style and to develop signature elements, including incised floral motifs, squat and paired columns, and visually striking combinations of building materials.

For this project, Furness conferred with the foremost library theoreticians of the day — Justine Winsor, head of Boston Public Library, then librarian at Harvard University, and Melvil Dewey, inventor of the Dewey Decimal System. However, it appears that Furness already had a workable plan for the building before meeting with the consultants. In the late 19th century, there were three common plans for libraries: a high-ceilinged reading room lined with tall book cases; a reading room surrounded by alcoves; and a series of reading rooms. Furness designed his library with stacks separate from the main reading room. And he included an ingenious plan for expansion. Additional stacks could be accommodated by pushing out the south wall on screw jacks. This was never tried, however, because of an unanticipated design flaw: the fenestration pattern made the stacks heat up like a greenhouse.

In this book, the words and photographs work together to give you a virtual reality tour of the building. Well, close anyway. The photo of the main reading room makes you feel like you’re standing inside it and the descriptions really do help you look carefully at the photos. In fact, the book was so enticing it made me want to see the building in person, even as it made me feel I already had.

**Twenty-first-Century Pittsburgh: Volume II, The Post-Steel Era**
by Roy Lubove

by John Hinshaw

Since it first appeared in 1969, Roy Lubove’s *Twenty-first Century Pittsburgh: Government, Business and Environmental Change* has stood as a classic account of how Pittsburgh’s power structure operated. At the turn of the 20th century, numerous observers in Pittsburgh found that the human need for decent housing, safe working conditions, and public sanitation were sacrificed to facilitate the creation of a favorable business climate for heavy industry. Until the 1930s, municipal governments, dominated by the Republican Party, lacked the will or power to challenge the air or water pollution created, for example, by U.S. Steel’s mills or the railroads and aluminum mills of the Mellon family.

After the mid-1930s, the Democratic Party dominated city and county politics, but the corporations still called the shots. The economic stimulus of World War II exacerbated Pittsburgh’s already staggering environmental problems and threatened its longterm economic viability as corporations openly considered relocating to more pleasant climes. Both political and corporate elites embarked on a “public-private partnership” to remake the city into a more economically diversified, less polluted, and all-around more livable city. Yet, Lubove found that the “Pittsburgh Renaissance” was less of a fundamental shift in the regional power matrix than a shift in tactics by local elites. The needs of the working-class majority for better housing, more parks, and cleaner neighborhoods, or for democratic control over fundamental societal decisions, were given short shrift. Instead, public resources were lavished on Downtown to satisfy corporate and real estate interests (dominated, not surprisingly, as Lubove noted, by U.S. Steel and the Mellons). The 1960s saw scattered grassroots challenges to this ideology, especially from the black community, but it seemed likely that the needs of corporations and the rich would continue to dominate Pittsburgh’s ongoing Renaissance.

While Lubove’s second volume picks up chronologically where the previous one left off, in the early 1970s, its insight into Pittsburgh’s power dynamics has become cloudy. Lubove, a renowned professor of social work at the University of Pittsburgh who is now deceased, does a wonderful job describing the economic upheaval and political-institutional changes that wrecked the region in the wake of plant closings during the last two decades. And the second volume still finds that the “public-private partnership ideology” remains a significant aspect of Pittsburgh’s recent history (page viii). In fact, he shows that this partnership expanded the economic/environmental remaking of Downtown to include sponsorship of neighborhood associations, community development corporations, regional development reports, and high technology councils. His discussions of the changing politics and institutional matrixes involved in community development and heritage preservation, and other issues, are invaluable, as well. In short, Lubove’s ample documentation of how Pittsburgh entered the post-industrial era makes this volume a valuable survey of the many important events and controversies in the city since 1970.

