorly understood group to explain themselves, accompanied by brief editorial comments. Amish self-description is unusual because their emphasis on humility creates reticence, and consequently their historical record is disappointingly silent. The volume also includes full color bookplates and drawings, a chronology of Amish history, and notes on the contributors.

Nearly all selections praise the Amish, and they contain little of the balance or analysis that scholars expect. The Amish version of excommunication, for example, a severe form of church discipline, requires members to withhold social intercourse from “banned” or “shunned” backsliders, including close relatives and even spouses, but Hostetler’s sources defend this as their way of preserving the bonds of a loving community. This interpretation of the ban accurately characterizes the Amish viewpoint but fails to reflect the controversy surrounding this policy. The section on “Criticisms,” only six pages long, sometimes justifies Amish customs, and a concluding chapter, called “Tributes,” includes essays by Archibald MacLeish, Franklin H. Littell and Lord Snowden paying homage to the Amish. Scholars may want to look at Hostetler’s earlier book or at Donald Kraybill’s *The Riddle of Amish Culture* (1989).

Those, however, content with an enjoyable collection of folklore, or a light but informative explanation of Amish life, will find this book useful. Hostetler deserves praise for giving a voice to these soft-spoken nonconformists.

Stephen L. Longenecker, Bridgewater College

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*Philadelphia: Neighborhood, Division, and Conflict in a Postindustrial City* is an interdisciplinary urban case study which succinctly examines the challenges facing the new American city that has been draped over the eroded shell of the old industrial city. The authors take as the starting point the tumultuous economic transformation that has decimated Philadelphia’s manufacturing base and replaced it with a seemingly less reliable corporate/service sector. Indeed, it is a principal contention of the authors that the “shift to postindustrialism has increased the divisions among classes, races and neighborhoods” (p. 26). Relying upon a broad empirical base, the authors of *Philadelphia* point out that economic transformation, especially since World War II, has dissolved the economic glue for metropolitan society, that the postindustrial economy “does not serve that same unifying function because of the kind of industries it supports, because of the kinds of jobs it generates, because of the substitution of national and international linkages for what were previously local linkages, and because of the
lopsided development pattern that fuels downtown growth at the expense of many neighborhoods” (p. 27). This is certainly not a novel argument, but the book offers perhaps the most thorough, accessible and up-to-date empirical verification of the economic restructurist thesis available in the urban studies literature.

*Philadelphia* does more than examine economic factors, however. One of the great strengths of this volume is that it also examines the social and political conflicts that have been exacerbated by catastrophic economic changes since the 1940s. In separate chapters dealing with “housing and neighborhoods,” “redevelopment,” and “race, class and politics,” the authors document widening “gaps between the haves and have-nots, measured in terms of incomes, housing, and educational opportunities, and the quality of life in different neighborhoods” (p. 100). Granted, there are successes in Philadelphia, especially in the role of public and private redevelopment as an agent of change and upgrading in the central business district. Although central Philadelphia has undergone a renaissance in recent years, spearheaded by substantial development from the corporate service sector, the authors find little evidence of any redistributive effects from this process for the numerous surrounding pockets of poverty and decay.

The rational response to Philadelphia’s “paradox of revitalization and decay” would be to adopt a regional response, a position long championed by key segments of the business community. Such a move has been, and is likely to continue to be, blocked by local government leaders, however. One reason for recalcitrance by local leaders is that the constituencies they represent value different issues. Suburbanites are concerned with taxes, services, growth management, environmental protection, and “keeping out undesirables.” In turn, the city political leadership is also divided among itself, and insistent on policies that conflict with suburban interests. The one issue that brings suburban and urban interests together, the authors note, is the need to rebuild and improve the region’s massive physical infrastructure. Yet to achieve the necessary cooperation on regional infrastructure needs, however, the authors of *Philadelphia* offer a two-step process that may be beyond the capabilities of or the will of city leaders: first, concoct a unified political coalition in a deeply divided city; and secondly, frame a set of policies that “appeal to suburbanites’ self-interest,” rather than to “any sense of obligation or loyalty to the city centers” (p. 173).

While some readers may quibble with the pragmatic bent of the authors’ recommendations, all of which are built around the assumption that “Philadelphia cannot grow its way out of social and political inequality,” the weight of evidence in favor of some new policy directions is overwhelming. “Economic expansion alone will not eradicate the social inequalities that redistributive program are aimed at reducing,” they contend (p. 181). So what Philadelphia, like so many other struggling U.S. cities, needs is direct support from state and federal governments.

This parting shot at the policies of the past two decades moves this study beyond another chronicle of the demise of another rustbelt metropolis. *Philadelphia* offers a well-crafted treatise on the failures of the New Federalism. For that reason, the volume deserves a wide reading not
only among those interested in the fate of Philadelphia, but those who share the authors' obvious deep concern for the urban challenges facing the nation in the decades to come.

Christopher Silver, *Virginia Commonwealth University*