

Current Research on the Art of Industry

Artists at Work: Imaging Place, Work, and Process

Betsy Fahlman

Men at Work: Art and Labour in Victorian Britain. By Tim Barringer. The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art. New Haven, Conn.: Yale Univ. Press, 2005. 392 pp., 146 illus. (113 b&w, 33 color), notes. \$65 hb. (ISBN 0300103808).

Man at Work: 400 Years in Paintings and Bronzes: Labor and the Evolution of Industry in Art. By Klaus Türk. Milwaukee, Wisc.: MSOE Press, 2003. 432 pp., 424 illus., bibl. \$49.95 hb (ISBN 0912804404, English ed.; 3898612090, German ed.).

Milwaukee School of Engineering Man at Work series, Milwaukee, Wisc.: MSOE Press

Physicians, Quacks and Alchemists. Man at Work Series: Vol. 1., 2005. 68 pp., 60 illus. (1 b&w, 59 color). \$19.99 hb (ISBN 0972804439, English ed.; 3936744114, German ed.).

Iron and Steel Production. Man at Work Series: Vol. 2., 2006. 108 pp., 101 illus. (1 b&w, 100 color). \$19.99 hb (ISBN 0972804455, English ed.; 3936744157, German ed.).

Agriculture, Textiles, and Tanning. Man at Work Series: Vol. 3., 2006, 64 pp., 77 illus. (5 b&w, 72 color). \$19.99 hb (ISBN 0972804463, English ed.; 3936744165, German ed.).

Construction. Man at Work Series: Vol. 4. 2006. 98 pp., 100 illus. (7 b&w, 93 color). \$19.99 hb (ISBN 0972804471, English ed.; 3936744173, German ed.).

Craftsmen. Man at Work Series: Vol. 5., 2006. 62 pp., 75 illus. (21 b&w, 54 color). \$19.99 hb (ISBN 097280448X, English ed.; 3936744181, German ed.).

Industry in Art: Pittsburgh, 1812–1920. By Rina C. Youngner. Pittsburgh, Penn.: Univ. of Pittsburgh Press, 2006. 200 pp., 94 illus. (86 b&w, 8 color), notes, bibl. \$29.95 hb (ISBN 0-8229-4276-3).

Born of Fire: The Valley of Work: Industrial Scenes of Southwestern Pennsylvania. By Barbara L. Jones; foreword by Judith Hansen O'Toole; essays by Edward K. Muller and Joel A. Tarr. Greensburg, Penn.: Westmoreland Museum of American Art, 2006. 160 pp., 192 illus. (141 b&w, 51 color), notes, bibl. 37.50 hb (ISBN 0-931241-31-6, Westmoreland Museum of American Art; 0-8229-4325-5, Univ. of Pittsburgh Press).

American Impressionism: The Beauty of Work. By Susan G. Larkin. Greenwich, Conn.: Bruce Museum of Arts and Sciences, 2005. 186 pp., 108 illus. (62 b&w, 46 color), notes, bibl. \$40 pb (ISBN 097663810X, museum ed.; 0711225850, trade ed.).

Railroads and the American Industrial Landscape: Ted Rose Paintings and Photographs. By Curtis L. Carter and Jeff Brouws. Milwaukee, Wisc.: Patrick and Beatrice Haggerty Museum of Art, and Madison, Wisc.: Center for Railroad Photography & Art, 2006. 68 pp., 65 illus. (31 b&w, 34 color), notes, bibl. \$22.95 pb (ISBN 0-945366-19-1).

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.