Unfortunately, Lubove apparently succumbed to the public-private partnership’s aggressive cultural boosterism that glorified post-Renaissance Pittsburgh’s “quality of life” while placing the high-wage, high-pollution past into its appropriate historical context, e.g., products of a “dinosaur economy” (25). Rather surprisingly, he has trouble comprehending that “many Pittsburghers (not just members of the elite) acquiesced in relegating the area’s steel-centered, heavy industry legacy to the care of historians and preservationists” (ix). The author of volume one of *Twenty-first Century Pittsburgh* would have vigorously dissected the assumptions built into the economic imperative rationale for deindustrialization. In volume two, Lubove reproduces the public-private leadership’s rationale for the low-wage/green path to post-industrial Pittsburgh.

Lubove considers Pittsburgh’s reliance on heavy industry into the 1960s more than the unfortunate result of “overspecialization” (3). Clearly, given a choice between a “paleotechnic nineteenth-century economy of coal and steel” with “a post-steel economy
rooted in advanced technology, information processing, professional services, and cultural vitality” (61), which one would you choose? He enthusiastically embraces post-industrial Pittsburgh, chiding its critics as unimaginative dependents of big corporations and big government at best, or skunk-oil throwing Luddites at worst. While he finds it significant that scholars and observers from outside Pittsburgh “did not dwell on the continuing plight of the former mill towns, the growth of low-paid service sector employment, the struggle of working-class neighborhoods to remain viable, or the declining population of Pittsburgh” (58), his points are often undercut by such undocumented generalizations. In a book that devotes one-third of its space to footnotes, such conclusions are not footnote.

Clearly, Lubove found that understanding the benefits of the post-industrial economy are crucial for reasonable public policy. But while the benefits of high-tech jobs, cleaner air, and more cultural facilities do exist, Lubove not only credits these developments to the Renaissance, but vigorously condemns politicians or institutions that threaten the Renaissance’s hegemony or “self-reliant” ideology. Thus, he finds that warnings in 1963 about the steel industry’s impending crisis were ignored because the region was “awash in federal dollars (and guidelines)” (27), while working-class racism developed in response to exclusion from Great Society “largesse” (104). Lubove quotes approvingly a critic of Jesse Jackson’s, and of many big-city mayors in the 1980s who together fought for federal programs to counter the urban crisis, as people who just don’t get it: “The answer... is a clear one, and one that is being voiced with astounding unity by citizens at our grassroots... [D]on’t send us social programs, send us capital” (97). Yet, he continues, neighborhood empowerment and initiative were threatened by “the increasing tendency of the federal government to ooze over the life of society under one pretext or another” (92). Federal initiatives in the 1990s to force banks to make loans in black neighborhoods, for instance, Lubove attributes to bureaucratic “zealots” (116).

Pete Flaherty, mayor in the early 1970s, is credited with reducing the city’s government payroll and tax burdens, but he “lacked a strong commitment” to corporate concerns such as the ongoing development of Downtown (58-61). By contrast, Flaherty’s successor, Richard Caliguiri, receives a nod from Lubove for his “broader perspective, one fully compatible with the economic development strategy of the Allegheny Conference” (61). And the community groups that Lubove finds most appealing are those whose “pressure tactics were supplemented by more meticulous research” (115).

In conclusion, Roy Lubove’s work offers the careful reader a great deal of important information about post-1970 Pittsburgh. His analyses and writing, including the way his own political ideology shifted over time, also reveal much about the city’s policy-making apparatus in the late 20th century.

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**Bookcase**

**History of Evans City**

By Evans City Area Historical Society, 1996

Bibliography, photographs. Pp. 129. $20 plus $5 shipping and handling from Evans City Historical Society, 220 Wahl Ave., Evans City, PA 16033

North of Pittsburgh near Butler, Evans City dates to pioneer days, when it was known as Bogg’s Mill. This volume captures those years, early settlers, and events such as the area’s oil rush. Almost every topic gets a chapter; along with the usual schools, sports, and churches, readers will find doctors, barber/beauty shops, and funeral homes. “Business and Industry” is especially thorough, with subheadings such as automobile dealers, grocery stores, and dry goods. Lots of photos and period clippings make this a thorough study. — BB