

ment in urban renewal (recall that the federal government's program of Community Action disastrously flopped), the PHLF's demonstrated success in the Manchester district, albeit on a small scale, suggests some justification for enthusiasm.

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American Axes. By HENRY J. KAUFFMAN. (Brattleboro, Vermont: The Stephen Greene Press, 1972. Pp. 151. Introduction, illustrations, glossary, bibliography, index. \$12.50.)

In this day of collectors and their collections, it was just a matter of time until someone compiled a reference book on axes. Henry J. Kauffman used his own extensive collection of axes as a starting point for *American Axes*.

The axe has been man's chief tool of all work since prehistoric times. As the many fine photographs in this beautifully done volume show, axes were also used to depict artwork and history. Several examples of this skill have been preserved in remarkable clarity. Not only was artwork etched on the axe blade, but axes were shown in artwork such as the Bayeux tapestry.

The axe changed very little from earliest times until necessity mothered the inventive American mind to accomplish practical adaptations for the extensive and multifaceted use to which this tool was applied in clearing forest land, building houses, farming, butchering, and making other tools. Mr. Kauffman has done an excellent job of tracing the development, adaptations, and history of the axe, especially in America. He has described the operation of bloomeries, the addition of steel to the iron blades, and how and why poleaxes were developed. There were right- and left-handed axes and a left-handed axeman was a workman much in demand because of his rare ability.

Another valuable part of the book is the roster of all known American axe manufacturers since the eighteenth century. Mr. Kauffman frequently adds anecdotes about their business operations and shows pictures of their advertising circulars. The widespread interest in axes is truly amazing.

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