GENERAL INTEREST

Tony Barboza. *Trash Talk and the Real Dirt on a ‘Toxic Tour’ of Los Angeles.* LA Times (July 27, 2013). Highlights a growing trend of environmental activists offering tours to show the public the impact of industrial activities (present and past) on the lives of low-income communities. This free half-day bus tour of southeast L.A. illustrates the proximity of low-income housing to refineries, rail yards, and factories. Tours of both L.A. and Bay Area locations are offered by Communities for a Better Environment; see www.cbcal.org.

Nigel Goose and Katrina Honeyman, eds. *Childhood and Child Labour in Industrial England.* Ashgate, 2013. 370 pp. $134.95. The purpose of this collection is to bring together representative examples of recent scholarship exploring children as participants—even protagonists—in the process of industrialization, not simply as passive recipients or victims. Contributors address such crucial subjects as the varied experience of work, poverty and apprenticeship, institutional care, the political voice of children, child sexual abuse, and children and education.


IRON & STEEL


Mark Reutter. *A Blue-Collar Future Proposed for Sparrows Point.* Baltimore Brew (May 3, 2013), www.baltimorebrew.com. Baltimore County has outlined a plan for converting the closed Sparrows Point steel plant (SIAN, Winter 2013; tour site—SIA Annual Conferences 1975 and 1995) into a modern port facility for “super ships,” advanced manufacturing plants, wind-energy staging operations, and supply-chain warehouses. The full redevelopment report is available at www.baltimorecountymd.gov/business. Also, *City Granted Temporary Order Against Sewage Shutdown by Sparrows Point Owners* (Oct. 5, 2013). During the early 1940s, the City of Baltimore began diverting more than 200 million gallons of treated sewage water daily to Sparrow’s Point, which the steel mill used as cooling water for various mill processes. Now that the plant is shut down, the city wishes to continue the arrangement but the new owners, who are dismantling the plant for scrap, are charging $80,000 per month and placing limitations on the volume of sewage they are willing to accept.

Keith Schneider. *Steel Leads Revival in Ohio River Valley.* NY Times (Sept. 5, 2012). The present-day manufacturing economy through the eyes of a tug’s captain who is seeing less coal and more steel, rock, and concrete in his barges.

MACHINES & MACHINE TOOLS

Jennifer Walkowski. *Roll Out the Barrels, the E. & B. Holmes Machinery Company.* Western New York Heritage (Fall 2012), pp. 8-17. History of Buffalo-based company that developed innovative machines for making wood barrels, among other products. The factory at 59 Chicago St. was listed on the National Register in 2009. Also, *Brayley & Pitts Watercolor Provides Rare Look at Early Industry* (p. 72), watercolor, dated 1865, of the Brayley & Pitts Co. (later Buffalo Pitts), showing its machine works, the Erie Canal, and the New York Central RR in Buffalo.

GLASS


Norman L. Dean. *The Man Behind the Bottle, The Origin and History of the Classic Contour Coca-Cola Bottle as Told by the Son of its Creator.* Xlibris, 2010. 162 pp., illus. $19.99. Earl R. Dean was a designer for the Root Glass Co. of Terre Haute, Ind., in 1915, when the Atlanta soft drink firm solicited designs for a distinctive bottle to distinguish its product from those of imitations. According to this account, the author’s father made the mold into which glass was blown for the Root Co.’s winning entry in the contest. The patent was issued in the name of a different employee, while still another was also credited with the design. The Dean version is supported by
considerable evidence, including early drawings in the possession of the family, and even a production example of the prototype bottle. The book offers a picture of the craft influences at work in the early-20th-century glass container industry, in addition to lengthy discussions of the “iconic” bottle as a marketing tool. Of some interest is the fact that the Root family’s investments in Coca-Cola bottling operations proved highly lucrative, even as the glass container business was later sold to the giant Owens-Illinois.

TEXTILES


- Joseph DePriest. Original Belmont Mill Building Emerges as Bricks Removed. Charlotte (N.C.) Observer (Sept. 13, 2013). The 1902 Chronicle Mill, Belmont, N.C.’s first textile mill, was not thought to survive, but it remained at the core of a larger complex that had expanded around it over the years. The current owner is no “thinking about restoration” rather than complete demolition.

- Vera Haller. Because the Doorman Doesn’t Iron. NY Times (July 14, 2013), p. RE 1. Profile of the family-owned W. H. Christian & Sons in Brooklyn, which has been providing and cleaning uniforms for doormen, security guards, and other building staff since 1924. It is estimated that on any given day, 100,000 workers in metropolitan New York are wearing uniforms provided by this company.

- Michael Haskey. Eagle & Phenix Contractor Brasfield & Gorrie Receives Award for Textile Mill Project. Columbus (Ga.) Ledger (Sept. 6, 2013). Engineering News-Record is awarding “best renovation and restoration project in the Southeast” to a condominium project at the Eagle & Phenix Mill No. 2, built in 1860.

