

## Preface

As I reflect on my reasons for writing this book, I realize that it is the product of a lifetime of interests and experience. When I was a child my father often pointed out to me the artifacts of nineteenth-century industry on the Pennsylvania landscape. Old iron furnace and gristmill ponds where we fished, traces of canals where we walked or stopped to read historical markers, and the restored Hopewell ironworks are indelible memories.

Though I subsequently wrote occasional papers on early American industry in school and at Swarthmore College, my studies were normally far removed from blast furnaces and canal locks. On entering the Hagley Graduate Program at the University of Delaware I first had the opportunity to immerse myself in the literature of industrialization and I first discovered the discipline of the history of technology.

It was under the tutelage of Eugene S. Ferguson that I was able to place my interest in early American industrialization within the context of technology transfer. As we discussed my dissertation topic I recognized that few writers had dealt with the European roots of American technologies, and fewer still with the process of transfer. Admiring the case-study approaches of Paul Strassman and Harold Passer, I decided to focus on particular examples of technology transfer.

I have since modified that earlier version of this study through further research on each case and by adding two chapters. An invitation to speak at the Lawrence Henry Gipson Symposium at Lehigh University provided the incentive and opportunity to write the chapter on Weston and Latrobe, utilizing materials I gathered during my decade as assistant editor for technology with *The Papers of Benjamin Henry Latrobe*. The survey in chapter 1 is substantially inspired by a number of studies published since I completed the original manuscript of this book.

In the course of research and writing Donna, my wife, has been my mainstay and steady critic in all phases of my work. Eugene S. Ferguson's search for the right questions shaped my approach even after he served as my immediate adviser. Those who have generously given time to read and criticize all or portions of the manuscript include John Beer, Reed Geiger, Carol Hoffeecker, Robert Howard, John Rae, Alan Rocke, Tamara Stech, David J. Jeremy, John Van Horne, Norman Wilkinson, and an anonymous reviewer.

I have received so many services from libraries and archives that I cannot be certain of listing them all, but I particularly want to thank the following: American Philosophical Society Library, Hagley Library, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Conrail (Reading Company), Swem Library of the College of William and Mary in Virginia, Virginia State Library, and William Penn Archives (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania).

Darwin H. Stapleton  
March 1986