

Day again took up the only career in which he had experienced success — civil engineering and surveying. In this capacity Day was eminently successful, becoming a key figure in the early engineering history of California. He was acclaimed for his surveying and design of roads and railroads, was elected to the California state senate, and served as trustee and later Professor of Mine Construction and Surveying at California College (University of California). During his later years Day developed an interest in California's Indians and authored two treatises on the topic.

The text of Smith's work is only thirty-four pages long and perhaps this is a blessing. While this monograph is basically a biography, it is also a history book and travelogue. Like a history book, it is replete with names, dates, places, and facts. Also, like the typical history, this is not the kind of book that the average person would curl up with to read by the fireplace. In short, while some fascinating information is presented it is not fascinating reading. This is not to impugn the effort that went into producing the work. Documentation is exhaustive if not exhausting (there are 331 footnotes for only thirty-four pages of text). Some sixty sources are listed in the bibliography. The saving grace of this work is the reproduction of Day's sketches in sixty-three pages. Included are 154 sketches of Pennsylvania scenes — courthouses, penitentiaries, town squares, colleges, and scenery. Also included are ten miscellaneous sketches printed through the courtesy of the Bancroft Library, University of California (Berkeley).

My advice to anyone coming into possession of this book is to turn directly to the illustrations. For therein lies the true value of the work. The sketches, heretofore not readily available to the amateur historian and casual reader, present a vivid image of Pennsylvania 140 years ago.

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*A History of Retirement: The Meaning and Function of an American Institution, 1885-1978.* By WILLIAM GRAEBNER. (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1980. Pp. x, 293. Preface, bibliographical essay, footnotes, index. \$22.50.)

Retirement has been and continues to be an extremely important topic. Therefore, it is fortunate that an able historian, in this case

William Graebner of the State University of New York at Fredonia, has examined the subject from the nineteenth century to the present. What Graebner has found is significant. Initially, voluntary retirement was the rule — after all, the country lacked a large, highly concentrated work force that would make mandatory retirement a logical and convenient possibility. But with the rise of railroads and the “smoke-stack” industries after the Civil War, retirement practices, as we know them today, began to emerge. The advantages of formal retirement seemed obvious and numerous. As Graebner suggests: “For business, retirement meant reduced unemployment, lower rates of turnover, a younger, more efficient, and more conservative work force; for labor, it was in part a way of transferring work from one generation to another in industries with a surplus of workers. . . .” The latter, of course, held special value during periods of limited employment opportunities, particularly during the Great Depression of the 1930s. While these points of view changed over the years, the most important being the waning of the notion of retirement as an instrument of social and economic efficiency, they showed considerable durability over the past century. However, a major change in the idea of retirement has occurred recently. The Retirement Act of 1978 seeks to increase the efficiency of the national labor body by the significant reduction of mandatory retirement in both the public and private sectors. “Employers were to be forced out of sloppy bureaucratic modes of decision making which treated all workers of a given age as equally productive or unproductive.” Thus a return to merit-based personnel decisions it is hoped would result in the increased efficiency of toilers and also relieve the financial problems that have become so widespread with various retirement funds.

*A History of Retirement* represents the product of an enormous amount of research. The scope of Graebner’s work is readily revealed since the notes are conveniently located at the bottom of each page. While he might have examined the voluminous papers of Herman L. Ekern, counsel for the Railway Employees National Pension Association during the 1930s, found at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, there are no obvious shortcomings. Moreover, this reviewer has no quarrel with the author’s overall view of the retirement saga. The only limitations with this study are its organization — the book is more a series of essays rather than a carefully woven monograph — and the writing style, which at times is not particularly clear. Yet, *A History of Retirement* is a pathbreaking book. In fact, it remarkably resembles Richard Saunders’s *Railroad Mergers and*

*the Coming of Conrail* (1978). Like Graebner's the Saunders study is a pioneering effort and likewise suffers somewhat from organizational and writing weaknesses.

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*American Political History as Social Analysis: Essays.* By SAMUEL P. HAYS. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1980. Pp. 460. Introduction, epilogue, index, footnotes. \$25.00.)

Samuel P. Hays, professor of history at the University of Pittsburgh, stands as one of modern America's most distinguished and prodigious social historians. And yet, as Bruce Stave observed in an interview with Hays, published in the *Journal of Urban History* in November 1975, with but two exceptions, the vast scholarly output of Hays resides in articles and unpublished manuscripts. Therefore, from one point of view, by enclosing most of Hays's major articles and key papers, *American Political History as Social Analysis* fills a void.

However, Hays regards the book as more than his collected works. Indeed it is not. Instead, through these essays he attempts to mark the progress of his thought concerning the need for a conceptually rigorous, that is, systematic social history. Hays sees his quest for a meaningful social history spanning his academic career from a student in philosophy at Swarthmore College in the 1940s, to graduate study at Harvard, thence to teaching posts at the University of Illinois, University of Iowa, and the University of Pittsburgh. Nor is it unimportant to learn that Hays grew up in a small town in Indiana, and as a conscientious objector during World War II served in Oregon with the Bureau of Land Management.

Although *American Political History* includes sixteen essays written over an eighteen-year period, certain salient tendencies unify the whole. First, Hays endeavors to unfold the "larger context of history." History, contends Hays, must jettison its unwieldy baggage of facts, its proclivity for presidential politics, and explore social forces and social structures. Such a new and dynamic social analysis requires a sensitivity to the complexity of social organizations, the variations in social structure, and the impact of change. Accordingly, Hays treats politics microcosmically. For Hays politics