The publication of Volume I of the Statutes at Large of Pennsylvania is an important contribution to the political, legal, and constitutional history of early Pennsylvania. As long ago as 1877 the state legislature had commanded publication of these statutes, but this present work is the first complete publication of the enactments from 1680 to 1700.

The work is divided into two parts consisting of an introduction by Professor Beckman (pp. 3-68), followed by the text of the laws (pp. 69-250) which includes the Duke of York's Laws (1665), the Charter and Laws Agreed Upon in England (1682), the Three Frames of Government (1682, 1683, and 1696), the Petition of Right (1693), and session laws down to February 12, 1700.

Professor Beckman's introduction is an important essay on the constitutional and legal history of the colony. Using the original draft of the Duke of York's Laws, she points out the differences between it and Penn's draft of the Great Law of 1682. Penn of course was given extensive powers as proprietor, but it is important to observe that as early as 1683 the assembly claimed a share in the law-making capacity, a controversy of extreme importance then also under debate in England. The Revolution of 1688 forced Penn to give up control over his colony for four years, but by 1693 it was back in his hands. Beckman provides an excellent summary and analysis of the various legislation enacted in the areas of criminal law, property and estates, and trade and commerce. The criminal law was quite extensive, differing substantially from English law, and it included fewer capital crimes than those found in either England or the New England colonies. The judicial process was more advanced than in the other colonies, having both county and provincial courts and, over Penn's objections, vice-admiralty courts after 1697. With Philadelphia serving as a major port, trade and commercial legislation attempted to regulate coinage, weights and measures, and the quality of commodi-
ties like bread, liquor, and deerskins. The laws of estates were not as detailed as in Massachusetts, nor were debtor-creditor relationships as harsh compared to the other colony.

Professor Beckman has provided lawyers and historians with the basic documents of early Pennsylvania law along with a useful introduction. She provides an index for the latter, but none for the laws themselves. This book is a must purchase for all libraries with collections in either Pennsylvania law or history.

Allegheny County Law Library
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Joel Fishman


For anyone interested in how a gristmill operates, this is a fine book, or really two books under one cover. The first two-thirds of the book outlines succinctly the development of methods to grind grain from the mortar and pestle up through the most complicated of the water- and wind-driven mills of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The last third of the book deals with the development of the mill at Philipsburg Manor, Upper Mills, near Tarrytown, New York, its subsequent decay, and its reconstruction.

The chief pleasure of the book is that it describes in a clear and simple manner the ways various mills were designed and worked. The reader quickly grasps the fundamental operation of the various kinds of water- and wind-driven mills, including tidal water mills, and at the same time can appreciate the engineering and the craftsmanship that went into their creation. From dressing the stones to developing different numbers of cogs in one gear in relation to teeth in another so that there was no uniform wearing, the builder's craft is described without romantic gloss or needless technical jargon.

The book is well illustrated with drawings and photographs of the development of mills and of the different mechanical parts of a mill, each illustration placed appropriately in the text so that the reader does not have to leaf from page to page hunting the illustrations as they are referred to. The book includes a handy glossary for the study of gristmills, and has an index. It is handsomely bound in cloth and is admirably printed.