

were targets of more people than unsatisfied Scottish and English traders. Previous scholars have noted the pressure exerted by free traders while also finding other factors to be of greater significance for explaining the first British embassy. These other interpretations are not discussed here. Moreover, while much of the literature on the imperial politics of the period is cited in the bibliography, the complex mix of interests and pressures leading up to the Macartney embassy are not actually engaged with in the body of the text.

Hanser also credits the George Smiths with recommending extraterritorial rights for British subjects in order to circumvent Chinese law and get relief for unpaid loans they had made to Hong merchants. The latter of these interests not only also involved free traders, but supercargoes of the East India Company. In order for tea, the primary product the British sought in China, to be delivered at the appropriate season to be shipped to Europe, middlemen brokers, the Hong merchants, required up-front payment in silver to keep the tea moving from fields, processing plants, and shippers to the port of Canton. EIC supercargoes and independent merchants ran a kind of toothless loan-sharking enterprise in which silver was loaned at exorbitant rates of interest to Hong merchants but without any muscle to enforce payment. Hong merchants were kept in a continual state of debt. Hanser does a very good job of laying out the particulars of this business, but considering that two of the Smiths lost substantial amounts of money as lenders, she doesn't emphasize the contradictory fact that Dundas never added debt relief to Macartney's checklist.

After teeth were finally bared in south China, much of what the Smiths advocated was reflected in the clauses of the treaty ending the first Opium War. This development attests to the historical influence of merchants like the George Smiths, even though one cannot quite agree that the views of these three men were especially formative for the Macartney Embassy.

One can't help feeling, after reading Hanser's careful life histories, that the most significant contribution of the Smiths to British imperialism lay in the prodigious production of descendants. Well into the nineteenth century, several generations of offsprings continued to provide soldiers, administrators, and a few merchants serving empire. One of them also funded a school in Scotland, which specifically educated young men named Smith. One can only wonder how many of these Smiths turned up in Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean, building not only the Smith legacy, but sustaining the storied Scottish contribution to global empire building.

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**Disability in the Industrial Revolution: Physical Impairment in British Coalmining, 1780–1880.** By *David M. Turner* and *Daniel Blackie*. Disability History. Edited by *Julie Anderson* and *Walton Schalick III*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2018. Pp. xii+228. £25.00.

Focusing on coal miners wounded and disabled in industrial work, this study, over five chapters, examines how the injured body was viewed and treated economically, medically, socially, in the family, and in the political sphere. The coauthored volume brings together two areas of history that are often treated independently: First, it comprehensively examines the history of industrialization in the nineteenth century. Second, it explores the evolution of the treatment of persons disabled by industrial accidents. The authors employ a critical approach toward narratives of the Industrial Revolution that frame it as a unified history of progress by highlighting the exploitation of people during this period. This approach

reinforces the notion that this aspect of disability history needs to be explored more deeply. This volume does indeed fill a research gap with regard to the role of industrial mining in the increase in disabled workers. A strength of the volume is that it also details the new (if not always voluntary) prospects of disabled people to find new opportunities in industrial work, as well as different forms of support provided by assistance mechanisms—more succinctly, it is not a history of the marginalization of disabled persons. Unlike other studies on disabled people, the actors in these chapters exhibit a wide range of disabilities. What they have in common is that their impairments are related to work in industrialized coal mining.

The study was initially confronted with a problem regarding its sources as the records kept by the mine-inspectors rarely contained details of the physical condition of the miners. Instead, the study relies on a number of specific reports from welfare organizations, parliamentary debates, and legislation in which the issue of disability and those injured by industrial accidents was raised. Only the British coal industry is examined, with the three parts of the country, England, Scotland, and Wales, depicted without distinction from each other, despite the differences existing between them. Furthermore, medical reports and applications for assistance from miners who became ill provide rich source material for the present study.

Also noteworthy is the two authors' presentation of workers both above and below ground, which clarifies why people who suffered life-long injuries from working underground were more likely to find new work in the processing sectors above ground. However, the study also reveals how common workplace accidents occurred across all branches within the mining industry.

