



# THE MINING HISTORY JOURNAL



The Twenty-Ninth Annual Journal of  
The Mining History Association

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The *Mining History Journal* is provided to all members of the Association. Membership is open to anyone interested in the history of mining and metallurgy. Information or applications for membership may be obtained from Barbara Clements, Mining History Association, PO Box 1536, Cape Girardeau, MO 63702; or at [www.mininghistoryassociation.org](http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org). Members receive quarterly newsletters and the journal.

The journal welcomes manuscripts on any subject in mining and metallurgical history in any era or region. Manuscripts, books for review, announcements, inquiries regarding advertising or the purchase of back issues of the journal, and other correspondence related to the journal should be sent to: Mining History Journal; Department of History and Anthropology, MS2960; Southeast Missouri State University; Cape Girardeau, MO 63701, or to: [eclements@semo.edu](mailto:eclements@semo.edu).

Manuscripts should be submitted typed, double-spaced, and with endnotes. The journal only accepts manuscripts via e-mail or on CD or DVD and Microsoft WORD format is required. All articles are required to follow the style formats specified in the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 17<sup>th</sup> edition.

Illustrations should not be embedded in the article, but their approximate locations should be indicated in the text and captions provided. Submit illustrations as separate files scanned as TIFF or jpeg at a minimum of 5 x 7 inches and 300dpi. Photos copied from websites will not be used. Authors are responsible for obtaining copyright and use permissions for all illustrations and for paying any associated fees.

The Editorial Board of the *Mining History Journal* presents the annual John M. Townley Award to the author of the best article in that year's journal. Criteria for the Townley award include: the significance of the topic to mining history; the originality, quality, and depth of research; literary quality; and the quality of accompanying illustrations.

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# The Mining History Journal

## 2022

### Articles

Portrait of an Emerging Profession:  
A Microdata Look at Mining Engineering in America in 1880 /1  
*Eric C. Nystrom*

The Sunshine Mine Fire Disaster, May 2, 1972 /20  
*Robert E. Launhardt*

Mining Camp Democracy:  
Conflicting Interpretations of the American Democratic Tradition /33  
*Ronald H. Limbaugh*

The Needs of the Nation and the Technology of Tomorrow:  
The Illinois Coal Industry, 1945–1969 /49  
*Geoffrey C. Lybeck*

Recent Publications on the History of Mining / 73  
*Compiled by Lysa Wegman-French*

Book Reviews / 90

Fawn-Amber Montoya and Karin Larkin (eds.), *Communities of Ludlow: Collaborative Stewardship and the Ludlow Centennial Commemoration Commission*.  
By Dawn Bunyak

Brad T. Clark and Pete McCormick (eds.), *Gold Metal Waters: The Animas River and the Gold King Mine Spill*.  
By Donald Paulson

Eleanor Herz Swent, *One Shot for Gold: Developing a Modern Mine in Northern California*.  
By Gage McKinney

Priscilla Wegars, *Polly Bemis, The Life and Times of a Chinese American Pioneer*.  
By Catherine Holder Spude

FRONT COVER: Blast Furnace No. 1, Sloss-Sheffield Steel and Iron Company, Birmingham, Alabama, completed in 1929 as one of two units replacing the company's original 1882 furnaces. A skip hoist fed local iron ore, coke, and limestone into the 84-foot-tall, 21-foot-wide, 400-tpd furnace, operating at temperatures up to 3,800 degrees Fahrenheit. Molten iron was tapped from the base about every four hours and flowed into molds dug into the sand floor of the adjacent cast shed to produce "pigs" weighing 100 to 115 pounds each. From 1931 the ore flowed to a ladle railcar to be transferred to casting machine, eliminating the manual labor of floor casting. Depending upon the era, up to 75 percent of the complex's workforce was African American. With area iron ores unsuited to steelmaking, Birmingham became an important center of pig iron and cast-iron pipe manufacture. Production ended in 1970, the site became Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark in 1981, and opened as a city museum in 1983. (Editor's photo.)

BACK COVER: Members of the Sloss Metal Arts Program conduct an iron pour in the former Sloss Furnaces' No. 2 cast shed. The program, established in 1985 and located in the shed, offers workshops, exhibitions, and conferences centered on cast iron in sculpting, and hosts both resident and visiting artists. (Editor's photo.)