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 comporte well with the folio 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
aspirations, opinions, struggles, and accomplishments of the people of Pittsburgh as drawn from 150 years of the files of the Gazette.

Opening with the romantic struggle of John Scull, a young Federalist editor, to establish a four-page, weekly journal at the forks of the Ohio River in 1786 and closing with the efforts of a large metropolitan newspaper to continue publication during the St. Patrick's Day flood of 1936, the author acquaints his readers with a succession of determined editors, political party battles, and struggles for railroads, canals, education, protective tariffs, and journalistic progress.

John Scull, editor during the first thirty years of the paper's existence and genuinely interested in the development of Pittsburgh, grew weary as Federalism bogged down after 1800, and yielded the reins to his son in 1816. His son, John Irwin Scull, a sprightly writer, soon drew Morgan Neville into an association with him, but they allowed the journal to pass into other hands and it floundered until 1829 when Neville Craig came to the helm. Thenceforward to 1841, this lion-hearted man fought for commercial and transportation facilities for Pittsburgh and waged journalistic wars with rival editors. His successor, David N. White, 1841–56, continued the struggle for railroads and canals and, in addition, brought telegraphic news service, a new and improved printing press, and an increased journalistic staff to the Gazette. Also, he changed it from an afternoon to a morning paper.

Ten years later, in 1866, Nelson P. Reed established a connection with the paper which determined its policies to 1900. During this era the journal expanded in circulation, in staff, in mechanical improvement, and in activities to such an extent that it paralleled the big metropolitan newspapers of the eastern cities. Thus it passed into the hands of George T. Oliver and his family, to remain until 1927. The Olivers strengthened it through purchasing and merging with it the Pittsburgh Times in 1906. The latest merger occurred in 1927 when Paul Block procured both the Post and the Gazette Times and consolidated them into the Post-Gazette, Pittsburgh's only morning paper.

The author reveals that from pioneer days to the present the journal was conservative politically, with the possible exception of a few years when Craig wandered in the field of Antimasonry "heresy." Even then the editor was seeking a practical means of opposing Jacksonian Democracy. The history of the Gazette through its many mergers and various names fails to reveal an editor of the stripe of Henry J. Raymond, Rockwell Nelson, Horace Greely, or Henry
Watterson. None of the editors, however, was insensitive to the commercial and industrial needs of the community, nor were any of them feeble in presenting those needs and fighting for them.

The book is remarkably free from errors. Only a minimum of typographical errors, such as the failure to italicize the names of ships (p. 201), appears. The author’s conclusions are conservative and well founded, although the reader may well doubt that the grave “swallowed up hundreds of Pittsburgh newspapers” (p. 62). The work contains a good index but no bibliography, which is quite understandable in view of the fact that the author let the Gazette tell its own story. The book is an admirable suggestion to professional historians of what may be done by them in the realm of journalism to fill up a very important gap in American historiography. It is indispensable both to students of the history of journalism and to students of Pittsburgh and its vicinity.

University of Pittsburgh

Russell J. Ferguson


On the day in 1769 on which the land office in Philadelphia first received applications for land in the recently acquired Iroquois lands of Western Pennsylvania, Donald Munro applied for a tract on the right bank of the Monongahela where Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, now stands. This was the beginning of regular white occupation of the “Forks of Yough” region, between the Monongahela and Youghiogheny rivers. Squatters had been there as early as 1766.

From these beginnings the author develops the history of his town, where he has lived during most of his eighty years, and where at least two generations of his family preceded him. For many years he was the editor and one of the publishers of the Elizabeth Herald, and he has always devoted much of his attention to the history of the place and section.

The book is a compendium, not too systematically organized, of the history of all phases of the development of Elizabeth. It is divided into two parts: the first tells “the story of the community’s history consecutively from the earliest times” to about 1900; the second consists of sixty brief topical treatments of a variety of subjects, alphabetically arranged, from “Agricultural Fairs” to “Weather Anomalies.”