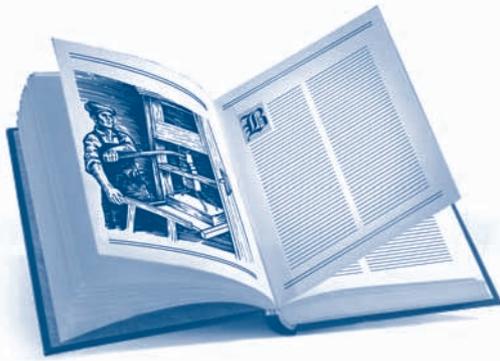


BOOK REVIEWS



The Wingless Crow

By Charles Fergus

(University Park, Pa.: Penn State University Press, 2007)

170 pp., \$17.95 softcover

In a world more concerned with how to find enough energy to power SUVs down city streets, it's refreshing to read about the importance of fencerows. Did you know that a single gram of soil lying beneath a fencerow can support 10,000 lives? Neither did I before reading Charles Fergus' essay "Arteries" in his newly reprinted collection *The Wingless Crow*. "Arteries" refers to the fencerow's life-supporting and sustaining place in the otherwise treeless spaces of central Pennsylvania, where the majority of Fergus' essays find their settings.

Reading through this collection, written for *Pennsylvania Game News* between 1978 and 1992, is like reading a biology textbook written for

entertainment as opposed to information. "Stump-sitting," the book's first essay, describes the extremely non-scientific act of sitting on a stump and observing the wilderness around you. It's the perfect introduction into Fergus' world, one where nature is appreciated in all of its forms. These essays are so full of information and striking imagery that to ingest more than one at a time seems unfair to both reader and text.

To cite an example, in "A Fair Day for Hunters" he goes to great lengths to depict the circumstances surrounding the hunting of turkeys, pheasants, rabbits, ducks, grouse, doves, squirrels, and deer. The reader experiences the excitement of the chase, and is therefore somewhat spent when it comes time to move on to the next selection, an equally intricate portrait of the difficulties of owning and maintaining an old house in the country.



Each essay follows the same format: roughly one thousand words told from the perspective of the naturalist himself. It should come as no surprise that the great outdoors provides so many unique storytelling opportunities, but rather the revelation comes from the ability of Fergus to

make each subject accessible to less knowledgeable readers.

"Hiking on Your Stomach," for instance, outlines the necessity of preparing adequate food for forays into the wilderness. "They say an army marches on its stomach. The axiom applies equally to backpackers and backcountry hunters," Fergus imparts. "It is part of the experience to rise and travel at leisure ... you may dawdle over breakfast, cooking a meal that not only fuels your body but also lifts your spirits, making you better able to appreciate your surroundings." This is a prime display of Fergus' unique relationship to his readers, in that he is no superhero outdoorsman. Rather he is happy to share some common sense advice with his audience that to be at peace with nature, you have to be at peace with your stomach first.

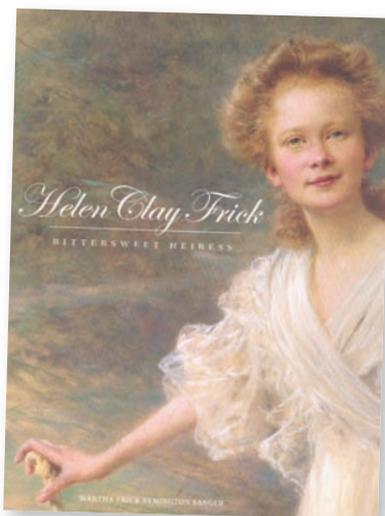
While some essays in the collection might not hold the interest of the casual environmentalist, every selection holds at least one nugget of knowledge that is sure to make the reader stop and think about taking a nice, long walk outside.

Maxwell Jones is a freelance writer currently teaching GED preparation through AmeriCorps in the Allegheny County Jail.

Helen Clay Frick: Bittersweet Heiress

By Martha Frick Symington Sanger
(Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2007)
386 pp., illustrations, \$40 hardcover

Helen Clay Frick was a complex person with a mission to protect and preserve her father's reputation and legacy. This biography is written by her grand-niece, Martha Frick Symington Sanger, who takes care to tell the good, the bad, and the ugly in the life of the Frick family. Many facets of Helen Frick's persona are revealed: fiercely loyal daughter, generous philanthropist, art savvy collector, world traveler, anti-German



leanings, strong-willed business woman, patriot, and caring benefactor.

