chusetts, in 1810. Unfortunately, the other three volumes of McMurtrie's projected history were never completed.

An essay on American display type design with many examples (including several of McMurtrie's) is reproduced, of necessity by photooffset from the original Bodley Head publication. Research on underground newspapers was another McMurtrie interest. To illustrate this, his essay on Joseph Skalda and the Czech silent press ("the first underground newspaper of the present [1944] war") is included.

An article from Printing Art (1921) may sound rather cavalier coming from a mere printing craftsman, but to one who has functioned in all three capacities, writer, editor, and printer, we think it bears quoting:

Theoretically the printer has no responsibility for decision as to punctuation, spelling, and so forth, these being strictly within the role of the author or editor. In actual practice, however, the conscientious printer, in an endeavor to have the final result as accurate as possible, is driven into the editorial realm by the evident carelessness of the average author regarding points of style and consistency (p. 107).

We may even append a personal note here in recalling that a few years ago, before the floodgates opened on pornography, the innocent printer was liable for the impressions that came from his presses. McMurtrie may have unknowingly anticipated that the printer abrogates responsibility at his peril.

The final third of the book is devoted to a McMurtrie bibliography numbering 779 entries, dating from 1910 to a 1971 reprinting, an amazing output from a multitalented man. In fairness to the book's subject, therefore, we cannot overlook two criticisms — an inadequate index and a number of typographical errors — that would have distressed Douglas McMurtrie.

Pittsburgh

STANLEY D. MAYER


For a number of years, Polish-Americans as well as ethnic scholars have been waiting for an authoritative publication concerning the history of Polish immigration and Polish-Americans. Wytrwal, an educator in the Detroit area, has published several books relative to Polish-Americans. In this book he endeavors to write a history of an indefatigable ethnic group which emigrated from Europe many cen-
turies ago. The volume at its best is a potpourri of historical and sociological thematic subjects which range in scope from the history of Poland to the American bicentennial.

Dr. Wytrwal’s essay on the “Polish Peasant Immigration” is a reliable and exciting account of recriminations and the social and economic problems which beset the Polish immigrant and his tenacious struggle to overcome these obstacles. To a student of sociology it is an excellent account of an ethnic behavior pattern including the gradual entry into the mainstream of American society.

Another chapter, on “The Catholic vs. Polonia,” page 554, is of historical consequence and sociological significance. The presentation is pointed and at times acrimoniously aimed at the alleged discrimination of the Polish Roman Catholic church and clergy by the Roman Catholic hierarchy, particularly in the Detroit-Chicago region. Perhaps the national reporters who covered the recent United States visit by Pope John Paul II could possibly find an answer in this chapter to their question concerning why His Holiness in his consideration of possible cities, did not include Detroit.

Wytrwal’s forte obviously lies in the sociological realm. He shows his weakness in the historical field where he falters with a number of erroneous historical statements concerning Polish-Americans. For example, the author refers to General Thaddeus Kosciusko as the “founder of West Point” (p. 94). This has no historical credibility. It is correct to say that Kosciusko built the impregnable fortifications, but not until 1804 did West Point officially become a military academy by an act of Congress. It is also the author’s claim that one Joseph Czajka of Milwaukee was the first American soldier to be killed in World War I (p. 228). In reality, James B. Greshan, Merle D. Hays, and Thomas Enright (a Pittsburgher) were the first to be killed — on November 2-3, 1917, by the same shell. Czajka was probably the first Polish-American to sacrifice his life in the conflict. Dr. Wytrwal’s assertion that “Kosciusko’s humanitarian request helped found the ‘Colored School’ at Newark, N.J. in 1862” lacks documentation. In 1852, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Kosciusko died intestate and decreed that the funds be turned over to his heirs (see, “Kosciuszko Many Wills,” Polish Heritage Magazine [Fall 1976]: 5). It is also the writer’s contention that Anthony Sadowski, a prominent provincial Pennsylvania interpreter and trader, “was insidiously killed by the Indians in 1774” (p. 527) and that “he had several sons.” This statement should be clarified and further documented. According to Anthony Sadowski’s last will and testa-
ment, he mentioned only one son, Andrew, "who shall enjoy and possess the said estate" (ref. 446 year 1736 Register of Wills, County of Philadelphia). Anthony Sadowski died in 1736 in Pennsylvania and was buried in Douglassville.

Through a more thorough examination of Joseph Wytrwal's historical statements, many discrepancies can be found which cause one to question his worth as a Polish-American historian. On the other hand, as a sociologist, he offers much analytical thought and data to the student of social sciences.

Pittsburgh

JOSEPH A. BORKOWSKI


I read Blakely's volume just prior to testifying on the public broadcasting sections of the House version of what may yet be a major rewriting of the Communications Act of 1934. I am much in his debt. A veteran of the educational broadcasting wars, he has managed to clarify the history of noncommercial broadcasting from the 1920s through to the present without lapsing into insider stories or personal encomiums.

There are little bits and pieces of this history in virtually all our memories: one or another commission report, the beginnings of a public station (such as WQED in Pittsburgh), the first importation of a British serial, the Nixon attack. Here is the history set straight — in all its jerry-built crookedness. Public broadcasting is a Burkean delight. It is a mixed governmental and private enterprise, both local and national in financing and control and stirred by continuing battles over federalism in a manner which would have done credit to the Congress of the 1850s. Guided by an ethic of noncommercialism, it has managed to offer prestigious institutional advertising to some of the largest multinational firms. Proud of its special character and its cultural mission, it has enlightened our days with old radio serials, professional tennis, and disco dancing lessons.

The entire mixture is so wonderfully confused that I would — in certain moods — be willing to take it as a protean cultural form, resisting all attempts to explain or justify it on philosophical grounds. Blakely, unfortunately, is not willing to settle for a mystical historicism. There is a genius in the jerry-built form (the term is his)