

stresses, in addition to his personality, opposition from the “pro-business faction” in his party (p. 121).

The book is a valuable addition to the literature on Missouri’s political history. Clearly written, it rests on a solid base composed mainly of newspapers and the relevant scholarship, including Geiger’s biography, Thelen’s history, and Piott’s own study, *The Anti-Monopoly Persuasion: Popular Resistance to the Rise of Big Business in the Midwest* (1985). Unfortunately, Folk’s papers make no more than a small contribution. Nevertheless, the book, part of the Missouri Biography Series, illustrates a major theme in the history of Progressivism and documents one end of Missouri’s political spectrum. Other volumes in the series, Robert H. Ferrell’s *Harry S. Truman: A Life* (1994) and Lawrence H. Larsen and Nancy J. Hulston’s *Pendergast!* (1997), focus on the center and the corrupt end.

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From the Palaces to the Pike: Visions of the 1904 World’s Fair. By Timothy J. Fox and Duane R. Sneddeker. (St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society Press, 1997. Pp. xi, 261. Illustrations. Clothbound, \$59.95; paperbound, \$34.95.)

From the Palaces to the Pike: Visions of the 1904 World’s Fair is part of a recent explosion of locally produced picture books about this important event in St. Louis and midwestern history. Timothy J. Fox and Duane R. Sneddeker use photographs from the Missouri Historical Society’s enormous photograph collection to illustrate the book.

After a short introductory essay about the planning and preparation of Forest Park for the fair, the authors organized the book into twenty-one chapters, each focusing on a particular venue or event. Each chapter begins with a one-page introductory essay followed by eight to twenty pages of gorgeous photographs. The final section of the book gives a paragraph or so of background on each of the eight photographers responsible for the several hundred photographs presented in the book.

From the Palaces to the Pike is truly a picture book. Seventy percent (or more) of the pages are devoted to showcasing photographs. These pictorial layouts are quite impressive. Unfortunately, no new scholarly ground is broken here. In fact, this book is virtually devoid of cultural criticism. For example, William J. McGee’s (in)famous anthropology exhibit that ordered humans of different ethnicities from “most civilized” to “least civilized” receives only a few meager paragraphs. Those readers who are looking for a book that adds to

an understanding of the fair's impact on St. Louis or the goals of fair planners themselves should look elsewhere (to works such as Robert W. Rydell's *All the World's A Fair*, 1984).

Although the authors make clear in the acknowledgments that they had limited goals, discussion of a number of relevant topics would have improved the book. What, for example, did the fair's organizers hope the celebration would do for St. Louis? How did the fair's theme of "industrial progress" compare with themes of other civic events in St. Louis history? Furthermore, the theme was remarkably similar to themes of both the Veiled Prophet parades of the late nineteenth century and the St. Louis Pageant and Masque of 1914. Veiled Prophet organization members, fair planners, and pageant organizers usually came from the same segment of St. Louis society and believed these events provided important chances to engage in civic instruction of the population. Some sort of attempt to place the themes of the World's Fair in context with those of other civic events would have added to an understanding of the fair's place in St. Louis history and does not seem outside the scope of the book.

The World's Fair of 1904 is often looked upon by St. Louisans nostalgically as the high point of St. Louis's history and place in the world. While this beautiful book succeeds in showcasing the society's wonderful collection of fair photographs, it does little more than add to this nostalgia for the "World's Fair Era."

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Researching Western History: Topics in the Twentieth Century. Edited by Gerald D. Nash and Richard W. Etulain. ([Albuquerque]: University of New Mexico Press, in cooperation with University of New Mexico Center for the American West, 1997. Pp. ix, 220. Notes, index. \$50.00.)

This book, edited by two well-known figures in twentieth century western history, consists of an introduction by Earl Pomeroy and eight essays on various topics. The topics include economic history, natural resources and the environment, urban development, politics, women, cultural history, and the myth of the West. The final chapter by Gene M. Gressley attempts to reach conclusions about the previous essays and to provide some overarching ideas and possibilities for the future course of western history. The central purpose of the book is to encourage new research and to suggest possible topics that merit scholarly investigation.

Are there significant themes that emerge from the eight essays? One such theme seems to be the unevenness of previous coverage of