What author Robert Eric Barde describes as a “monograph” (p. xi) seems to me a collection of essays. The distinction is important. Were it a monograph, one would criticize it for incompleteness, a lack of focus, and a failure to provide appropriate context. Since it is not, I can praise its real merits as a collection of ten essays and an epilogue about aspects of trans-Pacific migration between the beginnings of Chinese Exclusion and the passage of the quota acts of the 1920s. I learned something from each
essay and much from some. Barde, a good storyteller, writes clearly and well, despite one slide into *Annales*-babble about “thick’ material” (p. 4).

Of the three essays about Angel Island, the site of the immigration detention station (1910–1940), the central one, “An Alleged Wife” about Quok Shee (b. 1896), serves as a kind of *leitmotif* for the book. As the wife of an established Chinese merchant, she was eligible for entry, but the immigration service suspected that she was being imported for prostitution and detained her for some twenty months before a writ of habeas corpus was obtained and she was free to join her husband. Despite Barde’s keen awareness of the abuses inherent in the immigration system, he understands that, even in this case with a “happy” ending for the victim, Quok Shee may well have successfully committed fraudulent entry. The two other stories in this section describe general conditions and procedures at the Angel Island station and the even worse ones that preceded it.

Of the four essays on aspects of Pacific migration, two are essentially summaries of the literature: Barde throws a wide net to include works on Asian migration to the Caribbean and Latin America, but he misses some important studies, most notably those of C. Harvey Gardiner on Peru and Daniel W. Masterson’s fine survey, *The Japanese in Latin America* (2004). But two stories in this section, one on the China Mail, a short-lived Chinese-American steamship line, and another a biography of the *Nippon Maru*, the very ship that brought Quok Shee to America, are original and useful.

Most important, I think, are the three essays on the immigration service in that era, which then, as now, faced impossible tasks and was riddled with corruption. The jewel of the book is the story of a dedicated immigration official, John Birge Sawyer (1881–1970), based on his extensive papers in the Bancroft Library. A college graduate, he was involved in the regulation of Chinese immigration for forty years, serving in San Francisco, Portland, Oregon, the Mexican border, Hong Kong, Angel Island, and in Shanghai as vice consul from 1918 to 1942, when he was repatriated. In this and the other essays in this section, one gets an unparalleled notion of the nitty-gritty tasks of immigration restriction.

While everyone interested in these topics will profit from reading Barde’s essays, this book also highlights the lack of a large, synthetic study of trans-Pacific emigration from Asia to North America, the Caribbean, South America, and Australia.

*University of Cincinnati, Emeritus*  
ROGER DANIELS