- Cathy Horyn. Dirty Old Factories. NY Times (Aug. 15, 2013), p. E1. Story of the 100-year-old L.C. King Manufacturing Co. in Bristol, Tenn., said to be the oldest cut-and-sew factory operating in the U.S. under its founding family. The company made its reputation with workwear for agricultural workers and outdoorsmen but has been reinvigorated by contracts for jeans from fashion designers.


- Bruce Lowry. In Silk City, the ‘History Wars’ Rage On. North Jersey (July 26, 2013), www.northjersey.com. Editorial decries the half-hearted political commitments that have prevented Paterson, N.J., from living up to its potential as a heritage tourism destination. The latest episode involves a petty dispute between the mayor and the development corporation over repairs to the roof of the Paterson Museum, located in a former Rogers Locomotive shop building.

AGRICULTURE & FOOD PROCESSING


- In Urban Revival Beer Creates Small Business Hubs. NY Times (July 4, 2013). Craft beer makers such as the Brooklyn Brewery, located in the former Hecla Ironworks in the Williamsburg section, often lead to neighborhood gentrification but are then priced out by rising real estate values. The article makes a case for protecting the urban manufacturers who have anchored redevelopment efforts.

- The International Molinology Society (TIMS) E-News includes an extensive round-up of news and notes from mills around the world. Info: www.molinology.org.


- Gordon M. Winder. The American Reaper: Harvesting Networks and Technology, 1830-1910. Ashgate, 2013. 278 pp., illus. $119.95. Traces the international diffusion of the reaper through the patent licensing and sales efforts of International Harvester.

ARMS & MUNITIONS

the Confederate munitions factory at Brown's Island on Mar. 13, 1863. Part of a series marking the Civil War's 150th anniversary.

Karen Jones, Giacomo Macola, and David Welch, eds. A Cultural History of Firearms in the Age of Empire. Ashgate, 2013. 330 pp. $134.95. The essays presented in this volume extend the study of the gun beyond the confines of military history and the examination of its impact on specific colonial encounters to a fuller cultural understanding of some of the most significant consequences of British and American imperial expansions.

Denise Kiernan. The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II. Touchstone, 2013. 400 pp. $27. Based on interviews with 10 women workers, this is a social history of the secret factories enriching uranium for weapons at Oak Ridge, Tenn.

**MISC. INDUSTRIES**

James Barron. Notes of Sorrow in Changes at Steinway. NY Times (July 12, 2013). Piano manufacturer Steinway & Sons (tour site—2002 SIA Annual Conference, Brooklyn) has been sold to a private equity firm that owns 15 other companies making everything from windshield wipers to sewing machines. Musicians are concerned that Steinway will be forced to alter its highly regarded manufacturing traditions.


Ian D. Rotherham. Peat and Peat Cutting. Shire Pub., 2011. 64 pp, illus. $12.95. Yet another in the informative series of Shire Library books on aspects of craft and life in the British Isles, this little volume compiles material on the use and history of peat as a domestic fuel and sometime industrial fuel. Once widely used as a substitute for wood, it is harvested by cutting into blocks the size of large bricks. Extensive illustrations show the production of peat in numerous locales in the British Isles, and details of tools, cutting, stacking, transport, and storage. Industrial-scale production of peat-based chemicals and fuel gas is described and illustrated; even highly mechanized harvesting machinery was developed and employed before competition from other fuels restricted peat’s use to isolated locales.

Robert Shaw and Peter Szego, eds. Inventing the American Guitar: The Pre-Civil War Innovations of C. F. Martin and His Contemporaries. Hal Leonard Performing Arts Group, 2013. 308 pp. $50. Explores Martin's evolution as a craftsman and entrepreneur with essays by prominent guitarists and writers. Martin is largely credited with the development of the American flat-top guitar. The C. F. Martin & Co. (tour site—2002 SIA Fall Tour, Lehigh Valley) is celebrating its 180th anniversary with this book and a year-long exhibit of guitars at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

**MINES & MINING**


Colin Hennessy, Louis E. Hunsberger, Robert Downey, and Brock E. Barry. New Perspectives on Military Engagements. Civil Engineering (Sep. 2013), pp. 62-77. This trio of articles presents current geotechnical analyses of mining used in military strategy: the Battle of the Crater in Petersburg, Va., during the U.S. Civil War, trench warfare in France during WWI, and Japanese tunnels on Iwo Jima during WWII.

Andrew E. Kramer. A Russian City Named for Asbestos Can’t Give Up Its Carcinogenic Livelihood. NY Times (July 14, 2013) p. 16. Profile of Asbest, a one-industry town where citizens take for granted asbestos dust in every aspect of their lives because it is the only way to make a living there.

**WATER CONTROL & RECLAMATION**

Jeff L. Brown. Supermodel: The Mississippi Basin in Miniature. Civil Engineering (Oct. 2013), pp. 42-45. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mississippi Basin Model near Clinton, Miss., was used to study proposed flood control measures from 1935 until the 1970s. The 1:2,000-scale model initially covered only part of the river basin but was expanded to cover the entire basin using German POW labor between 1943 and 1946.


