

Des Barrages, des usines et des hommes: L'industrialisation des Alpes du Nord entre ressources locales et apports extérieurs [Dams, Factories, and Labor Force: The Industrialization of the Northern Alps: Local Resources and External Support]. *Edited by Hervé Joly et al.* Grenoble: Presses Universitaires de Grenoble, 2002. 387 pp. Tables, maps, illustrations, notes. Paper, €35. ISBN: 2-706-11063-5.

Reviewed by Michael P. Hanagan

This admirable collection is a festschrift for Henri Morsel, historian of the Second Industrial Revolution in southeastern France and student of the growth of the French electric and aluminum industries. Besides highlighting Morsel's work, this interesting scholarly compilation sheds new light on an important body of research on entrepreneurial history, much of it ongoing.

The first series of essays describes Morsel the man. Morsel's parents were Jews who emigrated from Poland in 1931. Like all French Jews, including his teacher Pierre Léon, the young Morsel led a precarious life during the war. He spent the summer of 1943 in a Red Cross summer camp in Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, the small commune in the Haute Loire that saved the lives of so many Jews. Annette Becker devotes a short article to the neglected Red Cross institution.

An outsider can learn a lot about the forces that led to institutional innovation in French academia from these essays. Intellectually, Morsel's inspiration was Pierre Léon, the great historian of industrialization in the Dauphiné region during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Morsel came to economic and social history relatively later in life and was based in Grenoble rather than the more academically vital Lyon. Still, he was a member of the powerful network Léon had constructed in southeastern France that included such gifted historians as Maurice Garden, Gilbert Garrier, and Yves Lequin. In a French academia sometimes distrustful of strangers, a characteristic that was intensified in the region by its native conservatism, these historians followed Léon's lead in creating a spirit of intellectual hospitality and interest in all aspects of economic and social history, transforming the locality into a magnet for young historians.

Besides his own important research on the Second Industrial Revolution in the region, Morsel helped to create an academic infrastructure for the new kind of history that was developing there. Essays discuss Morsel's part in organizing research on the history of French electric and aluminum industries. They stress his role in launching collaborative academic enterprises, obtaining access to private archives, and promoting regional economic history at a time when local populations in the Dauphiné were acquiring a heightened interest in their industrial patrimony.

The centerpieces of the collection are the many essays by students, collaborators, and associates that address questions dear to Morsel, such as the following:

Is there a distinctive model of development for the Second Industrial Revolution, and can this pattern be found in the Dauphiné? Essays by Hervé Joly and Ludovic Cailluet discuss the ways in which local electrochemical and electrometalworking industries followed a general model of industrialization during this period. Joly broadly surveys southeastern heavy industry, roughly between 1895 and 1929, emphasizing its particular origins in the fusion of many small enterprises, a consequence in part of the area's reliance on hydraulic power. Cailluet focuses on the activities of the Pechiney group of aluminum producers between 1880 and 1960, showing how a centralized corporate structure with an extended internal division of labor came to dominate in the years before the group's members consolidated, becoming a multinational with a "post-Chandlerien" development trajectory.

To what degree did the industrialization that occurred during this era build on the accumulation of small industries that had emerged in preceding centuries, and how much did it depend on outside capital drawn to the region's hydraulic wealth? A study by Arnaud Berthonnet of the SACR, an important road-building company that originated in the Dauphiné, follows the transformation of a small enterprise into a large corporation and explores the critical role of local capital in the firm's evolution between 1880 and 1920. An important essay by Hubert Bonin on these same years looks at the shifting balance between local industrial banks, such as the Banque de Dauphiné, and larger banks, such as the Credit Lyonnais, as they channeled resources to local industry between 1890 and 1940. Unfortunately, once they had acquired a few large and important

customers, many local banks neglected smaller businesses and proved ill equipped to withstand the economic fluctuations of the interwar years.

How did employers recruit, maintain, and discipline a labor force when faced with rapid job turnover? Fascinating essays by Alexandre Giandrou and Jean-François Parent examine the rich variety of paternalist policies adopted by large employers over the decades of industrial transformation. They confirm the existing wisdom that French employers sought to retain personal control over labor policy; as a result, industrial relations varied greatly from employer to employer and over time.

While some classic themes run through the collection, other essays elaborate on topics only suggested by Morsel and remind us of his diverse influence. Eric Robert's essay on the relation between university education and local engineering is an interesting contribution to the literature. Resisting Parisian domination, the Université de Grenoble tried to take advantage of local economic opportunities in order to find community support, but employers initially sought skilled workers and seemed suspicious of professionalism. Universities only slowly developed institutes oriented toward industrial research, and these did not begin to take hold until the interwar years.

Although the collection is a festschrift, the essays present a rich body of information on the Second Industrial Revolution in France and a fascinating exploration of the ties between nineteenth- and twentieth-century economic development. Gifted students sometimes follow different paths from those blazed by their teachers, and a festschrift can easily lose all coherence as roads diverge over decades. This collection is a striking demonstration that Morsel and Léon have established a research agenda that continues to be pursued by young and innovative scholars. It testifies to the fact that Henri Morsel and his teacher, Pierre Léon, still influence and guide modern historians in contemporary France.

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