

Landmarks on the Iron Road: Two Centuries of North American Railroad Engineering, by William D. Middleton. Railroads Past and Present Series. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1999. x, 194 pp. 240 black-and-white photographs, bibliography, index. \$39.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY DENNIS C. HENRY, GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

Civil engineer and railroad historian William D. Middleton has been writing professionally and with distinction in both fields for nearly a half-century. In *Landmarks on the Iron Road* he presents condensed stories of many of the most significant and dramatic construction projects undertaken by North American railroads. In five chapters he documents 21 bridges and viaducts, 8 mountain crossings, 10 tunnels, 7 yards, docks, and terminals, and 5 "lost landmark" viaducts and bridges. Iowa was reached by 2 from this last category: the Milwaukee Road's pontoon bridge at Marquette, and the Rock Island's original series of problem-plagued spans across the Mississippi.

Many of these productive monuments will be familiar to students of the railroad industry or of specific regions. The 29 engineers who conceived, designed, and pushed through these works are less well known, so Middleton's vignettes of them are particularly interesting. The text is supported by a compact bibliography of relevant, if mostly out-of-print, books and articles, not including Middleton's own previous writings on some of these subjects. The photographs and illustrations wonderfully complement the stories, and are uniformly reproduced with excellence. The graphics are well scaled to their relative importance and content. Middleton's *Landmarks of the Iron Road* is a masterful and handsome documentation of an awe-inspiring part of North American history.

Public Sculpture in Wisconsin: An Atlas of Outdoor Monuments, Memorials, and Masterpieces in the Badger State, by Anton Rajer and Christine Style. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1999. 156 pp. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, indexes. \$27.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY GREG OLSON, MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES

In 1991 the State Historical Society of Wisconsin collaborated with Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOS!), a national project of Heritage Preservation Inc. and the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American Art, in an effort to locate and document all public sculptures in the Badger State. Nine years later, SOS! Wisconsin has published

this comprehensive guidebook to the more than 700 sculptures documented to date.

The authors have divided the state into six geographic regions and listed each work of public art by the town in which it is located. Maps show the location of each town featured in the inventory. Black-and-white photographs of most of the sculptures are included. Brief narratives on such wide-ranging genres as Civil War monuments, effigy burial mounds, chainsaw art, and grottoes set Wisconsin's works of public art in a historical context. Rajer and Style provide many related items of interest, including a step-by-step description of the recent restoration of Daniel Chester French's allegorical sculpture, *Wisconsin*, created in 1913 for the State Capitol dome in Madison; and the story of Helen Farnsworth Mears, the sculptor state officials removed from the Capitol project so that they could award the commission to French. There are even guidelines for those who are planning to commission a piece of public art.

A guidebook that lovers of history, art, and kitsch might use to plan a weekend tour, *Public Sculpture in Wisconsin* is also a concise history of the tradition of commemorative sculpture. Many of the genres included in this survey, especially those of burial mounds and grottoes, are especially relevant to the topic of public art in Iowa.

Música de la Raza: Mexican and Chicano Music in Minnesota, CD compiled and booklet written by Maya López-Santamaría. Minnesota Musical Tradition Series. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1999. 76 pp. 22 photographs, endnotes, glossary. \$16.95.

REVIEWED BY BRENDA M. ROMERO, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER

This CD contains 19 performances, including two religious genres and an impressive range of secular genres, by musicians responsible for establishing a Mexican music culture in Minnesota since the 1920s. The booklet's vivid historical accounts, enhanced by rare photographs and a section dedicated to defining the genres, reveal the compiler's intimate connections with the people and their music. She briefly discusses migrant music in rural Minnesota, then takes us to St. Paul's West Side, historically "the heart of the Mexican community in Minnesota" (23), and beyond. The concluding section includes notes about each recording and its place in "Minnesotano" musical history. Both the research and the recordings (some home or field recorded) are of a high caliber.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.