

Business History Review

S P R I N G 1 9 9 9



THE FIRST BANK OF NEW YORK BUILDING ON PRESENT LOCATION, 48 WALL ST.

Corner-stone laid June 22, 1797.



Cover: The Bank of New York, 1797 (Published with permission from the Bank of New York Archive).

This issue includes two articles on banks and banking in early America. A. Glenn Crothers looks at two northern Virginia banks, the Bank of Alexandria and the Bank of Potomac, and describes the wide variety of projects they helped finance in agriculture, industry, internal improvements, and other commercial activities. Robert E. Wright concentrates on banks in the middle Atlantic region. In New York and Pennsylvania, Wright also finds that banks loaned funds to a variety of small enterprises and played a significant role in the economic development of the region. Both articles offer revisions of previous scholarship. See "Banks and Economic Development in Post-Revolutionary Northern Virginia, 1790-1812" by A. Glenn Crothers (beginning on page 1) and "Bank Ownership and Lending Patterns in New York and Pennsylvania, 1781 to 1831" by Robert E. Wright (beginning on page 40).

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CONTENTS

ARTICLES

- A. Glenn Crothers Banks and Economic Development in Post-Revolutionary Northern Virginia, 1790-1812 · 1
- Robert E. Wright Bank Ownership and Lending Patterns in New York and Pennsylvania, 1781-1831 · 40
- Michael Zakim A Ready-Made Business: The Birth of the Clothing Industry in America · 61
- Andrew Lohmeier *Bürgerliche Gesellschaft* and Consumer Interests: The Berlin Public Market Hall Reform, 1867-1891 · 91

ANNOUNCEMENTS · 114

BOOK REVIEWS · 117

- Christopher Armstrong, *Blue Skies and Boiler Rooms: Buying and Selling Securities in Canada, 1870-1940*. Reviewed by David Monod · 146
- Eric Arnesen, Julie Greene, and Bruce Laurie, eds., *Labor Histories: Class, Politics, and the Working-Class Experience*. Reviewed by Melvyn Dubofsky · 122
- J. N. Bartlett, *Davidsons of Mugiemoos: A History of C. Davidson & Sons, Makers of Wrapping Papers, Paper Bags, Paperboard and Plasterboard Liner*. Reviewed by Jorma Ahvenainen · 151
- Ron Chernow, *Titan: The Life of John D. Rockefeller, Sr.* Reviewed by Kenneth Warren · 117
- Dora L. Costa, *The Evolution of Retirement: An American Economic History, 1880-1990*. Reviewed by Jon Moen · 139
- Nicholas Crafts and Gianni Toniolo, eds., *Economic Growth in Europe Since 1945*. Reviewed by Michael Edelstein · 153
- Colin J. Davis, *Power at Odds: The 1922 National Shopmen's Strike*. Reviewed by Shelton Stromquist · 124
- Andrew Godley and Oliver M. Westall, eds., *Business History and Business Culture*. Reviewed by Kenneth Lipartito · 126

- Mark Harrison, ed.*, *The Economics of World War II: Six Great Powers in International Comparison*. *Reviewed by Daniel Beaver* · 152
- F. M. M. Hendrickx*, "In Order Not to Fall into Poverty": Production and Reproduction in the Transition from Proto-industry to Factory Industry in Borne and Wierden, 1800-1900. *Reviewed by Julienne M. Laureyssens* · 148
- Charles K. Hyde*, *Copper for America: The United States Copper Industry from Colonial Times to the 1990s*. *Reviewed by Janet Finn* · 120
- Matthias Kipping and Ove Bjarnar, eds.*, *The Americanisation of European Business: The Marshall Plan and the Transfer of US Management Models*. *Reviewed by Robert R. Locke* · 142
- Margaret Levenstein*, *Accounting for Growth: Information Systems and the Creation of the Large Corporation*. *Reviewed by William J. Bruns, Jr.* · 137
- Kathy Peiss*, *Hope in a Jar: The Making of America's Beauty Culture*. *Reviewed by Regina Lee Blaszczyk* · 133
- Janice A. Radway*, *A Feeling for Books: The Book-of-the-Month Club, Literary Taste, and Middle-Class Desire*. *Reviewed by Jeffrey L. Meikle* · 129
- David I. Rosenbaum, ed.*, *Market Dominance: How Firms Gain, Hold, or Lose It and the Impact on Economic Performance*. *Reviewed by Kathryn Rudie Harrigan* · 144
- Steven A. Sass*, *The Promise of Private Pensions: The First Hundred Years*. *Reviewed by Jon Moen* · 139
- Vivien A. Schmidt*, *From State to Market? The Transformation of French Business and Government*. *Reviewed by Michael S. Smith* · 156
- Barbara Weinstein*, *For Social Peace in Brazil: Industrialists and the Remaking of the Working Class in São Paulo, 1920-1964*. *Reviewed by Helen Shapiro* · 158
- G. Pascal Zachary*, *Endless Frontier: Vannevar Bush, Engineer of the American Century*. *Reviewed by Michael A. Dennis* · 136
- Mary Ellen Zuckerman*, *A History of Popular Women's Magazines in the United States, 1792-1995*. *Reviewed by Elizabeth D. Leonard* · 131

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