

names of three Indian maidens are memorialized—Pochahontas, Monona and Tama—but only those of two white women—Louisa and Bremer. (There's some doubt about "Ida").

Pratt's readable book is packed with many droll anecdotes, along with solid county history. It is fun reading, and an invaluable reference book for teachers, students, libraries, researchers and everyone interested in Iowa history. Pratt's photographs of both demolished and replacement Iowa courthouses provide a visual narrative of our state's disparate architectural heritage, a changing popularity chart of Romanesque towers and turrets, Neo-Classic columns and cupolas, Victorian clocks and statuary all the way down to the current boxy style designed primarily for office efficiency. The thing is, these latter just DON'T LOOK like "Iowa Courthouses," the kind which one Iowa expatriate not long ago wanted to buy and re-erect alongside a Los Angeles freeway as a showplace for his law firm. It would have caught the eye for sure, even in California.

—Ralph Hollander
Sheldon, Iowa

1876: A Centennial Offering, by Third Ward Pupils, No. 10, Des Moines, Iowa. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1977. pp. 380. \$8.95.

The Smithsonian Institution sponsored the publication (by the Iowa State University Press) of this enchanting collection of essays, stories, artwork, and poems by an 1876 class of sixth-grade students at Irving School, Des Moines. The original hand-written, hand-drawn pages have been reproduced precisely, so we have a replica faithful to the original manuscript. The young students' penmanship is nearly flawless; their intriguing drawings are well-executed; and the sentiments and information conveyed are true gifts from the children of 1876 to the children (and adults) of today.

The manuscript was one of many prepared for display in the 1876 Centennial Exhibition held in Philadelphia. The extraordinary writings and drawings in *A Centennial Offering* distinguished it from the hundreds of manuscripts entered in that exhibition. It was returned for safe-keeping to the Historical Building in Des Moines, and remained there until it was loaned in February 1976 to the Smithsonian for exhibition during the nation's Bicentennial.

The project manager for the 1976 exhibition, William Miner, decided that the best way to "display" this manuscript was to have it duplicated and widely distributed. The Iowa State University Press has done a commendable job in printing and binding the collection, and the public now has access to a treasurable legacy.

—J.G.

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