

She shows that the primary changes were in ornamentation and style. Wooton resisted substantial alteration of the desk's form, despite a threat from competitors who closely imitated his patented design. Eventually the adaptation of office hardware and procedures, such as the typewriter and modular filing systems, made Wooton's desk obsolete.

Betty Lawson Walters describes William S. Wooton, furniture maker and Quaker minister, and chronicles the Indiana firms that produced his desks. For most of its twenty-odd years of production, the desk was made by Wooton's own Indianapolis firm. Only when the desk's popularity declined did Wooton license a Richmond factory to produce his design. The Richmond factory workers are examined by Susan Dickey in "The Men Who Made the Wooton Desks." Dickey also suggests some generalizations about the labor force of the Indiana furniture industry.

This book is amply illustrated, including sixteen sumptuous color plates. Both institutions and all contributors deserve credit for the quality of this catalog, which should be interesting to anyone, not just collectors of Victoriana.

Hagley Museum and Library,
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Lamont J. Hulse

Gary, Indiana: A Pictorial History. By James B. Lane and Ronald D. Cohen. (Norfolk, Va.: Donning Company, Publishers, 1983. Pp. 208. Illustrations, map, bibliography, index. \$14.95, plus mailing. [Book available from Indiana University Bookstore, 3400 Broadway, Gary, Indiana, 46408].)

The Donning Company specializes in the production of urban pictorial histories underwritten by local firms—in the case of *Gary, Indiana*, by the *Gary Post-Tribune* and the Bank of Indiana. The company has no distribution facilities and often commissions authors who are not historians. Such is not the case with this book; James B. Lane and Ronald D. Cohen are both reputable historians who have previously done research in the city and have a sense of the community's history. Their skills and past experiences combine to make the book superior to Donning's similar publications.

Still, the authors have not totally solved the problems inherent in all pictorial histories, the major one of which is organization. Lane and Cohen must explain and connect the book's illustrations. The question is how can this best be accomplished. They chose to organize the book chronologically into six chapters; chapters two and three cover ten years, chapters four and five cover fifteen years, and chapter six covers twenty-two years. Each chapter is introduced by a one-page essay, and the only other text

consists of paragraph-length captions. This format allows approximately three to four images per page, providing good explanations of the picture's context but sacrificing a sense of historical change.

The lack of this sense of change is a particular problem in the study of Gary since its history is short and all modern. A twentieth-century invention, Gary evolved from a planned company town of ethnic immigrants to a predominantly black city in a sixty-year period. The major question is why did this happen? Unfortunately, *Gary, Indiana* does not answer this question. Part of the reason for this failure is the division of space. The years to 1929 occupy over half the book while the most recent years, from 1961, are covered in a few pages. The earlier sections include many pictures of ethnic groups at work, school, church, and play. The later ones show more blacks involved, but the emphasis is upon political and social events. Oddly enough, in the last chapter there is no picture of anyone at work, although there are two of picket lines. The impression conveyed by the chapter is that Gary's major occupation is political campaigning. Perhaps this impression is a reflection of the priorities of the 1970s as industrial growth reflected the priorities of fifty years earlier. If so, the pictures may be a more accurate barometer of changing attitudes than the text.

Despite the limitations, *Gary, Indiana* is a useful book which ought not be overlooked by those interested in the history of the city, region, or state.

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Dwight W. Hoover

History of Agriculture in Ohio to 1880. By Robert Leslie Jones. (Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1983. Pp. x, 416. Maps, illustrations, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$15.00.)

The last general history of Ohio agriculture appeared in 1900. Now Robert Leslie Jones has replaced it with a massively detailed and thoroughly documented volume. Few states, surely not Indiana, have any comparable history of their farming. Hoosiers should profit from this study of a near and similar neighbor; it might properly inspire emulation.

Jones chooses to focus on Ohio's principal lines of commercial production as they developed through 1880. He concludes then, because he perceives by that year "a shading into a new farmers' age with somewhat different problems" (p. ix). That "shading" eludes sharp, general definition but is illustrated by concrete changes that overtook various kinds of production around 1880. In the dairy business, for example, Holsteins were starting to