pre-Revolutionary Massachusetts Bay and Ireland. Reid finds that English legal institutions were effective tools of repression in Ireland but were unsuccessful in Massachusetts because the Whigs successfully used the law of local institutions against the imperial law of Parliament and the agents of the crown (pp. 146-48). Both Hartog (chapter five) and Teachout (chapter six) find Reid’s study an important analysis of constitutional events. The latter places Reid in the traditional humanistic school rather than the new school of legal historians. He rejects Horwitz’s pessimistic view of law and contends that the rule of law can be a positive and powerful force for human decency and justice in the world (p. 206). Teachout criticizes Reid for trying to understand the rule of law separately from the substantive moral vision it embodies (p. 224).

In the concluding essay, Hartog rejects Teachout’s analysis of Reid’s work and substitutes instead an amalgamation of Reid, Horwitz, and Nelson to show the similarities among them while acknowledging the dating of the transformation somewhere between 1760 and 1840.

The works reviewed in the essays are some of the most important publications in American legal history to appear in the last two decades. The movement by legal historians away from strict legal history to show a closer relationship between law and society is a significant theme of these publications. Those works as well as this book belong in all libraries with American history collections.

Allegheny County Law Library
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Joel Fishman


This in-house publication commemorates the centennial in 1981 of the Rochester and Pittsburgh Coal Company which has its offices and major operations in Indiana County, Pennsylvania. R&P has long been an important producer in Western Pennsylvania and currently ranks tenth among bituminous coal producers in the United States.

To the company’s credit they retained a trained historian to write their history rather than assigning the task to a retired officer of the firm. They also had the good sense to assign the design and layout to a
professional. The result is a readable and handsome volume that does credit to R&P's first century.

Certainly, it is an in-house publication written for current employees and officers of the company. It is not a fiscal history of R&P, although there is considerable information about that subject, and although there is information on relationships between the company and its employees, there is no direct consideration of matters such as unionization, strikes, and labor relations. But, while labor and business historians might have wished for something else, the R&P story is no simple gloss of the company's past. Neither is it a panegyric to past presidents. Cooper writes well. She has no grand, interpretative scheme but she does produce an organized and readable account of this major coal producer.

The book is strongest in its earlier sections when Cooper deals with the founding of R&P and its byzantine relationship with the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh Railroad. Moreover, her account of R&P is more than the view from the boardroom. There is a good touch of "history from below," and the book contains substantial material on coal towns and a coal miner's life. The abundant illustrations are well chosen and nicely reproduced. They range from abundant maps through coal mining artifacts and R&P coal towns. They give the reader a good feel for the coal industry. In themselves they make this book worthwhile. The book is weakest as it comes closer to the present, and indeed, the final chapter, "Decade of Promise: R&P in the Seventies," was written by W. Joseph Engler, Jr., an R&P attorney. It is as useful an insight into the mind of a coal company attorney as it is a summary of that decade.

The volume is based on considerable research. Cooper had access to R&P records and she did extensive oral interviews with employees and former employees from all levels of the company. She has also extensively consulted the area newspapers. Given the limitations of such a volume, she has accomplished her objective. But she was unable to escape the inevitable listing forced on her by high officials in R&P. The result is that the last approximately one hundred pages resemble a high school yearbook more than history. I have only one other minor criticism. A large map of Pennsylvania placing Indiana County and R&P operations in broader perspective would have been useful to readers not immediately familiar with the area.

Department of History
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Indiana, Pennsylvania

James M. Oliver