BOOK REVIEWS


It would be a dull person indeed who would not be stirred by this beautiful book of the early maps of our region. Here we have true historical source material, the graphic record of those adventurers, explorers and soldiers who were the first to see the interior of an unknown continent. Here are crude sketch maps made by amateurs together with the sophisticated, but not always more accurate, products of the drafting tables of professional cartographers. Most of us, from childhood, have been intrigued by maps. They challenge our imagination and charm us with their decorative patterns. In reading the illuminating text that accompanies each of these fifty-two maps of the Ohio Valley, we learn anew that they are invaluable supplements to any historical study.

This book was conceived, not by a professional historian, but by a layman, Dr. Howard N. Eavenson, who saw that much could be learned from maps about western Pennsylvania and was consumed by a desire to share his enthusiasm with others. Unfortunately he did not live to see the completion of the project. But through the understanding of his widow, Ada J. Eavenson, who treasured the accumulated research materials of her husband, and provided funds for their publication, through the able authorship of Lloyd Arnold Brown and the skillful bookmaking of the University of Pittsburgh Press, a fitting monument has been raised to the memory of a good citizen.

Over the past twenty-two years the University of Pittsburgh Press has produced in addition to many general titles, some thirty books dealing with western Pennsylvania. For a comparatively modest sum any of us may thus acquire a library which will enrich our lives by knowing better the little part of the world in which we live, its forests and streams, its plants and animals, its places of natural beauty and historical interest and the people who secured the land and founded our civilization. The book Early Maps of the Ohio Valley by Lloyd Arnold Brown is the most recent of these remarkable contributions to our cultural life. The price of $12.00 is somewhat less than the cost of publication. It is no surprise to those who know this field that such books are labors of love and rarely, if ever, commercially profitable.
I had the good fortune to know Dr. Eavenson in his later years. In the search for eighteenth-century drawings of forts and their sites I had been drawn inevitably into an interest in maps of the time, and here our paths crossed. He, too, had assembled a number of fort drawings, some of which are reproduced in this book, and told me of the thrill of examining the actual drawings, a pleasure I was to know some years later. Just as one who has heard only recordings of music and finally listens to the instruments themselves, a lover of maps should see and handle the originals. Many of the maps of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries dealing with our region are in American and Canadian collections but there are literally hundreds in foreign archives, chiefly those of the British Museum and the Public Record Office in London, the library at Windsor Castle and the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris. They were usually drawn in ink on a good grade of rag stock drawing paper which has withstood the effects of use and time remarkably well. Color was often added as an aid in delineation. But, most important of all, it is good to see them in their full size so that the details may be easily examined. Anyone confronted with the problem of publishing a book of maps recognizes that the practical limitation of size is a serious loss to legibility. The maps in this book, which measures $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inches, must have been chosen with some concern for this problem, for, with few exceptions, they may be easily read without using a magnifying glass. Considering the fact that only 52 maps could be used out of some 500 in the collection, it may be readily understood why Mr. Brown says that "the choice was not an easy one." The writer thinks it was a good one. Mr. Brown's style is lucid and colorful. The quality of the reproductions is all that could be desired, a further tribute to the Meriden Gravure Company, as the printing of them is to our own Davis and Warde. The format of the book is in excellent taste and the general text is charmingly embellished with decorative details taken from the early maps themselves.

This book should be an incentive for the interested reader to pursue the subject elsewhere, using the excellent bibliography provided for the purpose. As a matter of fact, he may find in the Reference Room of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, one of the most complete published collections in Archer B. Hulbert's Crown Collection of American Maps, which, curiously enough, is not in-
cluded in Mr. Brown's bibliography. The reproductions in these volumes of photographic and photoengraved plates, chiefly taken from originals in the British Museum, will provide many fascinating hours for anyone interested in the subject. A somewhat more complete and better edition of the same work may be examined in the Library of Congress in Washington.

Each map in Mr. Brown's book is fully described with notes about the author of the map, his background and the circumstances under which the maps were drawn. These descriptions include some general historical background which I would have preferred to have omitted, as the reader might be presumed to have this knowledge, and to have used this space for more interpretation and explanation of the subject matter contained in the maps which abound in curious and obscure details. It is interesting to note, for instance, on two maps of 1688 the designation of Checkagou River flowing into Lake Michigan and Fort Chicagou at its outlet, a venerable origin of the name of the city. It is curious to see that the French phonetic spelling of the Indian river name, Ouabache, comes out the same, when spoken, as the English version, Wabash. It is historically significant, as one will learn from these maps and their description, that the French had a pretty good idea of the arrangement of the water route of lakes and rivers over the some 4000 miles from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico before they had properly located or sensed the importance of the Ohio River. When at last, in the late days of their occupation, the French fully realized the necessity of controlling this strategic access to the inland basin, it was too late. On the other hand, the Illinois and Wabash Rivers, by which they traveled from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi, are clearly shown.

Some of the maps are reproduced from copies of the originals in England. These copies were made for Mr. Darlington in the 1870's before the full development of modern photographic and photostatic processes. However skillful and careful a copier may be, something is lost from the character of the original as drafting, like handwriting, is in large degree a personal expression. Worse yet, errors may creep in. But this loss of individual character likely will not detract from the pleasure of the lay reader in browsing through the pages of this beautiful and informative book.

Finally, we again salute our own Historical Society trustee,
Agnes L. Starrett, Director of the University of Pittsburgh Press, through whose general supervision this fine book has been added to our shelves. While our happiness should not depend on where we live, we certainly have a fuller life through a better knowledge of our own backyard.


This is a significant book. It is the first instance of a reproduction of any portion of the Anthony Wayne papers as found in the principal collection of his manuscripts in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania Library in Philadelphia. This published body of sources from the Wayne collection discloses for the first time the connected story of the difficulties in raising an army in the United States in the late 18th century, its discipline and training, the problems of re-enlistment, supplies, desertion, and the like, together with the details of the military campaign against the Northwestern Indians, the peace settlement, and the juxtaposition of the Jay treaty with the whole western issue of that period. Incidentally, it also throws much light on the character of Anthony Wayne—at once a man of despair and of courage—truly an ambivalent character. The work likewise reveals the pertinacity of the private soldier after a year or more of severe discipline.

Although not stated by Mr. Knopf, the presumption must be that limited funds dictated his selection of papers for publication. He has confined the project to letters passing between Wayne and the successive secretaries of war, Knox, Pickering, and McHenry, 1792-1796. Whatever the reason, it was a wise decision. Everything of significance is detailed within these rather narrow limits. The letters of each of the four men, with the possible exception of McHenry, are filled with pertinent information. The work is then divided into five parts, corresponding with the years 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, and 1796, and each section is prefaced with a page or two summarizing its contents. There is no objection to such an arrange-