

1900 and 1931. Because there were only two lynchings in the state during those years, a casual reader might assume that Iowa witnessed few lynchings when in fact mobs killed twenty-two other victims prior to 1900. Although a voluminous photographic record of lynching exists, Pfeifer was careful not to fall into the trap of publishing such gruesome images. Other than a single photograph of a lynching on the cover, the author refrained from providing a visual reminder of this dark period of American history. This book should find a wide readership among social, cultural, and legal historians. Moreover, there is much that will interest students of Iowa and midwestern history.

*Amana Style: Furniture, Arts, Crafts, Architecture, and Gardens*, by Marjorie K. Albers and Peter Hoehnle. Iowa City: Penfield Books, 2005. 160 pp. Illustrations, map, bibliography. \$14.95 paper.

Barbara J. Dilly is assistant professor of anthropology at Creighton University. Her dissertation was "Religious Resistance to Erosion of the Soil and the Soul among Three German-American Farming Communities in Northeast Iowa."

Collectors and admirers of Amana Colony arts and crafts will appreciate this illustrated history of material culture. Those who respect the many German immigrant religious sects that came to rural Iowa will also appreciate the story of how a community manages to retain its cultural identity and central values despite many changes. Designer Marjorie K. Albers, a descendant of the German immigrants who lived and worked in the Amana Colonies, and historian Peter Hoehnle, an elder in the Amana Church Society, explore and celebrate their rich cultural heritage in this colorful compendium of Amana life. They trace the unique arts and crafts traditions of the Community of True Inspiration, revealing a remarkable journey of a Pietistic separatist movement over three centuries and across three geographic localities from Germany to eastern Iowa.

Albers and Hoehnle offer their insights from the perspective of insiders who are intimately aware of the cultural aesthetic they call "Amana style." They characterize this style, or aesthetic sensibility, in terms of artists, craftspersons, materials, techniques, skills, knowledge, and values. By providing readers a glimpse into the largely anonymous lives of the Amana people, Hoehnle and Albers recognize the achievements of Amana artisans and craftspersons and the role they played in supporting an entire community and a way of life.

The community built by the Community of True Inspiration was quite different from other German communities in its blending of a European economic communal system of common land and business

ownership with a talent for capitalist enterprise. Located in an isolated area with affordable, rich land where the Society could live in simple, self-sufficient, religious farming communities, the Amana villages were also centers of industrial development. They imported technology and supplies from Germany and exported finished goods to urban markets throughout the United States. Through their astute marketing and communal system of labor specialization, the Amana people preserved sixteenth- and seventeenth-century German material culture in Christmas and Easter traditions, furniture, clock making, basketry, broom making, caning, carpet weaving, woolen textiles, architecture, and gardening. The Amana style also preserved a coherent cultural aesthetic that placed a high spiritual value on individual anonymity for the good of the community.

Albers and Hoehnle assert that the shared values of faith, love, simplicity, and hard work survived over a century-and-a-half even after the transition away from communalism to private property in the Amana Colonies. What is not discussed here, but bears more exploration, is the economic and cultural context that contributed to the Great Change of 1932, when the Amana people separated their enterprises from their church society in favor of private property and stock holdings. In an article in this journal in 2001 explaining the Great Change, Hoehnle did provide insights into the role of religious values in times of economic transition. The people of Amana have some lessons to teach us about sustainable rural communities.

*Glimpses of Iowa's Capitol*, by Rosa Snyder. Clive: Sycamore Publishing, 2005. 35 pp. Illustrations. \$10.00 paper.

Reviewer Charles T. Goodsell is emeritus professor of public administration at Virginia Tech University. He is the author of *The American Statehouse: Interpreting Democracy's Temples* (2001).

This booklet is an illustrated guide to the Iowa State Capitol. It reproduces a number of attractive color photographs as well as several period prints. The illustrations and text give particular attention to interior decoration, art, and design features, both original and subsequent to original construction. The publication is organized into pairs of facing pages, with individual sets devoted to highlights of the grounds, façade, rotunda, corridors, governor's office, supreme court, legislative chambers, and law library. Past and present quotations inserted at several points add a literary flavor.

Visitors to the building will find this publication an attractive purchase to take home for later perusal. A description of the competition

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