development, the Dutch and Swedish ventures in the Middle Atlantic region, and intercolonial and international rivalry in the fur trade.

After the Duke of York seized New Netherlands for the English in 1664, rivalry in the fur trade was concentrated between the English colonies and the empire of New France which spread westward to the Ohio River and the Mississippi. Western Pennsylvanians will regret that this last phase of the story, from the conquest of New Netherlands to the French and Indian War, is covered only in a rapid summary of seventeen pages. In justice to the author, he is perfectly aware of the importance of the struggle for the fur trade in the interior of the continent, but it is the earlier period with which he is chiefly concerned.

There seem to be relatively few errors of fact or interpretation, considering the scope of the narrative. It brings together countless details from printed sources and secondary works, and weaves them into an engaging and breezy story which holds attention by interesting anecdote, clever turn of phrase, and apt quotation. Although documentation is lacking, the bibliography is a good basis for further study. One might suggest the addition of Charles H. McIlwain's masterly hundred-page introduction on the early fur trade in his edition of Wraxall's Abridgment of the Indian Affairs (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1915). Colonel Hale's engaging narrative will certainly stimulate readers to seek more information about an important aspect of colonial history.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Donald H. Kent


In his Poor Richard's Almanac for 1741 Benjamin Franklin wrote "Be always asham'd to catch thyself idle." From the material included in this second of a proposed forty volume edition of his papers, it is clear that Franklin was seldom ashamed.

The period 1735-1744, which this volume covers, sees Franklin working hard to develop his business as a printer, publisher and bookseller, and the beginning of his service as postmaster of Phila-
delphia. Though much of his correspondence for this time is missing, the letters which remain are those of a busy man—brief and to the point.

But business did not completely occupy him and in these years is seen the developing friendship with evangelist George Whitefield (who tried unsuccessfully to convert him), and the beginning of his lifelong correspondence with New York scientist and politician Cadwallader Colden, which nourished his developing interest in science. There was also time to defend Presbyterian minister John Hemphill who was accused of heresy. Hemphill was a poor writer and in Franklin's words, I "lent him my pen." And there is the appearance of one of the more famous of his numerous inventions, the Pennsylvania fireplace or Franklin stove.

All was not success for Franklin in this nine year period. In 1741 he began the publication of the General Magazine which lasted only six months. But this failure was only a slight setback and by 1744 he was well on his way to making himself independently wealthy.

Through all of the pages of this volume, Franklin, the down-to-earth, humorous, wise, intellectually inquisitive individual, stands out. He believed in being constantly occupied, that hard work pays off. But Franklin was no machine, as is seen in his tribute to his wife, "My Plain Country Joan," in his lending "the Stranger from Boston" a sixpence, or in his desire to help mankind as set forth in "A Proposal for Promoting Useful Knowledge."

As in the first volume of this work, the editing is of a high order. Both the general public and the scholarly community can rest assured that the publication of the papers of one of the greatest Americans is in good hands.

University of Pittsburgh

Emory G. Evans

The Antiques Treasury of Furniture and Other Decorative Arts.

To open the Antiques Treasury, a handsomely produced quarto volume, is not only to scan the chronicle of some recently founded American museums but also to make a varied excursion into a number of the more pleasant visual aspects of our national past. Here the story of America's earlier decorative arts is told. This