more striking of these are his catalogue number 7, Richardson’s competition project for the Equitable Life headquarters, 1867, and his proper conjunction of the plans and perspectives of the Oliver Ames House project for Boston, 1880.

It is too early to determine whether Ochsner’s study merits the overused term “definitive.” Even while the book was in press four new projects were uncovered which could be discussed only in footnotes. Without any doubt, there are more Richardson archival deposits, probably even more surviving buildings that will be discovered in the next decade, but that is always the risk in preparing a catalogue. In its thoroughness, clarity of presentation, and generosity of format, Ochsner’s Complete Architectural Works has given Richardson studies a major assist with which to instruct the next generation of students about him, and through him, about us.

Department of Fine Arts
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Franklin K. Toker

50 Years of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy: The Early Years. By M. Graham Netting. (Pittsburgh: The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, 1982. Pp. 200. Foreword, list of supporting foundations, photographic credits, illustrations. $50.00, cloth; $25.00, paper.)

When residents of Western Pennsylvania hike their region’s mountain trails, fish its streams, canoe its waters, or observe its many natural splendors, they may well be benefiting from the conservation efforts of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Often with little fanfare, Conservancy directors moved decisively to acquire, conserve, and develop tracts throughout Western Pennsylvania. In the process, the Conservancy became a major force in shaping the region’s quality of life. In the five decades since its inception, the Conservancy acquired and transferred to public agencies over 85,000 acres for five public parks as well as for additions to state forests and game lands. The Conservancy also turned over or currently operates nature centers, historic sites, natural areas, and the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed residence of Fallingwater. In the 1970s, the Conservancy undertook the research and planning of issues facing Pennsylvania in environmental resources and land use policy. 50 Years of the Western Pennsylvania
Conservancy not only recounts the story of this important regional organization and the evolution of several state parks but also presents an intimate picture of how things were accomplished in Pittsburgh's Renaissance era.

When the ten founding members of the Greater Pittsburgh Parks Association (GPPA) initially met in 1931 with the intention of improving highways and public places in Allegheny County, they had little idea of creating a major conservation organization for the western half of Pennsylvania. Despite being comprised of civic leaders and having access to local foundations, the GPPA spent the difficult years of depression and war trying to define its mission and develop some momentum. By concentrating on urban landscaping, most notably that of Bigelow Boulevard, the GPPA remained within the traditional scope of such groups across the nation. However, late in 1944 GPPA directors decided to acquire McConnell's Mill in the Slippery Rock Creek gorge for a park, thereby expanding the range of the organization and launching it and its successor upon its historic role in Western Pennsylvania.

In 1949, efforts to preserve geologically significant glacial lands in Butler County (presently Moraine State Park) led the GPPA to establish a separate council within the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and in 1951 to recognize its expanded regional activities with a more appropriate name, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Affiliation with the Allegheny Conference linked the Conservancy to the heady momentum and resources of Pittsburgh's Renaissance. During the 1950s, foundations were built for the creation of Moraine State Park, Ohiopyle State Park, and Jennings Nature Reserve. As a voluntary organization without permanent staff, the Conservancy received professional planning services from the Regional Planning Association and the Allegheny Conference. In 1958, the Conservancy acquired its first staff member, initiated publication of Water, Land, and Life, and opened its membership to annual subscribers. With these steps, the Conservancy increased its projects, and accomplishments followed which are too numerous to list here. As the GPPA had made the timely transition in the late 1940s from urban landscaping to developing state parklands, the Conservancy in the 1960s progressed to the protection of specific natural ecosystems within the wilderness.

The Conservancy's remarkable success can be partially attributed to the devotion, vision, and extraordinary efforts of individuals, most of whom were volunteers. They shared an enthusiasm for the outdoors
and a surprising knowledge of the natural world; indeed some commanded scientific expertise. These outdoorsmen from the business and professional communities interacted closely and warmly with scientists from the Carnegie Institute and the University of Pittsburgh. The entwined interests and activities of these two groups evoke a nostalgic sense of camaraderie and discovery, which seem lost in today's more specialized and separate professional worlds.

Equally important to the Conservancy's success as individual efforts was the connection to high places in Pittsburgh's business community and society. Early members had personal access to Renaissance decision makers and directors of local foundations. Foundations provided timely grants (often under crisis conditions) for acquisition, planning, and the transition to a permanent staff. Conservancy presidents had such backgrounds as a bank president and executive directors of foundations. Membership was restricted to a small group until the late 1950s, and even with the expansion of several thousand annual subscribers, policy decisions remained controlled among the directors. Over the years the small size and elite character of the Conservancy aroused surprisingly little contention, although local communities affected by acquisitions have not always shared its goals.

Published fifty years after the Conservancy's origin, this book honors the organization, its founders, and members. It was never meant to be a critical history and should not be evaluated on that basis. The book's organization, however, is confusing. Brief and unrelated descriptions of current programs precede the heart of the book, M. Graham Netting's long account of the Conservancy's evolution entitled "The Early Years." Netting writes fondly of many individuals, amusing incidents, and crises that punctuated the Conservancy's growth. His easy writing style, personal involvement, and apparent delight in the memories carry the reader briskly through what might have otherwise been tedious material. Numerous photographs and delicate marginal inkings of plants and animals make this book a handsome contribution to the growing collection of Western Pennsylvania books. Netting's descriptions of early Conservancy personalities and the story of leadership and institutional interconnections make it an important part of that collection.

Department of History
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Edward K. Muller