

Historic Landmarks of Philadelphia. By ROGER W. MOSS, photographs by TOM CRANE. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008. 338 pp. Illustrations, bibliography and sources, index. \$34.95.)

Historic Landmarks of Philadelphia is the third publication in Roger Moss and Tom Crane's epic series on Philadelphia's architectural masterpieces that began in 1999 with *Philadelphia's Historic Houses* and was followed in 2005 by *Philadelphia's Sacred Places*. Together these volumes fill a gap in the literature on Philadelphia's architecture. Though numerous works have been published on the subject, Moss and Crane produced coffee table books that contained beautiful photographs and would appeal to a wider audience than the usual dense architectural tome.

Moss's background in early American studies is evident in his architectural selections, which focus on the relatively few surviving pre-Civil War buildings at the expense of the far more numerous late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century structures. Perhaps, as a result, several of the buildings selected are of minor architectural interest. For example, the Philadelphia Club was built as a house, while the much-altered state of the houselike office of the Philadelphia Contributionship, designed by Thomas U. Walter, makes it a questionable choice as well. Missing are such remarkable buildings as Frank Furness's Gravers Lane Station, among the most assertively expressive buildings of the late 1800s, and Ralph Bencker's art deco, sculpted N.W. Ayer office tower. The inclusion of the INA offices offers tame colonial, instead of driven commercial, flamboyance and leaves Howe and Lescaze's PSFS more culturally isolated than it really was. And what in the world is the Racquet Club doing in this survey, unless it is to authenticate the view of Philadelphia as a city of old gentlemen and few ideas as depicted in the popular cinema of the 1940s and 1950s—especially in films like *Kitty Foyle* and *Philadelphia Story*?

Using many of the same buildings, an alternate case can be made that Philadelphia was actually a center of cultural innovation. It began with William Penn's vision of an open and diverse society, which is reflected in the varied churches of a truly open city, and continued with Benjamin Franklin's choice of the present and the future as the model for his university. Then came Frank Furness's industrial-centered designs, Joseph Wilson's remarkable knowledge of metal that led to his pioneering modern structures, George Howe's PSFS, and Louis Kahn and Robert Venturi. Or, on another level, it was home to the nation's first fast-food chain, which found its architectural expression in Bencker's modern designs for the Horn and Hardart automats. And, in 1946, it was the location of the development of the miniaturized architecture of the computer at the University of Pennsylvania's Moore School, which has transformed the modern world in a way that buildings rarely do. Because Moss uses the standard historical measure of fifty years to limit the survey, recent buildings are ignored—but

even that barrier would not have excluded such masterpieces as Louis Kahn's Richards Medical Research Laboratories at the University of Pennsylvania (1956), arguably the most influential building by a Philadelphia architect after World War II.

These are minor quibbles, of course, when considered in light of Tom Crane's beautiful photographs and Moss's meticulous research and enjoyable text. There will always be debate as to what other buildings should have been included and which should have been left out. In part this comes down to temperament. Roger Moss has been a champion of Philadelphia's heritage and is comfortable looking backward, while my research has concentrated on the architects who broke with the past and looked forward—Frank Furness, Joseph Wilson, William Price, Ralph Bencker, Louis Kahn, and Robert Venturi. Both "Philadelphias" exist, and Roger Moss has elegantly captured the historic city of the nation's past.

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Sports in Pennsylvania. By KAREN GUENTHER. (Mansfield, PA: Pennsylvania Historical Association, 2007. 108 pp. Illustrations, notes, suggested further reading. \$12.95.)

Pennsylvania has a rich sports history that rivals that of any state in the country. That history dates back to the early 1700s, when settlers as well as Native Americans participated in various forms of athletic events, particularly horse and foot races. Eventually, other sports surfaced in Pennsylvania, most notably skating, boxing, archery, and cricket. In the 1830s, yet another sport appeared, and it would be an instant success.

That sport, of course, was baseball. Although many of the rules—indeed, even the name of the game—differed somewhat from those of today, the sport quickly became the most popular one in the state. Initially, club teams were formed, then African American, professional, and, ultimately, college teams abounded. With their success, a foundation was built for a game that still flourishes some 180 years later.

Football, golf, tennis, and basketball made their appearances later in the nineteenth century. These, too, developed into popular activities for the sports-minded person, and as the twentieth century progressed, they became major components of the state's athletic lineup.

The evolution of all these and many other sports are chronicled in the book *Sports in Pennsylvania*, by Karen Guenther. It is a book that covers sports in the state through all the different eras leading up to the early years of the twenty-first century. Guenther gives particular emphasis to the "major" sports. The strength of the book lies in its coverage of sports in the eighteenth and nineteenth cen-