

Another aspect of the book that is rewarding is Dohan's treatment of the impact the construction of the *New Orleans* had on the Pittsburgh community. The city's elite, including the O'Haras, the Nevilles, and the Rosses, welcomed and entertained the Roosevelts. But it was Roosevelt's project that captured the interest of the people. For Pittsburgh was "supremely boat-conscious." Its citizens watched progress on the construction with anticipation. The merchants and manufacturers were not insensitive to the probable success that steam navigation might bring them. Nothing would please them more than to see the Mississippi become the great outlet for goods from Western Pennsylvania, thus reducing the dependency upon the East.

By skillfully interweaving her characters with historical events, the author has produced a creditable work. The emphasis is on the story, but not at the expense of the human side of her subject matter. Her characters are real, believable. She uses representative sources but refers to them in her notes in a most unusual manner. The professional historian might ask what manual of style, if any, was used. If there is a basic flaw to the work it is an overabundance of descriptive passages. Some of it burdens the reader but most of it supports the mood and setting.

In sum, this short book is a readable and enjoyable account of one of the fascinating stories associated with the early West. It should be of special appeal to those interested in Pittsburgh history, transportation, and, of course, the boat buff.

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*M'Kee Victorian Glass: Five Complete Glass Catalogs from 1859/60 to 1871.* Introduction and text by LOWELL INNES and JANE SHADEL SPILLMAN. (New York: Corning Museum of Glass, in association with Dover Publications, Inc., 1981. Pp. v, 186. Introduction, bibliography, charts, catalogues, pricelists. \$5.00.)

One of the most desirable tools in research and collecting is primary source material. The five catalogue-pricelists dating from 1859/60 to 1871 incorporated in this book are such tools. Although McKee and Brothers of Pittsburgh was but one of the major companies manufacturing glass tablewares in the nineteenth century, their catalogues represent the production, the terminology of the wares, and

the choices available to the consumer in competitive glass manufacturing of that period.

The authors of the text accompanying the catalogues point up several informative aspects revealed in both the catalogues and pricelists. They note: the increase in forms as well as patterns as the pressing techniques improved; the physical changes in lighting devices as kerosene rapidly supplanted other types of lamp fuels; and the curious factor of selling assorted patterned peg lamps separately from the bases, leaving the choice of the combination of the two parts up to the retailer or consumer. This last information is especially important. If other firms throughout the glass industry adhered to the same policy it would account for what is today often referred to as "married parts," yet, a retailer handling lamps from both Eastern and Midwestern firms could interchange globes (fonts) and bases by design or accidentally.

Additional details of manufacture deserving consideration are: the choices between rough and ground bottoms on tumblers, thus negating the theory that such differences could indicate a different factory or an earlier dating; the reference to three forms of molasses cans — those with tin tops, with (other) metal tops, and with glass stoppers — noting the latter type are incorrectly referred to today as cruets; and lastly, the stoppering of decanters. Cork stoppers were the only ones mentioned in the 1859/60 pricelist, though patent corks were illustrated on decanters in the catalogue. In the five catalogues and pricelists only two glass stoppers were listed and shown, the Stedman cup stopper and the Huber stopper. This would indicate that McKee and Brothers, at least, was not making an effort to place a matching-pattern stopper on each decanter.

One observation with regard to the 1864 catalogue is the difference in the printing of the headings on five of the pages. This may suggest that these pages were lifted from earlier McKee catalogues. As the Sprig pattern, patented in 1863, appears on two of the pages, it could indicate an 1862/63 catalogue. The remaining pages show the heading as McKee and Brother, which represents a catalogue prior to the company name change noted by the authors as probably 1863.

There are a few statements the authors could reappraise. Instead of stating that a catalogue pinpoints a starting date of a pattern it would have been better to suggest that the catalogue indicates a known date the pattern was manufactured. Unless all dated catalogues of the company are known, pinpointing a starting date is impossible. Unfortunately the positive statement about "no butters"

being in the catalogues is denied by the 1859/60 catalogue; two are illustrated, a 6-inch Ray and 6-inch Diamond. Finally, two different dates were offered for the Sprig pattern. It was patented on April 21, 1863.

The authors ascribed a date before 1864 for the undated pricelist. In comparing that list with the one of 1864 three factors lend further credence to their dating. The concave flute decanter with a cut neck is no longer offered, the additional cutting was probably determined to be economically unfeasible on pressed wares; the castor bottles in the undated list show only one having a screw top, whereas the 1864 list mentions four with screw tops; and the aforementioned Stedman cup stopper, although illustrated on a decanter in the 1864 catalogue, has been dropped in the pricelist.

There are a few printing observations. The charts preceding the catalogues, with the number of pieces for each of the patterns illustrated, could be more effectively shown on a single page. The cover of the book should have included an example of Sprig, as it is probably the only patented flint glass pattern design in the McKee production. The positioning of the undated pricelist would have served the reader better if placed before the 1864 catalogue and pricelist. In addition there are a few typographical and interpretive errors the serious scholar and collector will easily detect.

*M'Kee Victorian Glass* is the first offering the glass collector, scholar, and historian has ever had to study a decade of nineteenth-century glass manufacture of a single company. It is well presented, well annotated, and should be a most useful book to all. The authors and the Corning Museum of Glass should be pleased and are to be commended for their contribution to students and collectors of nineteenth-century glass.

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*Urban Capitalists: Entrepreneurs and City Growth in Pennsylvania's Lackawanna and Lehigh Regions, 1800-1920.* By BURTON W. FOLSOM, JR. (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1981. Pp. xiv, 191. Foreword, preface, acknowledgments, introduction, notes, bibliographic essay, index. \$16.50.)

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