

But there is no question that this book did need to be written. Not only Pennsylvania, but the world, is richer for the knowledge and wisdom it has preserved.

Rosenberger, author of seven previous books and more than two hundred articles of various kinds in professional publications, is continuing to spend his retirement time in serious research and writing. His style is readable and crisp. Even in the autobiography there is none of that overweening emphasis on self which makes so many men's work unattractive and unimportant.

At least the *Adventures* and his monumental *The Pennsylvania Germans, 1891-1965* (The Pennsylvania German Society, 1966) should be in every complete library in the Commonwealth and in any others whose interests include these areas.

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GEORGE SWETNAM

Early Illustrations and Views of American Architecture. By EDMUND V. GILLON, JR. (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1971. Pp. x, 295. Introduction, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$6.95.)

Approximately 80 percent of Dover's publications are reprints; many pertain to American architecture, art, and crafts.

Early Illustrations and Views of American Architecture is not a single volume, but a compilation of illustrations selected from nineteenth century histories, atlases, builders' guides, and magazines by Edmund V. Gillon, Jr. Mr. Gillon is a New York freelance designer, photographer, and antique collector who has written *Early New England Gravestone Rubbings* and *Victorian Cemetery Art* for the Dover Pictorial Archives series. This book consists of a two-page introduction, 742 illustrations from twenty-seven states, a bibliography of the sources utilized, and an index of the illustrations by state. Dates are listed for most of the illustrations themselves, but the dates for the buildings, if mentioned, are in parentheses. Bracketed numbers refer to sources numbered in the bibliography, but there are no references to the specific pages where the views originally appeared.

Mr. Gillon writes that the ". . . illustrations are generally arranged by categories in approximate chronological order . . ." These categories are street views, churches, houses, schools, public buildings, commercial buildings, and miscellaneous. The casual observer could be easily confused, however, when the clarity of the chronology is not es-

tablished, as in the case of the state capitols, and when the building dates are omitted.

Mr. Gillon also states that the book was not "... conceived as a scholarly record of high points of architecture . . ." but was intended to provide "... a wide sampling of the everyday American scene as it appeared to nineteenth century eyes." The lack of scholarly precision is evident in the minimal information given for the majority of the entries and in the use of illustrations for which Mr. Gillon found no source. Questions arise about the validity of the "wide sampling" when only forty-six books are used. A disproportionate number of illustrations — 166 — are from Massachusetts, and there are duplications. There is no reason for using two slightly different views of the same structure or for printing the same view twice. In lieu of these nine repetitions, Mr. Gillon might have increased his coverage of the Southern and Midwestern states.

Mr. Gillon might also have made some qualifying comments about the accuracy of the nineteenth century graphic artist in recording the everyday scene. Many of the illustrations were drawn from photographs, but some are pretentious, such as those of country courthouses and state capitols with park-like settings. The space around these buildings was often used for parking and even pasture and was usually a quagmire of mud in winter and a storm of dust in summer. Most of the histories and atlases were published on a subscription basis; the intent of subscriber and publisher alike was not always directed to verisimilitude. It would have been helpful for the reader if the following information had been given for every illustration on the same page with it: architect, dates pertinent to construction, remodeling, destruction or present condition and use, and the source, including pagination of the illustration. An appendix could have listed the major libraries where this source material can be studied.

The town, county, and state histories; atlases; and business directories of the nineteenth century are not readily accessible. Mr. Gillon does a service to the student of American architecture by presenting an enticing selection of illustrations from some of these volumes, a selection which covers a considerable range of styles and building types of the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. It is unfortunate that he did not also include the pertinent information about the buildings themselves, which would have placed *Early Illustrations and Views of American Architecture* in the category not only of an attractive picture book but also of a useful encyclopedia.