

sonnets seem to be the authority to which the authors ultimately turn. Such an orientation serves the stated purpose of the book — to understand Schmitt as writer and woman — but it also leads to conclusions that some readers may find equivocal, since all the analysts are themselves women. The conviction that “Schmitt had been fighting a battle all women writers fight” and that “women’s writing is self-definition [and] cannot be edited by husbands, lovers, department chairmen, publishers, or critics, to conform to patriarchal notions of proper womanhood and still be authentic” (p. 81) may well be true, but one wonders if the essays, collectively, do not come down a bit hard, for example, on husband Simon Goldfield, who emerges as something of a millstone around Schmitt’s neck. Curiously, there are no male viewpoints in this book to substantiate or refute the feminist argument.

In the end, the attributes of the work outweigh the limitations. What we have, finally, is a sympathetic and compassionate portrait of the author of *David the King*, *Rembrandt*, and *The Godforgotten* (not to mention six other novels and sundry short stories) that is both timely and impressive, and a fitting tribute to Carnegie-Mellon University’s first Thomas S. Baker Professor of English. *I Could Be Mute* is not, strictly speaking, a biography, nor does it purport to be. The editor’s stated intention is rather to “prompt further study of Gladys Schmitt” (p. 7). Brostoff took the first step in this direction in a short piece published in 1973: “Only Human Values: An Essay on Gladys Schmitt’s *Sonnets for an Analyst*.” Now she has taken a second, more significant step. Hopefully, her efforts will inspire a comprehensive and definitive biographical study somewhere down the road.

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*Gritty Cities: A Second Look at Allentown, Bethlehem, Bridgeport, Hoboken, Lancaster, Norwich, Paterson, Reading, Trenton, Troy, Waterbury, Wilmington.* By MARY PROCTER and BILL MATUSZESKI. (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1978. Pp. ix, 276. Preface, introduction, illustrations, sources, maps. \$17.50, cloth; \$9.95, paper.)

*Gritty Cities* is a teasing tale of twelve cities in the northeastern corridor of the United States. It is teasing in its ability to inspire in the reader a desire for more information about any or all of the small

to mid-size cities chosen by the authors. Although the treatment given each is cursory, an ample number of sources are cited in the bibliography to satisfy the appetites of the inquisitive. Of special interest to Pennsylvanians are the sections dealing with Allentown, Bethlehem, Lancaster, and Reading. In addition to these, the focus is upon Bridgeport, Hoboken, Norwich, Paterson, Trenton, Troy, Waterbury, and Wilmington. Chosen from more than forty cities examined by authors Mary Procter and Bill Matuszeski, these twelve were selected because of aspects of natural setting, historical events, and the nature of their people who have created a special visual character through time.

One of this reviewer's pet annoyances surfaces in *Gritty Cities*, and that is that the book contains no map of the northeastern corridor indicating the location of the cities chosen for inclusion. A simple map would add clarity and eliminate the necessity of reading with an atlas or road map at hand.

The book does not pretend to be an exhaustive survey and analysis. The authors' prefacing statement makes that perfectly clear: "If we have any thesis at all, it is the rather modest statement that such small cities do best when they grow and change by building on those things that gave them their character. Pat solutions imported via big-city consultants, no matter how bold and costly, never seem to succeed as well as carefully thought out approaches that use the unique mix of existing structures and neighborhoods, traditions and industries that comprise a city's legacy" (p. viii).

A brief overview of each city is included in a thirty-page introduction. In addition, the authors make some salient points about the industrial revolution — that sequence of events which gradually led us away from a farm-oriented economy to the urban age. It is the opinion of the authors that the most important period in the economic development of the gritty cities was the period from 1860 to 1920, corresponding roughly with the era between the beginning of the Civil War and the close of World War I. This was an era of rapid population growth brought on mainly by decisions made by industrial enterprises to locate in these places — enterprises which served both agrarian and urban society by manufacturing a wide array of goods from horseshoes and textiles to steel rails. By the early 1920s, however, rapid industrialization brought on by World War I had increased the demand for more valuable manufactured goods such as structural steel. Big-city locations provided a definite advantage in marketing these goods because of their accessibility to more advanced

transportation facilities. With few exceptions there has been little growth in the gritty cities since 1920. Their decline preceded by several decades the general decline in population in larger urban places in the northeast.

Following the introduction, twelve chapters, each of some twenty pages, are devoted to the cities. Of this number of pages, only five or six are in text. The historical and ethnic development of each place is focused upon, but the material presented is largely an elaboration of that offered in the introduction. The authors do capture very well the character of the gritty cities through a collection of poignant photographs whose message is enhanced by excellent photography. Photos are location-keyed on topographic maps of the cities for reference. This is an excellent idea which makes the book a useful travel and research guide for those journeying to or through the gritty cities and who have an interest in industry, architecture, and ethnic neighborhoods.

In this reviewer's opinion, the positive aspects of *Gritty Cities* outweigh the negative. It is a well-written book which all serious readers should find interesting. The authors adhere to and fulfill well their intended goal, that is, a verbal and pictorial description of a vital part of Americana — a part that should be preserved.

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