These gains and losses are symptoms of great industrial changes; they do not merely represent the flow of surplus population from high-birth-rate rural communities to low-birth-rate cities. The study does not reveal the local circumstances that stimulate movement, the migrant’s fortunes and experiences, or the effects on family life and community organization that are part of the picture of internal migration. Hence, the local historian may be disappointed unless his imagination carries him beyond this background study to subsistence homesteads, the resettlement projects, and related evidences of local history now in the making.

University of Pittsburgh

Frederick F. Stephan

Pittsburgh Memoranda. By Haniel Long. (Sante Fe, New Mexico, printed for Writers’ Editions by The Rydal Press, ’1935. 87 p.)

In this small volume there is mirrored from the mind and heart of a sensitive person—a poet—a broad picture of Pittsburgh, a picture of personalities and incidents in Pittsburgh’s history, and a vision of what Pittsburgh may become. It is a strange sort of book, and it is safe to predict that reactions to Pittsburgh Memoranda among Pittsburghers will vary widely—from resentment to exaltation. The varied media, ranging from verse through rhythmic prose to quotations from business reports, remind one of Stephen Vincent Benét’s excellent use of verse and prose in John Brown’s Body. And beyond any doubt in the reviewer’s mind, Mr. Long has made skillful use of his media. The volume represents an artistic work of great beauty. Reality and an almost mystical yearning are combined in fine proportions, and through it all runs a conception of human values and relationships—“our need to come to terms with ourselves, with the others who live life with us, and the life that lives all.”

The student of western Pennsylvania’s history will find no new history here, but he will find an artist’s interpretation of some familiar phases of that history. There is a prologue and an epilogue, and the sketches deal with the Homestead strike; Stephen Foster (by all odds the most moving sketch); John Brashear, and his lenses; the portent of Andrew Carnegie; Mrs. Soffel, the jail warden’s wife; George Westinghouse, and how he lost control of his company in the panic of 1907; Henry George, in relation to the graded tax on real estate in Pittsburgh; the World War; the death of Duse in Pittsburgh; and, finally, with a Whitman-inspired account of the prosperous 1920’s when “something in us was dying. We were forgetting our fellow man.” In a sense, one may
think of *Pittsburgh Memoranda* as a poetic and somewhat mystical interpretation of the contending forces present in Pittsburgh's economic history during the period from 1892 to 1925. The interpretation is a powerful one, and, entirely aside from the artistic merit of the book, anyone concerned with Pittsburgh's past or with Pittsburgh's future will find these sketches interesting and stimulating.

The book is published in Santa Fe by a coöperative group of writers living in the Southwest. The typography is excellent. Mr. Long was an instructor in English at the Carnegie Intitute of Technology from 1911 to 1929.

*University of Pittsburgh*  
Ralph J. Watkins