

ington), Illinois, the son of Lowry Barton and Rachel Knox Wilson Barton, who were both born in Pennsylvania." Further, "he was an ardent golfer . . . a charter member of two golf clubs and organizer of a golf and tennis club" (17-18). While this information adds color and texture, it seems more appropriate to a social register or a genealogical record than a serious reference work. Unfiltered biographical data, however, are more than made up for by the exceptional utility of the book as a whole.

Shank, who is author of another useful reference work, *The Iowa Catalog: Historic American Buildings Survey* (1979), includes a brief history of the professionalization of architecture in Iowa and the nation during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Drawing on parallels within the medical field, he argues that new university programs and professional societies elevated the business of constructing buildings out of "the hands of makeshift practitioners" (1). While this thesis—that professionalism led to better architects and better buildings—is not novel, Shank places the activities of Iowa architects alongside the broader impact of a growing, better-educated middle class. This increasingly self-conscious population not only contributed the (overwhelmingly male) candidates for architectural training, it also supported the reforms to building codes that protected the public from unsafe or unsanitary buildings and, ultimately, the restrictive licensing statutes that made architecture an exclusive profession. In Iowa, these restrictions came about in 1927 in the form of a registration law that required new architects to pass an examination and possess certain levels of education and experience. Professionalization of architecture in Iowa and the rest of the states, like the professionalization of medicine and law, established a much smaller and more exclusive community of practitioners who conversed and shared ideas on a much broader geographic level. It is less surprising, then, though no less enchanting, when one encounters a "jewel box" bank by Chicago architect Louis Sullivan on a main street in the heart of Iowa.

*American Legislative Leaders in the Midwest, 1911-1994*, edited by Nancy Weatherly Sharp and James Roger Sharp. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1997. xiii, 358 pp. Tables, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. \$99.50 cloth.

REVIEWED BY JAMES E. MCMILLAN, CENTRAL COLLEGE

*American Legislative Leaders in the Midwest* is one of four regional volumes delineating the speakers of the house (or lower legislative branch)

throughout the twelve-state region encompassing Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, and North and South Dakota. The basic premise of its editors is that scholars have slighted state legislatures and their membership patterns, especially their leadership. As an outside scholar is quoted, "the skills, attitudes, and goals of legislators are the product of their total life experience. This knowledge about who legislators are and how they got to be there should contribute to a better understanding of legislative behavior and institutions" (13). An underlying implication is that while state legislatures may have been unresponsive to twentieth-century problems, historians, too, have been remiss in neglecting this institutional source, usually in favor of national politics.

The major value of this compendium is in amassing a large body of raw data, much of which is summed up in a lengthy introductory essay that also incorporates statistical information from the nation's other three regions. This data is also interpreted for three political eras: 1911–1932, 1933–1964, and 1964–1990. The first was marked by Republican hegemony, the second and third by Democratic dominance; the third was also characterized by court-ordered redistricting throughout the states. Thus, table 1 includes eight separate charts showing party affiliation from several angles: year (era), region, era and region, and by era and state. Other tables indicate age, gender, and race characteristics, religious affiliation, education levels, occupation prior to speakership, highest military rank, marital status, public offices held prior to speakership, years served as speaker, reasons for leaving the legislature, and offices after the speakership. Except for highlighting the decline in turnover in state houses and the trend toward professionalization and career-oriented public service, the editors draw few conclusions; these are left to the researcher for whom the volume is intended.

The biographical sketches of the 1,466 leaders are necessarily brief and reveal little but the most basic information. There is, as intended, a dearth of analysis. At most the reader will learn, for example, that Joseph H. Anderson of Iowa "was considered impartial although he strongly supported progressive causes"; at the least, and most frequently, the sketches read like an obituary. Too, some material for the sketches is inconsistent. A few are enhanced by directing users to additional information; some have minimal citations, and probably half have none.

The biographical sketches are arranged alphabetically. In this case, one might prefer to have them grouped by state to make it possible to see developing trends and changes without constantly turning back and forth to the appendix, where the speakers are listed by state.

Iowa's 33 speakers, for example, could probably be represented in 10 to 12 contiguous pages, which would readily allow users to see comparisons or continuums.

Trends can be discerned by using the several concluding appendixes, which largely reflect the opening tables. Even there, however, the lists are alphabetized. Nowhere in the volume can the reader spread full state information right out on the table for quick examination. This must be extracted from the various individual tables, appendixes, and biographical sketches throughout the book. The appendixes do provide a valuable summary and cover party and home county, years of speakership, and legislative pathways to and from the speakership, gender-race-birth-death information, education, religious-military-marital background, occupations, voluntary organizations, and public offices before and after speakership. In other words, the appendixes chart all of the essential information in the biographical sketches in list form, but without a consolidated approach to all the information from one state in one place. This structural flaw is the essential drawback of the volume.

*Legislative Leaders of the Midwest* is a hands-on tool whose value will be determined by its future use by researchers of state politics, the volume's specifically intended audience.

*Wisconsin's Past and Present: A Historical Atlas*, by The Wisconsin Cartographers' Guild. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1998. xv, 123 pp. Illustrations, maps, charts, graphs, bibliography, index. \$39.95 cloth.

*The Atlas of Ethnic Diversity in Wisconsin*, by Kazimierz J. Zaniewski and Carol J. Rosen. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1999. xvii, 235 pp. Illustrations, maps, charts, graphs, bibliography, index. \$65.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY JOHN D. BUENKER, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PARKSIDE

In his foreword to *Wisconsin's Past and Present*, historian William Cronon avers that a good historical atlas must not only "reveal the complex spatial and environmental relationships people have with each other and with the land," but also suggest "the intricate and often surprising evolution of those relationships over time" (xi). Despite significant differences in purpose, subject matter, and organizational design, both of these superb reference works effectively capture the synergistic interaction among people, place, and time in everything from ethnic population concentration to employment structure, and from encounters

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