

architecture of its exuberant and cohesive decoration. Time and again we see evidence of distinctive windows, walls and doors having been replaced with relentlessly utilitarian aluminum, resulting in whole city blocks stripped of their original character. Further comparisons may reveal that an increasingly conspicuous feature of the present city is the element of extensive space. Although intended to provide aesthetic or recreational essence, these spaces and voids are instead frequently impoverished by vacancy; they have become locations shunned because of their surreal hostility to the human psyche.

From the illustrations, it is possible to infer that, for all the smoke and chaos of early twentieth century Pittsburgh, it was an intimate city, rich with a patina of texture that can only accrue over decades. Pittsburghers will appreciate that it is the condition of the streets which seem to have most consistently improved.

The culture of Americans is a young one, unusually given to marking time intervals, and to conferring significance to anniversaries; Professor Smith's book is particularly about time, and naturally so, since the camera deals not in the fuzzy metaphysical time of much human experience, but in "real" time. Thus in the book's photographs, we see Pittsburgh located in a series of unique pictures, each of which is precisely marked by intersecting coordinates of "real" time and space; for instance, "The Point" on January 8, 1939 and again as photographed by the author in August 1987. Like a flashlight in a dark room, the camera has tantalizingly illuminated for us incidental fragments of our past and it reminds us of the infinitely greater amount of ourselves that has been lost.

In achieving this collection, which is a more powerfully focused construction than the usual visual chronology, the author offers more than the fruits of persistent scholarship. He has performed the historians's most effectual task: to provide his constituency with the materials and direction with which each read-

er is impelled to make sense of life's change and its consequences. ■

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### ***AIDS: The Burdens of History***

Edited by Elizabeth Fee and Daniel M. Fox  
Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988. Pp. ix, 362. \$25, \$11.95 paperback

**E**PIDEMICS have provided historians with some of the best material for their craft. The traditional, the social, and the applied historian all have used various epidemics, from the great plague of the fourteenth century through concerns over polio and venereal diseases in the twentieth century, to focus on major issues within a broad societal context. Therefore, it should not be surprising that our most recent epidemic, AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), should generate a continuation of this historiographical trend. This volume, containing 13 essays by noted medical historians, sociologists, and social critics presents a variety of approaches to the ongoing dilemmas created by this disease.

These essays can be roughly grouped into three broad categories. Beginning with the introductory article by the volume's compilers, Elizabeth Fee and Daniel Fox, seven essays examine how past epidemics can teach us about how we are attempting to handle AIDS today, as well as cautioning us about potential problems we will encounter. Fox and Fee warn about the danger of presentism in interpreting the lessons from previous epidemics and emphasize that social, moral and cultural values are key factors in understanding how a society relates to a disease. Guenter Risse, using an ecological model of disease causation, discusses the public's reactions to the 1656 plague in Rome, the 1832 cholera outbreak in New York City, and that city's 1916 encounter

## BOOKCASE

### ***Buck Fever: The Deer Hunting Tradition in Pennsylvania***

By Mike Sanja  
Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1990. Pp. 231. \$24.95, \$12.95 paperback

**T**HIS book is bound to be of special interest to hunters, whose experiences allow them perhaps to see deeper into Sanja's thicket of anecdotes, but scholars will probably find that the definition, dimensions and importance of the "deer hunting tradition" emerge in only fleeting glimpses. Although the book might be a good primer for the curious, the ground remains open for a thorough examination of this extremely worthwhile topic.

### ***Search the Heart***

By Michael J. Schultz and Grace Gunderman

Cooksburg, Pa.: Sawmill Center for the Arts, 1990. Pp. 76. Acknowledgements, illustrations. \$9.50 paperback, postpaid (payable to Sawmill Center for the Arts), Box 180, Cooksburg, PA 16217

"A subjective history of Loleta, Pa., a sawmill town," is how the type below the title describes this narrative in verse form, which the authors say is based on the history and folklore of this lumber region in northwest Pennsylvania. The story, set in the early twentieth century, consists of eight personalized accounts. While people will undoubtedly disagree about the work's literary staying power, the whole approach — plus the attractive color illustrations — makes the volume an imaginative presentation.