

Iowa's coterie of influential female naturalists, including Ada Hayden, Althea Sherman, and Lois Tiffany. Gladys's knowledge and dedication outweighed her idiosyncrasies (indeed, her idiosyncrasies enhanced her effectiveness, allowing her an informal freedom that captivated everyone she encountered), and the authors have been particularly successful at providing anecdotes that illuminate Gladys's character without caricaturing her.

More than a collection of entertaining stories, the first-person accounts in this lively book convey the strength of the connections that Gladys was able to build, and the entire book has a real-time feeling that allows readers to understand how one person can make a vast and positive difference to her world. Anyone interested in nature and the environment, community activism, and the history of conservation in the Midwest will find much to admire in this book.

The Mississippi: A Visual Biography, by Quinta Scott. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2010. x, 404 pp. Illustrations (many in color), maps, bibliography, index. \$75.00 cloth.

Reviewer John O. Anfinson is chief of resource management for the National Park Service's Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. He is the author of *The River We Have Wrought: A History of the Upper Mississippi* (2003).

Quinta Scott has written an encyclopedic introduction to the Mississippi River, from Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico and from its geologic origins through the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. She does this in two parts. The first is a narrative covering the river's physical origins and the history of human meddling with the river's natural character. At 107 pages, this part constitutes just under one-third of the book. Two hundred color photographs, with captions, and occasional one- to three-page essays make up the second part.

Scott provides no introduction to the book explaining her purpose or objectives. They are revealed by what she includes and what she leaves out. In both sections, she documents the ways humans — the Corps of Engineers, in particular — have changed the river and how most of those changes have harmed the river's ecosystems. Through her many images of backwater channels, sloughs, wetlands, bayous, and wildlife refuges, she highlights that damage and the efforts to preserve and restore native habitat. In both parts, she emphasizes the loss of floodplain and coastal wetlands, bottomland forests, and natural flow regimes and the consequences for the river and humans.

As if disgusted by their presence, Scott offers no pictures of the massive navigation and flood control projects she blames for destroying

the river's ecosystems. There are no images of the upper Mississippi River's locks and dams. Distant images of tow boats and barges sneak into a couple of images, but imposing levees and other flood control projects are absent. Although she features the Old River Control Structure and the Bonnet Carre and Morganza spillways in her narrative, there are no images of them. Many photographic essays on the Mississippi River conclude with the jetties funneling the Mississippi into the Gulf. Scott ends with a wetland image titled "Delta National Wildlife Refuge: Mud." Even the river's cities and towns make no appearance. Just looking at her photographs, someone who did not know the Mississippi would think it was still largely a natural river. Her captions, however, let readers know that even these seemingly unaltered landscapes have been changed dramatically.

Given the breadth of her narrative, there is little room for depth. Scott repeatedly fingers the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the culprit behind destroying the natural river, but she never looks behind the curtain — she does not investigate who pushed the Corps to do what it has done. The oil companies, navigation industry, agricultural interests, and Congress receive some blame, but she spends little time on them. The most difficult task in reading this book is visualizing the places discussed in the narrative. To really grasp the subject, readers need a map or the internet handy.

There are many, many photographic essays on the Mississippi River, many with narratives introducing the river's history and culture. What distinguishes Scott's endeavor from the rest is the breadth of details about all the work that has altered the river and all the efforts to restore it.

A Watershed Year: Anatomy of the Iowa Floods of 2008, edited by Cornelia F. Mutel. A Bur Oak Book. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2010. xix, 250 pp. Illustrations, maps, graphs, tables, color photograph insert, notes, reference lists, index. \$19.00 paper.

The 1,000-Year Flood: Destruction, Loss, Rescue, and Redemption along the Mississippi River, by Stephen J. Lyons. Guilford, Conn.: Globe Pequot Press, 2010. xxvi, 229 pp. Map, color photograph insert, statistical appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$16.95 paper.

Reviewer Jennifer Ambrose is a Ph.D. candidate in American Studies at the University of Iowa. She is working on a dissertation tentatively titled "Geographies of Responsibility: Post-9/11 Weather Discourse and the Ethics of Natural Disaster."