

the book as part of a long history of Jewish musical discourse and practice dating back to the Bible. Subsequent chapters further posit a certain continuity of Philadelphia's Odessa-influenced twentieth-century Jewish music with older currents of Jewish thought and expressive culture rooted in eastern Europe. This continuity is opposed by a stark discontinuity, also inflected by klezmer revivalism—the death of traditional Jewish music in Philadelphia in the wake of midcentury suburbanization and class mobility. These continuities and discontinuities are too starkly drawn and would benefit from a more nuanced view of the multiplicity of influences on Jewish life and musical practice in Philadelphia's Jewish community and its European antecedents.

Netsky's meticulous reconstruction and analysis of the Philadelphia *sher*, a social dance practice with an associated lengthy musical medley that was common at weddings and social events through the 1960s or so, is the centerpiece of the "Musical Traditions" section and is the highlight of this book. His textured ethnographic writing presents information about the *sher* and related repertory that is not found in any other scholarly work. It is a sensitive overview of a musical practice in transition, showing that even traditions that have been folklorized are dynamic and responsive to changing social contexts. Furthermore, Netsky's focus on the working lives of Jewish musicians in Philadelphia, and the many contexts in which they performed, is an important addition to the growing body of literature on musical labor.

Klezmer: Music and Community in Twentieth-Century Jewish Philadelphia is an excellent ethnography. The book could benefit from focusing less on a narrative of assimilation and more on musicians' creativity in hybridizing multiple influences within a Jewish context. It is clear from Netsky's ethnography that Jewish musicians in midcentury Philadelphia navigated a complex and diverse urban environment. Closer dialogue with the excellent literature in recent years treating these themes would result in a richer, more nuanced theoretical frame for this historical record.

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City of Steel: How Pittsburgh Became the World's Steelmaking Capital during the Carnegie Era. By KENNETH J. KOBUS. (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015. 291 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$45.)

The story of Andrew Carnegie and Pittsburgh was once the stuff of popular histories and novels. Decades ago, this industrial transformation fired the imagination, but, as heavy industry's importance began to recede in the United States, so did public interest. Kenneth J. Kobus's book is a welcome addition to

the literature of the iron and steel revolution, restoring that history to its proper importance.

Kobus approaches his subject from a perspective different from other authors. A third-generation steel worker, he worked his way through the ranks of Jones & Laughlin Steel Company and earned an engineering degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Later, he served in various managerial positions for a number of Pittsburgh steel plants. Kobus draws from this wealth of expertise and experience to discuss the revolution in steel.

He begins *City of Steel* with a remarkably clear description of techniques that preceded large-batch steelmaking. His discussion of the wrought iron puddling process and crucible steelmaking is clear and concise, accompanied by excellent photographs and illustrations. His treatment of blast furnace pig iron production and the development of fuels and transportation is also quite accessible.

However, the chapters on Bessemer and open hearth steelmaking—the heart of massive change in the iron and steel industries—are less straightforward. Here, Kobus's capacity to clearly relate complex processes for non-expert readers deserts him. Perhaps this is inevitable; these are complex and technically demanding methods. Nonetheless, following the development of Bessemer converters at the Edgar Thompson Works and the complicated metallurgical discussions of open hearth steelmaking at Homestead and Duquesne is difficult.

The author does an excellent job of tying the narrative together in his final chapter, demonstrating the scope and significance of the iron and steel industry's transformation. Kobus does not shy away from the criticisms that other writers have levied against Andrew Carnegie. However, the book concludes that Carnegie was nevertheless a visionary, despite being technologically unsophisticated, an absentee owner, and hypocritical with regards to labor policy.

Readers interested in Pittsburgh's industrial development during the late nineteenth century should be prepared for some dense reading. However, the experience is ultimately rewarding.

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JOHN N. INGHAM

Running the Rails: Capital and Labor in the Philadelphia Transit Industry. By JAMES WOLFINGER. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2016. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$45.)

James Wolfinger's *Running the Rails* is an insightful and engaging analysis of Philadelphia's mass transit system during its almost century-long period of private ownership. It nimbly shifts from national context to local example and raises interesting questions that should engage both labor and urban historians.