

Lastly, Manuel explores a final attempt to fill the growing economic void with a focus on heritage and the development of tourist sites and a large regional museum and community center. The author's approach examines heritage and tourism from the novel perspective of the regional economy as a development tool created to fill the loss of mining jobs while recognizing that as heritage celebrates the historical significance of a region it also shields economic decline and environmental conflict.

Taconite Dreams is well researched and written, and it draws good comparisons to similar postindustrial regions facing decline. The book successfully explores a multi-decade attempt to overcome the economic collapse of once vibrant but remote single-industry communities. Manuel shows that while development plans had many successful components and some complete failures, reality is much grayer and that there are few salves to overcome economic decline successfully in a remote single-industry region. In the spirit of Melvin Kranzberg, who wrote, "Technology is neither good, nor bad, nor is it neutral," Manuel paints neither a rosy nor a catastrophic picture of the people who fought to stave off economic collapse but instead charts the history of the attempts to maintain a livable community against the grain of international economic trends.

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Persistent Progressives: The Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. By John F. Freeman. Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2015. 216 pp. Illustrations, map, notes, bibliography, and index. Cloth \$34.95.

Persistent Progressives traces the evolution of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (formerly the Colorado Farmers Union until it subsumed neighboring states in 1942) against a backdrop of rising urbanization. Through detailed examination of its leadership's decision making, Freeman shows how the organization, founded during a moment of Populist protest, continually adjusted to the perceived needs of small- and medium-scale farmers and ranchers. While a network of union locals initially served as the vehicle by which producers collectively solved problems, demographic changes eventually required that the organization reorganize and reprioritize. Today, it supports a wide range of educational, cooperative, and legislative initiatives for both city and country folk.

Although farmers' issues are often dismissed as special interest in the present day, Freeman's history of this specific union reveals that its concerns were rarely strictly agricultural. Chapter 1 establishes "the many shades of reform" (p. 17) that catalyzed experimentation in cooperative organizations and communities after the Civil War. Chapter 2 discusses the early activities of the Colorado Farmers Union: its alignment with the National Farmers Union, its attempts to create supportive subsidiaries—such as low-cost insurance—and its skepticism toward federal programs thought to favor business over family farms. Chapter 3 focuses on Jim Patton, an especially dynamic leader who tried to preserve the union's original ethos in spite of economic depression and declining membership. Chapters 4 and 5 review requisite organizational shifts toward legislative pursuits at the state level and alliance building with urban, religious, university, and green groups. The increasing threat of corporate farms, in particular, challenged union leadership to articulate a defense of small-scale farms as sustainable and efficient. Chapter 6 locates the organization's pivot toward "new generation" cooperatives that sought to leverage urban demand for natural food products within its longer history of outreach to consumers. Chapter 7 addresses the ongoing economic challenges of farming despite urban enthusiasm around food issues.

Freeman draws this history primarily from archival materials held at Colorado State University as well as conversations with individuals actively involved in the organization. His approach has the potential to provide context for contemporary food activism that tends toward myopia. However, the account that Freeman provides, while comprehensive, does not offer sufficient analysis through engagement with relevant literatures, such as those on rural sociology, community studies, food studies, the history of capitalism, or environmental history. Furthermore, *Persistent Progressives* frames its wide chronological sweep through a succession of male leaders such that the texture of daily life is often missing (Freeman tends to conflate the objectives of the organization with those of its president). One exception is a rich sequence regarding a particularly active union local, Peetz #257: starting in 1914, members attended fraternal meetings (which required two passwords to be admitted), pooled money for struggling neighbors, held community picnics, erected a grain elevator, established a buying club to purchase bulk supplies, and volunteered to construct town buildings. These cooperative efforts demonstrate real commitment to the ethic, articulated most precisely by Jim Patton, that "the farmer can never prosper by exploiting the man below him" (p. 72).

In his 2007 book *The Populist Vision*, Charles Postel takes up the history and the legacy of Populism, a movement that has been claimed by reactionary and progressive thinkers alike. Postel makes

the case that, although Populists criticized the inequities generated by industrial and commercial development, they, too, were governed by the logic of progress and “a distinctly modernizing impulse” (p. 9). This insight makes it seem ironic that nostalgia is the persistent lens by which twentieth-century agrarian lives are circumscribed. Freeman is right to point out the paradox that certain farmers, despite having anticipated present-day food activism through various cooperative models, are often forgotten in contemporary conversations regarding sustainable food systems. Peetz #257 serves as a case in point: despite frenzied public interest in agriculture over the last several years, the union disbanded in 2012, two years shy of its centennial.

Persistent Progressives offers a useful case study of a regional farmer organization facing the vagaries of twentieth-century rural life, although its diffuse approach makes insights hard won.

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The Courtiers' Anatomists: Animals and Humans in Louis XIV's Paris. By Anita Guerrini. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015. 344 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, and index. Cloth \$35.00.

From the perspective even of stay-at-home European naturalists in the seventeenth century, the world kept getting bigger as increasing animal, vegetable, and mineral evidence of its breadth and variety poured into metropolitan centers. At the same time, the technology of the microscope and the virtuoso practice of dissection (of living animals as well as corpses—Anita Guerrini argues that these practices were perceived as less distinct by her subjects, and by their private and public audiences, than has subsequently become the case) turned the attention of anatomists to things that were small and hidden. Written with interdisciplinary erudition and insight, *The Courtiers' Anatomists* persuasively demonstrates that these modes of inquiry were neither independent nor inconsistent; on the contrary, they could be pursued at the same time by the same individuals. As her subtitle indicates, Guerrini does not attempt to survey Enlightenment science. Instead she focuses on a particular group of anatomists who were based in Paris and who enjoyed the support of Louis XIV.

The story that Guerrini tells is a rich and complicated one. It stretches over more than half a century, and she approaches it from