

style. Surely there is a difference between a work designed by compiling sources from various unrelated picturesque and/or classical modes, and a work echoing one historical monument or style. The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts building on North Broad Street in Philadelphia by Frank Furness is a perfect example of design by accumulation; Thomas Jefferson's Virginia State House at Richmond is a good example of a building modeled upon or adapted from a previous monument. We need labels that clearly distinguish the two. The former is "eclectic"; I propose to give the latter the admittedly ugly title of "historistic" until a more sonorous term is proposed. Such labels are important because they clearly suggest that the intentions of the architects, and the resulting buildings, were different. Since what style(s) they used and how they used it/them meant much to the architects "of choice," Kidney's lack of precision fails to do justice to the variety of past design experience. I should also point out, however, that he is not alone in this. He writes about an era until recently little appreciated in the historiography of the twentieth century.

Kidney says, more than once in this work, that H. H. Richardson's Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail is the only internationally significant architectural monument in the area he surveys. Looking at page after page of small grey photographs of the buildings flagged by his sectional guide, I find it hard to dispute his assessment. Still, the ensemble has that special flavor that is Pittsburgh's past and present. Its maintenance is essential—especially in this era of "parachute architecture"; when jet-setting designers drop into your cities buildings of enervating, reiterative banality which threaten to annihilate our regional diversity—and the promotion of that maintenance is well-served by this handsome publication. ■

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Johnstown: The Story of a Unique Valley.

Edited by Karl Berger, M.D.

(Johnstown: Johnstown Flood Commission with the assistance of William L. Glosser, 1985. Pp. 743. Preface, index, illustrations.)

Although *Johnstown: The Story of a Unique Valley* does not unfold the entire story of that particular community, the volume does provide

an exceptional insight into the environmental, social, political, and cultural milieu of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Johnstown.

The book is a delightful surprise in not being a mere *chronicling* of dates, events, and activities but rather an attempt to put them into a context with some degree of perspective. In nineteen chapters, a corps of contributors write on the geology, agriculture, weather, plant ecology, flora, fauna, industry, and ethnic groups of Johnstown and its immediate environs. In addition, there are chapters on the area's Indians, the Pennsylvania Canal, architecture, labor relations, entertainment, sports, public transportation, and city planning. Air, water, land, acid rain pollution, and environmental degradation—a further indication of the surprises this volume holds—are discussed in the chapter "Environmental Disruption" by James Greco. Interspersed among the later chapters are six human interest stories on frontier life by Don Seese.

The chapters are somewhat uneven in organization and literary style—as can be expected in writings with such a diverse authorship—but, for the most part, are very readable. For example, utilizing information gleaned from oral history interviews, Jean Crichton is able to write with verve about the pre-1940 entertainment of Johnstown in "Music and Lights of Mainstreet." For local residents, the chapters on geology, plant ecology, architecture, and others provide an opportunity for self-guided walking or motoring tours, since identifying characteristics have been woven into the text or thoughtfully appended. Readers (particularly those living in the area who are able to view the buildings) of the chapter "The Architecture of Johnstown," by Benjamin Policicchio, will appreciate his thoughtfulness in appending a glossary of terms to aid in their further comprehension. The narratives are packed with details and data which unfortunately, because of the inadequacy of the name and subject indexes, will preclude use as a valuable reference source. The book would have been enhanced by an interpretative and integrative introductory essay unifying the disparate chapters.

The text of the volume is illustrated with an abundance of photographs, but the reproductions are of only an acceptable quality; undoubtedly the economics and choice of physical, i.e., computer typeset, production of this book had this result. The pencil sketches, however, illustrating such chapters as those on plant ecology, mammals, birds, and architecture are very good and contribute to the aesthetic quality of the book.

The volume lacks footnotes, end notes, or bibliographies; in some

instances, brief suggested further readings are appended to the ends of chapters. The book also needs a really good map. The lack of scholarly paraphernalia and an expanded index is regrettable, but the costs attendant to such an inclusion would perhaps have made publication by the Johnstown Flood Commission prohibitive.

A number of typographical errors and the repetition of a whole paragraph mar Chapter 16, and distracting typographical errors can be found elsewhere in the volume. Some textual ambiguities, repetitiveness, and internal chapter disorganization reflect the lack of strong editorial guidance. This is said while appreciating the vision, dedication, and pertinacity of Dr. Karl Berger, a medical doctor, who served as catalyst and editor.

On the title page it is noted that "This book was written and illustrated by members of the community for the benefit and education of the community." The book, in large measure, attains those goals, and all involved in the writing and production of the volume can take pride in what they have done. In some ways, the book should serve as a model of a community history written and published as testament by current and former members of a community. The book, even with its limitations, will be of value and use not only to members of the Johnstown community but to students, scholars, and historians of local and community history. ■

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*The Civil Works Administration, 1933-1934: The
Business of Emergency Employment in the New Deal.*

By Bonnie Fox Schwartz.

(Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984. Pp. xii, 276.

Preface, bibliography, index. \$28.50.)

In October 1933, 12.5 million Americans (ten percent of the population) were on public aid. Federal Emergency Relief Administration Director Harry Hopkins, realizing that the Public Works Administration (due to "slow, meticulous" planning, fear of the pork barrel, and the fact that subcontractors were not required to hire from relief rolls) had little immediate impact on unemployment, pressed Roosevelt to