The University of Missouri Press is to be commended for republishing Charles van Ravenswaay’s *magnum opus*, an exhaustive and lavishly illustrated catalog of folk art, objects, and architecture associated with German immigrants who settled in Missouri in the mid-nineteenth century. In doing so, the press has provided another generation of readers with access to a true classic, a handsome volume that belongs on the shelf of historians, folklorists, and Germanophiles, as well as anyone concerned with German immigration to the U.S. An informative and touching introduction by Adolf Shroeder, van Ravenswaay’s longtime acquaintance and a noted expert on German settlements in Missouri, is a welcome addition to this revised edition. Schroeder’s richly detailed biographical sketch does a fine job of placing the work in context and provides the reader with an overview of the author’s life and accomplishments. Schroeder rightly credits the first publication of van Ravenswaay’s work in 1977 with a revival of interest in German cultural traditions, festivals, history, and sister-city agreements in the German-settled region of Missouri in the 1980s.

The book is divided into three parts. Part I, “The Great Migration” (chapters 1-4), provides a contextual framework within which to view the German immigration to Missouri in the nineteenth century, based largely on a review of secondary sources. Part II, “Buildings” (chapters 5-11), surveys extant examples of folk architecture built by German immigrants who settled along the Missouri River between St. Louis and Jefferson City, the region with which the book is most concerned. This section of the book is an exhaustive accounting of such artifacts, and includes hundreds of photographs, sketches, and floor plans. While most such surveys are organized according to architectural form and style, van Ravenswaay organizes this section by construction material (log, frame, stone and brick), which unfortunately does not as easily allow comparisons across time and space. Part III, “Objects for Domestic Use” (chapters 12-23), surveys extant examples of domestic objects such as furniture (cupboards, benches, pie safes, tables, chairs, chests), musical instruments, baskets, firearms, textiles, pottery, and drawings and prints that were either brought with the immigrants from Germany or made by German immigrants in Missouri. This section is also stunningly comprehensive in scope and likewise is accompanied by literally hundreds of photographs and drawings of these objects.
Academically, the book should be seen as a product of its time and judged by what it is—a largely descriptive survey, massive in its scope and remarkable in its attention to detail, that remains the most impressive record of the material artifacts associated with nineteenth-century German immigrants—rather than by what it is not. The book's main drawback is a lack of significant context that ties the subject matter (folk culture artifacts) to any national-scale patterns or processes. The work tells us very little about the people who made or possessed these objects—class, social ideals, and economies, for example, are concepts almost wholly outside of its purview. Much of the author's discussion of the history of German immigration to Missouri is unfortunately outdated and is preoccupied with the role of various organized settlement ventures and societies. A plethora of highly detailed studies of individual immigrant communities in the Midwest written in the 1980s and 1990s, which traced immigrants back to sending regions in Europe, have provided a much richer and fuller understanding of the nature of German immigration in the nineteenth century, focusing on the role of chain migration and the role of class in the trans-Atlantic migration. But in the end these shortcomings distract little from the overall value of this stunning and beautiful piece of scholarship. Viewed within the context of the author's main goals (to catalog and survey folk artifacts) and of the period in which it was written, it remains a true classic even thirty years after its initial publication.

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Radical Unionism in the Midwest, 1900-1950
By Rosemary Feurer
(Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2006. Pp. xix, 320. Illustrations, notes, index. Clothbound, $65.00; paperbound, $25.00.)

The global capitalist supremacy that accompanied the thaw of the Cold War left the American labor movement unable to articulate alternatives to a system that continued to destroy communities, devastate the environment, and increase the distance between the haves and the have-nots. So reads the usual academic assessment of the state of American labor in the twenty-first century—a view with roots that reach back to the supposedly lean, lost decades that surrounded the First World War.

Rosemary Feurer acknowledges the dim outlook for labor in the new millennium, but she is not so pessimistic in her appraisal of when or