These different qualities would be difficult to understand without an in-depth look

into Helen Frick's childhood and upbringing. Helen's father Henry Clay Frick was a domineering industrialist who made his fortune in the coke and steel industry and gained notoriety as a union strikebreaker. Henry never wanted his daughter to marry, and she never did. Helen's mother Adelaide's severe bouts of depression made her distant from the family. Two of Helen's

siblings both died tragically young. According to Sanger, these deaths and the family's reaction to them played a major role in Helen's shaping.

As a young girl, she accompanied her father on trips to Europe, purchasing the art that formed the basis for the Frick Collection in New York. After her father's death Helen continued to build this collection as well as her own. She also funded the University of Pittsburgh's teaching collection and had a hand in the art acquisitions for it and for The Frick Art Museum. This book is generously illustrated with artwork from assorted collections. There are also family and personal photos from the personal collection of the author as well as the Frick Archives to which Sanger had extensive access.

When her father died in 1919, Helen then age 21 became the richest unmarried

SENATOR JOHN HEINZ HISTORY CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES*

Stephen R. Tritch, <i>Chairman</i>	Andrew E. Masich, <i>President & CEO, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania</i>	The Honorable Brian L. Ellis	Andrea T. Mahone	Joe William Trotter, Jr., Ph.D.	Trustee Emeritus
John F. Bitzer, Jr., <i>Vice Chairman</i>	Arthur L. Baldwin	Sigo Falk	Glen T. Meakem	The Honorable Mike Turzai	Robert Barenfeld
Ron Davenport, Sr., <i>Vice Chairman</i>	Esther L. Barazzone, Ph. D.	Judge Mike Fisher	Sandy Mellon	Auditor General Jack Wagner	Frank V. Cahouet
Paul O'Neill, Jr., <i>Treasurer</i>	Susie Barbour	Timothy O. Fisher	Terrence J. Murphy	The Honorable Don Walko	John P. Davis, Jr.
Beverlynn Elliott, <i>Secretary</i>	Nadine E. Bognar	Alvaro Garcia-Tunon	Ralph J. Papa	Dennis A. Watson, Esq.	Stephen W. Graffam, Esq.
	Commissioner J. Bracken Burns, Sr.	Stan Geier	Robert N. Peirce, Jr., Esq.	Bruce Wiegand	Maxwell King
	Esther L. Bush	Chuck Hammel	The Honorable John R. Pippy		William C. King
	Estelle F. Comay, Esq.	Matthew G. Harbaugh	Dan Rooney	Honorary Trustee	The Honorable Frank J. Lucchino
	Mrs. James F. Compton	Franco Harris	Carol Semple Thompson	Teresa Heinz	David McCullough
	The Honorable Jay Costa, Jr.	Donald J. Heberle	H. Woodruff Turner, Esq.	Robert Knutson	Martin G. McGuinn
	Charles J. Dougherty, Ph.D.	Tod Hunt	Dan D. Sandman	The Honorable Dan Onorato Represented by Shawn Fox	The Honorable Tim Murphy
		F. Michael Langley	Margaret Snavelly	The Honorable Luke Ravenstahl	
		Gerald F. MacCleary	Kaveri Subbarao		

BOOK REVIEWS

woman in America. In addition to the art collections, she also generously supported philanthropic endeavors. She was not without her faults, however, and Ms. Sanger holds no punches when she points these out even though she has fond memories of her "grauntie." Helen carried with her an anti-German prejudice after seeing the devastation in Europe as a nurse near the front lines in World War I. In fact, she barred anyone of German descent from accessing her art library and personal museums. She was also at almost

constant battle with the all-male board of directors of the Frick Collection.

Helen Clay Frick: Bittersweet Heiress, well-researched and straightforward, provides an insightful glimpse into one of the most prominent and influential Pittsburgh families.

Debbie Day, a 2007 graduate of the MLIS program at the University of Pittsburgh, works in the Library and Information Sciences program at Pitt as Program Support Specialist.

BEYNON & COMPANY

ONE OF PITTSBURGH'S MOST EXPERIENCED AND HIGHLY
RESPECTED REAL ESTATE & INSURANCE COMPANIES
SINCE 1912

NEED OFFICE, WAREHOUSE OR RETAIL SPACE?

