Emery Castle, whose terms as vice president and president of Resources for the Future (1976–79 and 1979–86, respectively) represented an important phase in a long and distinguished academic career (primarily at Oregon State University), now shares his experiences and insights in a recently published autobiography. Emery’s research and writings focused in particular on the economics of rural and agricultural development—a topic, he argues, that has been treated too casually in mainstream, macro-centered economics. Of course, at RFF, he contended not only with a wide range of natural resource and environmental issues but also helped chart a course for the then-25-year-old institution as it faced the challenge of newly emerging research needs, policy concerns, and the financial means to address them. Emery’s account of his university and RFF years is told with a blend of analytical insight and humanity which will resonate knowingly by his many friends and professional colleagues.

—Joel Darmstadter