

THE ANNALS OF IOWA

A *Bibliography of Iowa Newspapers, 1836-1976*, compiled by the Iowa Pilot Project of the United States Newspaper Project. Iowa City: Iowa State Historical Society, 1979. pp. viii, 371. Key to holding institutions. \$8.00 paper.

Libraries, historical societies, and innumerable individual researchers—academic and otherwise—will be pleased to see this volume. It is the product of a project begun in 1976 which was aimed at updating an old standard, Gregory's *American Newspapers*. Under the auspices of the Organization of American Historians and the Library of Congress, with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the state of Iowa, the Iowa State Historical Society undertook to provide the model for an envisioned national newspaper bibliographic program.

The staff of the Iowa project, under the direction of Alan Schroder, has done a good job of collecting and compiling; the Iowa society and its cooperating agencies have made a solid contribution to the country's reference shelves. There are some 6,500 title entries, listed by place of publication and giving all the factual information of value, including name changes—often a problem for researchers. Holding institutions, availability on microfilm, and frequency of publication are among the other facts provided. Approximately seven hundred repositories are included in the compilation.

There is not much to review, in the usual sense, when one considers a publication like this. But the introductory material is sufficient and clear and the entries themselves are detailed enough to satisfy the researcher. The printing, done from computerized information, leaves something to be desired on some pages because of its faintness. Some kind of running head (or title line) indicating where the user is in the alphabetical arrangement of towns would be most helpful.

One may imagine how wonderful it would be to have such a bibliography for each of the states but, for now, we will have to be content with Iowa. We can, however, be grateful that the pilot project turned out so well.

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