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Introduction
Sheffield was England’s “paradigmatic industrial city,” competing with Pittsburgh as “The City of Soot.” A handsome engraving dating from 1819 that provides a distant view of that British manufacturing center marks a starting point for the range of imagery that will be explored in the books under review (see figure 1). By the end of the 19th century, the agrarian scale typical of early industrial scenes had been replaced by the formidable complexes, typical of big steel. Labor made the transition from solitary craftsmen to anonymous teams of workers employed by enterprises of a size unimaginable for the Sheffield engraver. A broad array of artists chronicled industry during this transition, their portrayals shaped by national character to create an aesthetic of work located at the bedrock of modern economic development.