- ◆ Commercial & Industrial Sales Throughout the Tri-state Area
- ◆ Office & Retail Leasing
- ◆ Real Estate Investment & Consulting
- ◆ Management of Commercial Properties

INSURANCE

As Independent Agents We Offer:

- ◆ Competitive Homeowners & Automobile Insurance Rates
- ◆ Multiple Policy Discounts
- ◆ Added Personal Protection with Umbrella Policies
- ◆ Specialized Coverage for Collectables, Fine Arts, Antique Automobiles & Recreational Vehicles
- ◆ We also offer Insurance Coverage for your Business, Life, and Long Term Care/Nursing Home needs



BEYNON & COMPANY

1900 Allegheny Building - Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Telephone (412) 261-3640
www.beynonandco.com

Season's Readings!

6th Annual
Holiday Book Fair
at the Senator John
Heinz History Center
December 6, 2008
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Local authors signing books

Live music from local
musicians

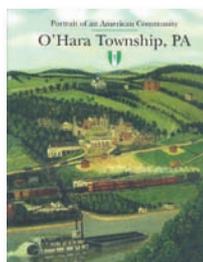
Coffee & hot chocolate

Books of all kinds
make great gifts
for all ages!

SENATOR JOHN HEINZ
HISTORY CENTER
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

For more information
visit www.pghhistory.org

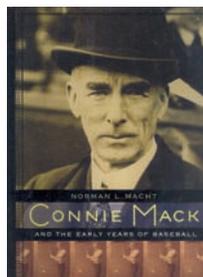
BOOK REVIEW CAPSULES



Portrait of an American Community: O'Hara Township, PA

(Pittsburgh: Township of O'Hara, 2008)
Illustrations, index, ix,
280 pp., \$39.95 hardcover

O'Hara Township is across the river from Pittsburgh's Highland Park. The township has produced a book rich with information on their history. It's rare to see a community history so thoroughly researched including bibliographies at the end of each chapter and a complete index. Every page is full of interesting facts.
—Art Louderback



Connie Mack and the Early Years of Baseball

By Norman L. Macht
(Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska Press, 2007)
Illustrations, index, xvi, 708 pp., \$39.95 hardcover

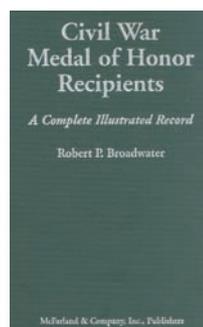
Connie Mack played for and also managed the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1894-1896, before managing the Philadelphia Athletics for 50 years. This book covers his life and career until 1914 and is a fascinating look at the early days of professional baseball. —Art Louderback

Historic Photos of Pittsburgh



Text and captions by Miriam Meislik
(Nashville, Tenn.: Turner Publishing Company, 2008)
Illustrated, 206 pp., \$39.95 hardcover

Miriam Meislik has picked wonderful photographs of Pittsburgh from the archives of the University of Pittsburgh. These are scenes familiar to Pittsburghers but from another time. She has also worked on an online photographic project, Historic Pittsburgh, <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/pittsburgh/>, which is definitely worth visiting. —Art Louderback



Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients: A Complete Illustrated Record

By Robert P. Broadwater
(Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland and Company, 2007)
Illustrations, indices, vii,
351 pp., \$55.00 hardcover

The approaching sesquicentennial of the Civil War makes it an important subject. Each Medal of Honor recipient is listed with his birth date, reason for receiving the medal, and a photograph, if available. The book is indexed in many ways including, regiment, place of action, state, and birth year of recipient.
—Art Louderback

A BEAUTIFUL EXAMPLE OF GERMAN ENGINEERING.

In 2007, The Westmoreland's *Born of Fire* exhibition traveled to the Rhineland Industrial Museum in Germany. As a result, a unique international partnership developed and from it comes *From the Ruhr Valley to the Steel City: Industrial Scenes from the Rhineland Industrial Museum*.

This exhibition features 40 works depicting the steel industry in Germany's Ruhr Valley. You can experience these German treasures Sept. 7 through Dec. 28 at The Westmoreland.



THE WESTMORELAND
The Place for American Art

www.wmuseumaa.org

221 North Main Street • Greensburg, PA 15601 • 724.837.1500

Support for *From the Ruhr Valley to the Steel City* is provided by United States Steel Foundation Inc.