The study focuses on a period of time commonly associated with technological progress. However, by incorporating the perspective of the actors as well as that of a more recent critical history of technology, the authors commendably illustrate that the introduction of new technologies was accompanied by several new dangers. In this respect, "knowledge" is one focus of the book because addressing individual circumstances requires medical, social, administrative, and technical knowledge. Various studies in the nineteenth century examined the health of miners and the physical consequences of coal dust and underground work for children and women. However, the diseases discussed in the chapter pertaining to the medical aspect are not directly related to accidents, which are instead the main focus of the first chapter. Nor do the authors draw a direct link between these medical reports and the impact on the ability to work or of impairment caused by physical damage, which is the main topic of the book. This chapter demonstrates that both academic and folk practices of mining medicine evolved concurrently, and that, due to high costs and patchy medical infrastructures in mining regions, there was no uniformity of care until the end of the nineteenth century. In addition, conflicts between medical personnel, management, and employees emerged in large companies that had their own medical services and so-called "sick clubs."

A separate chapter is devoted to the topic of welfare. It highlights the dynamics between the coal industry and the charitable organizations that were founded during the nineteenth century. Here, however, a comparative view would have been helpful in order to present coal welfare not as an anomaly but as part of a welfare sector that was also booming in other areas, as evidenced by the orphanage movement in the nineteenth century. Welfare organizations aimed to support coal mining families in need, while also providing a venue for social life. In addition to voluntary organizations, centralization efforts by the state with respect to relief for the poor and social support in the aftermath of the Poor Law reforms in England, Wales, and Scotland were part of this development.

The chapter on households and families of coal miners who suffered accidents provides a deep insight into nineteenth-century social structures, such as family patterns,

gender relations, and the treatment of the disabled. The authors show how changes in the law, such as those prohibiting women from working underground, increased dependence on the male breadwinner. While the authors cite some tragic individual fates, they also emphasize that lighter work in other branches of the coal industry provided basic security to the family.

The political dimension of mine workers' disability is made clear in the final chapter. This dimension is highlighted by the increase in union activities since the 1840s, which used the stories of disabled workers to emphasize the responsibility of mine operators in ensuring mine safety.

Unlike other studies of disability and physical limitations, Turner and Blackie do not seek specific definitions or trace a history of the emergence of the term disability in the coal-mining sphere. Instead, they refer to theoretical groundwork, such as that presented in *The Routledge Handbook of Disability Studies* edited by Nick Watson and Simo Wehans (2012, 2020) or in Sarah Rose's book *No Right to Be Idle* (2017). Rather, they treat disability as a physical condition that invariably presented itself over the nineteenth century and was treated in the context of new dynamics, particularly in the fields of medicine, politics, and social welfare. In medicine, the dynamic consisted of an increase in knowledge about how to treat certain disabilities, although this knowledge was no guarantee that people would experience relief from their suffering. The situation was similar within welfare institutions, where frequent mistakes in the conceptions of financing aid funds often led to considerable problems for individuals. The partial recognition of disability and chronic illness by the state created a new dynamic of aid, welfare and poor legislation. In the field of politics, there was little debate about the nature of disability, framed instead as a problem to be solved. There were particular disputes (and strikes) over measures to prevent accidents at work. In this developmental perspective, there is a need for a more methodical study of, for example, the reporting of certain institutions and associations whose publications served as source material. A contextualization of the handling of disabilities in the British coal industry with a) other industries and with b) other countries, as mentioned by the authors themselves, would certainly offer additional perspectives of interest.

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**Night Raiders: Burglary and the Making of Modern Urban Life in London, 1860–1968.** By *Eloise Moss*.

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019. Pp. xvi+250. \$35.95.

Burglary has always been seen as among the most serious of crimes, requiring a heavy sentence. In the 1830s, Home Secretary, Lord John Russell, still thought the crime merited capital punishment, although the number of burglars who were hanged in that decade and beyond was in single figures. If by 1861 the gallows no longer cast a shadow over burglars, long custodial sentences were their lot, justified by the threat that nighttime burglary posed to the home and its occupants, and by the fact that burglars tended to be habitual criminals, and a cut above the commonplace delinquent in craft and cunning. In 1902, Charles Booth, author of *Life and Labour of the People in London*, claimed that burglary "is perhaps the most characteristic London crime" (final vol., 139), a statement for which alas he provided no explanation. To judge from the burglary and housebreaking cases that fetched up in the Central Criminal Court, or Old Bailey, in the years when Booth was writing, most offenders were young adult men (caught in the act or shortly