**WATER TRANSPORT**

Bruce Cole. The Sunken Treasures of the Arabia. WSJ (Sept. 4, 2013). The Arabia was a steamboat that foundered on the Missouri River near Parkville, Kan., in 1856. Buried by silt, she was rediscovered by treasure hunters in 1987. A new museum recently opened in Kansas City, Mo., to display the amazing collection of artifacts, ranging from a paddlewheel and huge boilers to hundreds of everyday objects being carried to frontier settlements. Several IA connections including a carpentry shop, various armaments, and a sawmill and fixtures. Info: www.1856.com.


**RAILROADS**

100 Years of Canadian Railway Recipes. Exporail, the Canadian Ry. Museum, 2013. 200 pp., illus. $39.99. Avail.: (450) 638-1522, ext. 221. All proceeds benefit the preservation of Canada's railway heritage. A collection of 90 recipes from three major Canadian railways: CN, Canadian Pacific, and VIA Rail Canada. Includes photographs of mouthwatering dishes, railroad artifacts, anecdotes from workers, and historic information on life aboard dining cars and in the kitchens. “A century of culinary expertise is highlighted to satisfy the most discriminating palate!”

John W. Diens. St. Paul Union Depot. Univ. of Minnesota Pr., 2013. 304 pp., photos. $39.95. History of the grand depot (tour site - 2013 SIA Annual Conference) that united passenger and mail services for nine railroads. Also, Whither the Passenger Train? St. Paul Union Depot: Decline and Rebirth. Ramsey County History (Summer 2013), pp. 12-23. Based on the recent book, analyzes the reasons for the demise of passenger service that led to near-abandonment of the Union Depot. Scant attention is given to the re-uses of the late 20th century or the projected rebirth as a multi-modal transit center.

Joseph B. Raskin. The Routes Not Taken: A Trip Through New York City's Unbuilt Subway System. Fordham Univ. Pr., 2013. 336 p., illus. $34.95. Looks at the subway system that might have been and what kept portions from being built or left unfinished. The dramatic stories include clashing political agendas, financial shortfalls, and community battles that resulted in many false starts and tunnels to nowhere.

Robert L. Reid. CSX 'Daylights' Pennsylvania Tunnel to Permit Stacked Loads. Civil Engineering (Sep. 2013), pp. 18-20. As part
of its National Gateway project to open routes for double-stack container traffic. CSX daylighted the 130-year-old Pinkerton Tunnel near Somerset, Pa., converting it to an open cut.

- Ralf Roth and Henry Jacolin, eds. Eastern European Railways in Transition: Nineteenth to Twenty-First Centuries. Ashgate, 2013. 428 pp., $134.95. By the beginning of the 20th century the great cities of the continent were linked by a complex and extensive rail network. Yet this high-point of interconnectivity was abruptly cutoff after 1945, as the Cold War built barriers between east and west. In this volume, scholars take a fresh look at this situation, and the ramifications it had for Europe. As well as addressing the parallel development of railways on either side of the Iron Curtain, the book looks at how transport links have been reconnected and reconfigured in the twenty years since the reunification of Europe.

**Automobiles & Highways**


- Bill Vlasic. *100 Years Down the Line*. NY Times (Oct. 30, 2013), p. F1. How the assembly line developed by Henry Ford has been adapted to suit current needs of the auto industry. Includes comments from historian Bob Casey [SIA].

**Aviation & Aerospace**

- John Burgeson. *Historian: Smithsonian Aviation Curator Should Resign*. AviationPros.com (Aug. 19, 2013). John Brown, an aviation historian, has given new life to a long-standing controversy over whether Gustave Whitehead or the Wright brothers were the first to fly a heavier-than-air controllable airship. Whitehead supporters say that he achieved flight two years before the Wrights, lifting off on Aug. 14, 1901 in Fairfield, Conn. Brown persuaded Jane’s All the World’s Aircraft to list Whitehead over the Wrights and has demanded that Tom Crouch, the Smithsonian’s senior aviation curator, resign his post.

**Buildings & Structures**


- Melissa Eddy. *Uncertainty over a Palace of Parking*. NY Times (Aug. 19, 2013). The preservation of the Kant Garage in Berlin has become a tough sell to the German public. The 6-story garage, built in 1929, is considered a landmark of modernist architecture, including its revolutionary double-helix ramps. The building survived the Allied bombing of WWII, but now the owner wants to tear it down.

- Kristina Torres. *Georgia State’s Kell Hall To Be Torn Down*. Atlanta Journal-Constitution (Oct. 2, 2013). Includes timeline of this remarkable building, which was constructed in 1925 as Atlanta’s first parking garage. Known originally as the Ivy Street Garage, it was acquired in 1945 by the Atlanta Center Evening College and converted into an academic building. The ramps were viewed as an asset for veterans with disabilities returning from WW II.