

Holidays: Victorian Women Celebrate in Pennsylvania.

By Nada Gray.

(Lewisburg, Pennsylvania: The Oral Traditions Project of the Union County Historical Society, 1983.

Pp. 72. Acknowledgments, bibliography, index. \$9.50.)

Herald Angels: Christmas Music in Pennsylvania, 1820-1920.

(Lewisburg, Pennsylvania: The Oral Traditions Project of the Union County Historical Society, 1982. \$7.95.)

Did you ever wonder how Christmas and Easter were celebrated before the advent of mass-produced ornamentation and radio and television holiday programming? *Holidays* and *Herald Angels*, respectively a book and record, produced by the Oral Traditions Project of the Union County Historical Society, commemorate the nineteenth-century celebration of these two Christian holidays. Nada Gray has surveyed century-old advice books, women's magazines, religious publications, newspapers, and household manuals in search of illustrations and descriptions of holiday decoration traditions and techniques that middle-class women used to adorn their homes and churches at Christmas and Easter. Gray's lavishly illustrated book includes long quotations from nineteenth-century sources that detail the production and display of table, wall, and tree decorations for Christmas and the decoration of eggs for Easter. It is clear from the detail of the descriptions that women spent days, perhaps weeks, before Christmas in the late nineteenth century making tree ornaments resembling victorias, cabriolets, trolleys, hot-air balloons, sleighs, angels, stars, caskets, baskets, bowls, animals, clothing, dolls, moons, fairies, flags, and fish. They strung popcorn, made paper chains, folded papers into lanterns, and decorated their walls and ceilings with greens. For Easter women adorned their churches with live plants, vines, and flowers and their homes with baskets of exquisitely colored, carved, and painted eggs. *Holidays* contains a useful bibliography of primary sources on nineteenth-century holiday customs and a list of public collections in Pennsylvania of Christmas ornaments and Easter eggs.

While one is looking at the photographs of holiday decorations in Gray's book, one can listen to *Herald Angels*, an album of Christmas music sung in Pennsylvania between 1820 and 1920. A double vocal quartet, accompanied by a pianist, has recorded the songs. Some of the

songs are familiar, such as "Herald Angels," "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas," and "Cradle Hymn," but the arrangements are taken from such long-forgotten nineteenth-century sources as *School Chimes*, *Temple Carmina*, and *Sunny Songs for Little Folks*. In contrast to modern versions of the Christmas songs, which are often "busy," these arrangements are peaceful and relaxing. The album contains the complete texts of the songs on the jacket and a brochure on the celebration of Christmas in the nineteenth century. ■

Maurine Weiner Greenwald *Department of History*
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Women and the Trades: Pittsburgh, 1907-1908.

By Elizabeth Beardsley Butler.

Introduction by Maurine Weiner Greenwald.

(Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1984. Pp. xlv, 440.

Introduction, foreword, illustrations, tables, appendixes,
bibliography, index. \$14.95, paper.)

The topic of women in the American labor force has received extensive scholarly attention during the last ten years. The reprint of Elizabeth Butler's *Women and the Trades* adds to this total of articles, dissertations, monographs, and reprints. This new edition of *Women and the Trades*, however, provides readers with two works in one: Maurine Greenwald's interesting and informative introduction, and Butler's original text.

Originally published in 1909, *Women and the Trades* was the first of six investigative volumes produced by the Pittsburgh Survey under the auspices of the Russell Sage Foundation. Maurine Greenwald's introduction both describes the survey's rationale and discusses the effect of its research by placing Butler's work in its proper context within the reform movement of the Progressive Era. The introduction also provides biographical information about Elizabeth Butler, discusses Lewis Hine's contribution to the Pittsburgh Survey, and critiques Butler's research methods.

Greenwald clearly identifies Butler's key research flaw: her inability to separate middle-class values from her working assumptions about women wage earners. Consequently, Butler only researched areas she