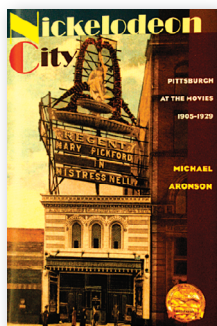


Mighty Oak, and the Tree of Life. This is a how-to book (you can make your own hex sign) written by an artist based in Wapwallopen, in Luzerne County.

He describes in great detail, over 70 pages, the kinds of paint, brushes and tools to use in designing hex sign artwork and painting. Tips and techniques that he shares encourage even a beginner to produce their own signs and decorations on furniture.

REGIONAL/ HISTORY

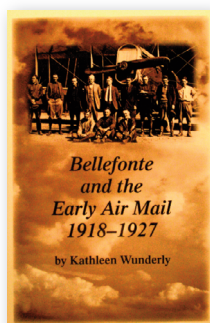


Nickelodeon City—Pittsburgh at the Movies 1905-1929

Michael Aronson. 2008. University of Pittsburgh Press. 20 pp. \$35.95.

In the early days of the 20th century, Pittsburgh was a melting pot of people from different ethnic, economic and cultural backgrounds, and those people found the new attraction in their neighborhoods to be an inexpensive respite from the harsh realities of the industrial world.

One of the author's primary references for this period was the Pittsburgh Moving Picture Bulletin, which helped him profile the area's promoters, theaters, suppliers and even patrons. He reveals early forms of state censorship and political manipulation by leaders in the movie trade. The text is in a scholarly format but is well illustrated with photos, maps, movie displays and ads, and should be enjoyed by readers who appreciate the early days of the movie business.



Bellefonte and the Early Air Mail—1918-1927

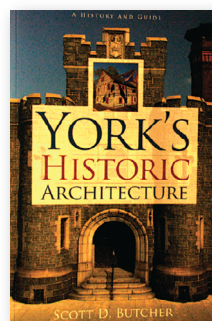
Kathleen Wunderly. 2007. American Philatelic Society (100 March Factory Place, Bellefonte 16823). 102 pp. \$20.

The borough of Bellefonte in Centre County has a unique spot in history no other place in our state can claim. It was the only scheduled stop on the U.S. Postal Service's new air mail delivery system on the route from New York to Cleveland and points west when it began in 1918.

Unfortunately, the region's frequent fogs, mountainous terrain and unreliable weather prompted pilots to nickname the route east of Bellefonte as "Hell's Stretch." It was a rough period for air travel, and the early years saw many accidents and deaths of pilots.

The author has written a detailed account of the 10 busy years of the airmen and the community. She provides profiles of most of the early pilots, many of whom established long-lasting ties with local residents. The book is well illustrated with photos of airplanes, fields and hangers, pilots and the special U.S. postage stamps that were issued to feature early air travel.

Readers will gain an appreciation for the efforts that were necessary to speed the written communication process between people in different locales in the 1920s. They will also learn of the role of Bellefonte as the system began and matured.

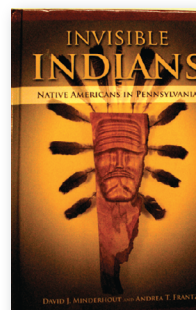


York's Historic Architecture

Scott D. Butcher. 2008. The History Press, Charleston, SC. 160 pp. \$19.99.

York's streetscapes feature almost every style and era of American architecture, from early colonial taverns and ornate Victorian homes to postmodern office towers. York has a varied history, and local resident Butcher knows the area well. He regularly leads walking tours of the downtown and is on the board of Historic York.

His book contains descriptions of all the major structures—homes, offices, taverns, churches, meeting places—in York and nearby communities, with illustrations of most of them. He advocates efforts to preserve and maintain the area's rich architectural heritage, believing that "historic buildings are our collective past, and their preservation allows us to retain history and a sense of place."



Invisible Indians—Native Americans in Pennsylvania

David J. Minderhout and Andrea T. Frantz. 2008. Cambria Press, Amherst, NY. 242 pp. \$104.95.

Pennsylvania is one of a few states, as noted by the authors, that neither contain a reservation nor officially recognize any American Indian group. Many people—including educators—believe that there are no American Indians left in Pennsylvania and have not been for more than 100 years.

However, at least 52,000 people in our state have American Indian ancestry, as reported in the 2000 U.S. Census.

We are the only state, the authors believe, that does not have a single university-level American Indian studies center or program, and they found no one who personally knew any contemporary, living Native American.

The authors, one an undergraduate student and the other a professor at Bloomsburg University, began a statewide study in 2004, and their work led to this book. They conclude that our American Indians suffer from generalized and unfair stereotypes that are perpetuated by movies over the years and textbooks used in elementary and secondary schools.

Our American Indians, they believe, often face hostility and ignorance from their fellow Pennsylvanians in daily life. Many reported to the authors that they avoid telling their neighbors and fellow workers of their ancestry. They fear hearing negative or "joking" comments based on incorrect stereotypes that moviegoers have seen in popular films.

Their text reveals a disturbing aspect of contemporary life, which deserves consideration at various levels of our educational systems and in the public media. ▼

MORE PENNSYLVANIA-RELATED BOOKS:

Books on many other Pennsylvania subjects are available through a catalog published by Patrick Reynolds at Red Rose Studio, 358 Flintlock Dr., Willow Street, PA 17584; 888-839-5673; www.redrosestudio.com.

You may also find books of interest on these Web sites: www.stackpolebooks.com, www.psupress.com, and www.pabookstore.com.