

THE ANNALS OF IOWA

A Bibliographical Guide to Midwestern Literature, edited by Gerald Nemanic. (Iowa City: The University of Iowa Press, 1981. pp. 380, introduction, appendixes, \$28.50 cloth.)

Gerald C. Nemanic is on the faculty at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. Together with some one hundred other literary scholars, he has produced an excellent bibliographical work. The title is a bit misleading because it is more than a guide to midwestern literature. Also included are other cultural topics: history and society, folklore, personal narratives, architecture and graphics, and Indians. In addition to the topical bibliographies, the editor has included biographical sketches and selected bibliographies for 120 midwestern authors. Included are materials (primarily book length works, but some articles) published to 1976. The author biographical sketches and bibliographies are compiled by leading literary scholars. "Midwest" is defined to include the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin and parts of Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. "Midwestern author" is based on criteria not of birth nor place of residence, but rather the nature of the author's work and the quality of the work (as judged by the editor). The work must be literary and must reflect the culture of the region. Technical subjects and works aimed at juvenile audiences are excluded. Students of midwestern culture will profit from this excellent work. The University of Iowa Press can be proud of this timely volume.

Outstanding Iowa Women: Past and Present by Ethel W. Hanft and Paula J. Manley. (Muscatine, Iowa: River Bend Publishing, 1980, pp. 135, photographs, bibliography, no price listed.)

The authors, a newspaper columnist and a free-lance writer, have provided a compact work containing brief biographical sketches of thirty-three noteworthy Iowa women. Included are such figures as Amelia Bloomer, Carrie Chapman Catt, Dorothy Houghton, Ann Landers, Ruth Buxton Sayre, Jessie Field Shambaugh, and Annie Wittenmyer. The authors admit that many worthy Iowa women could not be included. An added feature are the numerous photographs of the women and a handy bibliography. The work is a credit to the authors and one only hopes that a sequel volume will be forthcoming to include all of those who could not be included in this present work.

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