Washington College in 1806, Allegheny College (Meadville) in 1817, the Western University of Pennsylvania (now the University of Pittsburgh) in 1819, Madison College (Uniontown) in 1826, and the Western Theological Seminary in 1829. Mention is made of the Act of 1820 enabling Pittsburgh to establish a Lancastrian school here. Favorable comment is made upon the educational interest in Pittsburgh manifested in the Pittsburgh Philosophical Society and the Western Pennsylvania Lyceum. The latter was "organized for the object of establishing manual labor schools in the vicinity of Pittsburgh," and was "actually responsible for the formation of such a school at Zelienople in 1833" (p. 83). Lastly, several references are made to the activities carried on here in co-operation with the Pennsylvania Society for the Promotion of Public Schools; for example, it is noted that in 1831 the Pittsburgh Teachers' Association obtained 1,050 signatures, and Benjamin Bakewell, who was connected with the Pittsburgh Mechanics' Institute, procured a long list of subscribers, to memorials for the establishment of a general state system of schools.

In spite of its dual nature, the book is both scholarly and interesting. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the educational and intellectual activities of Pennsylvania which preceded and at the same time helped bring about the establishment of our universal system of public schools will find this book enlightening.

University of Pittsburgh

John A. Nietz

The Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania: A Record of Building before 1860, Based upon the Western Pennsylvania Architectural Survey, a Project of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, with an Introduction by Fiske Kimball. Text by Charles Morse Stotz, A.I.A., chairman of the survey. (Published by William Helburn, Inc., New York, for The Buhl Foundation, Pittsburgh, 1936. 290 p. Illustrations, map.)

If, as the author of the text states, architecture is the shorthand of history, the casual reader of this book may quickly satisfy his desire to delve into the latter absorbing and enlightening branch of knowledge. The entry of the architect into the field of local history is an occasion for rejoicing on the part of all those interested in the quickening of the study of the past in this region. The true historian, moreover, welcomes the trained observer in any art or science who is willing to dig into the past of his chosen field. The historian
finds his own knowledge broadened by incorporating the results of labors in allied fields, just as the Roman Empire grew by absorbing the vineyards that other hands had planted. The Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania can thus be claimed as a major contribution to the history of the region, a contribution that could never have been made by historians, whatever their good intentions.

The revelation of western Pennsylvania history afforded by the development of architecture in this region to the eve of the Civil War will prove to be a surprise to the uninitiated. The pioneer log cabins and log houses were copied from the Swedes of Delaware, who erected there the type of building that they had developed in their homeland. One may be privileged to speculate upon the form that pioneer architecture would have taken had no Swedes settled on this continent. After the log-house era came "the Post-Colonial period, between 1785 and 1830, in which the buildings reflected the characteristics of the so-called 'Colonial' style represented by the Georgian as well as by the Classic Revival, or Federal, style, together with direct influences from Europe; third, the period of the Greek Revival style, from 1830 to 1850, during which the architecture of the district achieved a measure of uniformity in character; fourth, the Gothic Revival period, from 1850 to 1860, of little importance architecturally and heralding a world-wide decline in architectural taste and vitality. But throughout these periods simple unpretentious buildings without definite style characteristics continued to appear, and in them a truly local idiom in architectural expression is preserved" (p. 17).

The cross currents of immigration into western Pennsylvania and the tendency of settlers to move into regions adjacent to their former homes made the architecture of the southwestern section predominantly Virginian in origin, that of the northwest similar to that of New York and New England, while the central region eventually took on Pennsylvania Dutch characteristics. This diversity of origins brought in "a constant and refreshing flow of new ideas. The architecture of this region produced before 1830, though lacking the consistency and perfected development that characterized that of the older established districts on the coast, provides contrasts of building tradition not to be found in any other part of the country" (p. 16).

The influences of the owner-designer, of the trained architect-engineer, and of the builder's handbook are carefully traced, and the evolution in the use of materials is followed. Even landscaping and town planning receive as much treatment as their primitive stages of development in those times warrant.
While the introductory text of the book is an original contribution of the first magnitude, the drawings and photographs that accompany it make its value priceless. There are 416 photographs, reproduced by the half-tone process, and eighty-one full-page plates of drawings; the latter are so careful and detailed that the buildings could be reconstructed from them. The plates and the explanatory text are divided into seven sections: domestic architecture; accessory buildings and details; the architecture of transportation; the Harmony Society; institutional architecture; governmental and military architecture; and commercial and industrial architecture.

The format of this book is as pleasing as one could find in a day's search. The gold-lettered red buckram and glossy paper comport well with thefolio size, while the typography does credit to the discrimination of those who were responsible for its choice.

It is to be hoped that the good example of the architects will be emulated in other fields and that agriculturists, steel manufacturers, coal miners, oilmen, and lumbermen, to mention only a few, will similarly become inspired to delve into the past of their industries.

University of Pittsburgh  
Leland D. Baldwin


This monograph, dealing with the life of Pittsburgh's oldest newspaper, is the product of a professional historian delving into the field of journalism—a rather unusual combination. The author, unlike many journalists who have written biographies of newspapers, approached his subject with the attitude of a discriminating student, oriented his account in the broader historical setting of the times, and employed a lively literary style which holds the attention of the reader. The work is more than the history of the Pittsburgh Gazette. Yet it is less than a history of Pittsburgh because the author relied chiefly upon the files of the Gazette for his information and made no effort to give a definitive account of the social, economic, or political phases of the city's development. Nor is it a complete account of the history of journalism in Pittsburgh, although some of the activities of rival journals are revealed through their relationships with the Gazette. Perhaps it may best be described as a tale of the