her credit, she presents the homeworkers' often contradictory view-points without simplification. For example, the women often express a preference for homework because of the freedom and flexibility it offers, yet they feel pressured to work at the pace the company suggests; thus piecework has replaced virtually all of their free time.

Getting By will appeal to three different groups of readers. Those interested in women's work roles will appreciate the author's description of how the homeworkers' invisibility and isolation in a rural setting prevents community awareness of their situation. Unlike those who applaud telecommuting as a solution for working mothers, Gringeri's homemakers describe days of monotonous work without the helpful banter of coworkers and evenings alone with the children "catching up" on piecework while husbands work the night shift.

Organizational historians will appreciate Gringeri's treatment of the impact of industrial restructuring on a rural community. TMC, like many industrial organizations, reorganized its workforce to respond more easily to external uncertainties, substituting "casual" employees for those with job security and benefits. Against the backdrop of this widespread restructuring, Gringeri's suggestion that rural homeworkers band together at the community level to win benefits seems implausible. Despite this, her book is a rare and valuable treatment of the impact of "casualization" on employees.

The major contribution of the book is its application to developing strategies for rural economic development. In a powerful, but almost hidden chapter, Gringeri suggests alternatives to the rural economic development strategies that led to TMC's entry into these communities. She proposes the opening of nontraditional trades to women to provide much-needed local services, suggests homeworker cooperatives be organized to recruit and control homework jobs, and assigns responsibility for agreement-monitoring to community development groups. Her book should be a warning to community groups that contracting with outside industry may just substitute the kitchen table for the assembly line at a subminimum wage.

Invisible Networks: Exploring the History of Local Utilities and Public Works, by Ann Durkin Keating. Exploring Community History Series. Malabar, FL: Krieger Publishing, 1994. xi, 168 pp. Illustrations, index. $24.50 cloth.

REVIEWED BY PATRICIA BURGESS, CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Ann Durkin Keating's *Invisible Networks* is not a history of public works and utilities. Rather, it is a guide for conducting such a history. It is the inaugural volume in a new series edited by David Kyvig and

Myron Marty on why and how to explore the histories of communities, which will expand the scope of Kyvig and Marty's Nearby History Series, published by the American Association for State and Local History. Drawing on past research of her own and others, Keating focuses on the physical ties that bind individuals into a community and communities to one another.

The guide is divided into three major parts, with a concluding chapter on the importance of local history. In the first section, Keating tells how to conduct an initial survey, starting with the visible aspects of the networks. She discusses research methods, tools, and sources for furthering the study, which include published histories, maps, official reports, public records, minutes of town council meetings, newspaper files, and interviews with those involved in establishing networks. In two chapters in the second part, Keating suggests how historians can tie "homes to a community" and communities to their regions. At a scale appropriate to their subjects, the chapters include consideration of the specific systems: streets and roads, public transportation, water and sewer, waste disposal, power and heating, telephone and cable communication. In the third section Keating explores the building, financing, and use (as well as users) of the networks. Considering the double question, "Who pays for an improvement and who benefits?" (113), she examines the role of special districts, governments, and regulated private enterprise.

Throughout *Invisible Networks* vignettes show in capsule form the role various public works and utilities have played in the evolution of different communities. Aptly captioned photographs enhance the presentation. Also, in presenting her information, Keating lays out a series of questions for the researcher to ask regarding community networks. Each chapter concludes with a list of suggested readings.

Only a few of Keating's examples and illustrations are drawn from Iowa (63–65, 116, 154, 156). However, their paucity indicates that relatively little serious local history has been done on small cities and towns or those in rural areas. Keating states that most infrastructure and urban research has focused on the largest cities, so we know relatively little about smaller ones. Were their needs and the abilities to meet them essentially the same, but scaled down for their smaller size? Or were they fundamentally different? How were the networks shaped by the different role that smaller towns play in their regions? Keating also points out the differences between urban and rural communities, both in terms of what their residents expect and in the communities' ability to provide. She correctly notes that generalizations about past ways of life are not equally true for city dwellers

and rural residents. (For example, the former had indoor faucets and water closets long before the latter.)

The networks that create and connect communities are an often "invisible" but clearly essential part of the lives of their residents. Exploring their origins and evolution helps us understand how communities, cities, and regions came to be the way they are. With *Invisible Networks* as a guide, research in places such as Iowa has much to contribute.

History Curatorship, by Gaynor Kavanagh. Leicester Museum Studies Series. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1990; originally published by Leicester University Press, 1990. xv, 173 pp. Illustrations, bibliography, index. $29.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY JEFFREY P. BROWN, NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

During the past generation, a number of scholars have assessed the development of American museums, their impact on American society, and the best techniques for museum practices. Edward Alexander, Michael Wallace, Thomas Schlereth, G. Ellis Burcaw, Jay Anderson, George McDaniel, and others have produced a substantial body of literature about historical museums and their roles in preserving and interpreting the past.

Gaynor Kavanagh's *History Curatorship* addresses the history and development of British and Swedish museums, and in her final chapters cites American museum experiences. Kavanagh places museum development in historical perspective, emphasizing folk culture as well as industrial and local and regional history museums. She expands from this base to a broader theoretical discussion of types of museums, collection policies, criteria for acquisitions, and the relationships between a museum's mission and its audience.

Kavanagh encourages museum personnel to follow the broad Swedish interpretation of *dokumentation,* involving research, fieldwork, recording, acquisition, and cataloging, rather than a narrow and traditional British definition of documentation. She similarly recommends the Swedish practice of devoting 20 percent of collection activities to contemporary materials, and 80 percent to items produced during the period from 1900 to 1970. Kavanagh urges a proactive collection policy rather than passive acceptance of random donations. She discusses the Swedish collection priority policy that emphasizes the frequency of item use, the value of items in demonstrating technological innovations, and other criteria that should be followed in making acquisition decisions.