to perfect the arrangement of them. When this has been accomplished, a revision of this inventory will appear which will be the final guide to the records of the House of Representatives.

The Preliminary Inventories contain an introduction which is a short history of how the House records have been kept and how and why they were transferred to the custody of the National Archives. There are also five appendices which comprise a glossary of useful terms, a list of the standing committees of the House of Representatives, the names of the Speakers of the House, the identity of its clerks and a compilation of useful reference works. The last will be an extremely valuable aid for users of these volumes. A detailed index of great utility greatly enhances the value and utility of this guide.

Students of Pennsylvania history will be disappointed when they check the index by the scant amount of space devoted to the Commonwealth, and the same will be true of those interested in the history of Pittsburgh which has only two items under it in the index. However, these volumes will be more than useful to historians of Pennsylvania who are interested in learning how the national legislature has dealt with the matters of concern to the state. For the first time, they will be able to know that the material they want exists, and how to locate it. This is an extremely valuable aid for research, and serious students of the nation's history owe the National Archives a great debt for the care exercised in its preparation.

University of Pittsburgh

Harry R. Beck


While this bibliography is a companion volume to the same author's Guide to the Manuscripts and Archives in the West Virginia Collection (1959) and to Index to West Virginiana (1960), by Robert F. Munn*, it is not a compilation for the advanced scholars but forms, rather, a basic list for beginning students, teachers and librarians. Manuscripts, genealogy, state documents (with a few exceptions), and fiction are not included in the list. Selected items

from sixteen historical magazines are included. "... the aim has been to provide a wide range of access points into the history of the state in publications that are most generally available." The guide can be considered a useful item for purchase by any school or public library that has or aims to have a nucleus collection on West Virginia history.

*Guide to the Study of West Virginia History* is in two parts. Part I lists material on county, community, and regional history arranged by county and three geographical regions: Eastern Panhandle, Kanawha Valley, and Northern Panhandle. Part II is divided into 31 topics, e.g., Agriculture, Burr-Blennerhasset, Folklore and Songs, Springs and Watering Places. For each item listed the author, full title, publisher, place and date of publication, and number of pages are given. Price is not given, nor indication as to which items are out of print or rare. A satisfactorily detailed index concludes the guide, providing ready access to such topics as Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, Tony Beaver, John Logan (Indian) and Civil War.

*Pennsylvania Division*  
*Carnegie Library*  

**Julia M. Cunningham**


This book is a significant contribution to the Pennsylvania scene. Mr. Hunter fills a void that has long existed. That is, he has carefully woven together a picture of the frontier forts and their relationship to France, England, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

The availability of the Contrecoeur papers has shed new light on the French activities in Pennsylvania but William Hunter was the first to fit together this and other information relating to the forts.

After setting the stage by presenting a brief background, the author delves into details pertaining to the French advance in the Upper Ohio Valley and the British resistance to the same. Ensuing accounts relate to the individual forts established by Virginia and France and their dispute over ownership of Western Pennsylvania land.