

occupation and removal and continuing through four more sections covering the nineteenth century, early twentieth century, pre-World War II, and the recent past. Early selections cover such key topics as the Civil War, the arrival of the railroad, and woman suffrage. Many other entries are devoted to curiosities, the sensational, and events from the police blotter—stories intended to enrich and enliven our awareness of the past. The stories, which range from approximately one-half to five pages, are told in a breezy, readable style, and the interested reader can dip into the pages at will and come up with a story. There are no footnotes, and the discussion of sources is limited.

The stories dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth century will generally be familiar to students of Des Moines and Iowa history. The stories of more recent vintage are typically less well known. With the relative paucity of historical accounts after the last comprehensive Polk County history was published in 1911, these stories are a welcome addition. It is therefore all the more disappointing that specific sources for specific stories are lacking. Although many were likely products of oral histories, Mills also clearly used newspaper accounts; even the year when some of the stories took place would have helped those interested in knowing more. A particularly fine feature of the book is the use of drawings by *Des Moines Register* cartoonist Frank Miller as well as historic photographs. Unlike all too many books dealing with history, this one makes judicious use of the illustrations. They actually illustrate the topics under discussion, rather than having been included as an afterthought. It is surprising that sources are not given for all of the photographs and that their captions are often less than enlightening. Although some might quibble about the number of stories related to prostitution, breast size, and nude dancing, the casual reader will find much that is entertaining and generally informative.

*Political Science at the University of Iowa (1859-1986): Its Association with the State Historical Society of Iowa*, by Russell M. Ross. Iowa City: State Historical Society, Inc., 1990. 84 pp.

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The history of the University of Iowa's department of political science as it is described in this work might best be summarized as two eras sandwiched between two periods. In its first, preprofessional period, in the years before 1900, it was shepherded by J. L. Pickard and Isaac A. Loos as part of a very small department that encompassed all the

social sciences as they were then defined. The department's first era began in 1900, when Benjamin F. Shambaugh was made its head, an indefinite appointment that he held until his death in 1940. Shambaugh employed an iron-handed approach to curriculum decisions and faculty appointments and promotions in order to mold the department to fit his interest in state and local history and government. Because he was also the superintendent and editor of the State Historical Society of Iowa beginning in 1907, Shambaugh was able to merge the functions of the department and the society, with the department supplying manuscripts for the society's books and journals and the personnel for many of its staff positions as well. After Shambaugh's death, Kirk H. Porter initiated the department's second era. Porter expanded the department's hiring policy beyond University of Iowa Ph.D.s (Shambaugh's preference) and broadened its fields of interest, but he ruled as single-handedly as had his predecessor. When Porter died in 1959, the departmental faculty sought and obtained a three-year limit on the term of the new position of chairman, and observed a tacit agreement that chairmen would be limited to a single term. This change meant that no individual could herd the department down a single unified but narrow path, as both Shambaugh and Porter had done. Instead, broader faculty control over hiring and curriculum decisions produced a much more diversified department. The chairman period saw the founding of the Laboratory for Political Research and its Social Science Data Archives, the Comparative Legislative Research Center and its journal, the *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, and a master's program in municipal administration.

Ross's coverage of the department's history is uneven. For the century prior to 1960, Ross's work is essentially a chronicle of faculty appointments, with brief discussions of policy. The years since 1960 are treated in much greater detail even though they are not necessarily more significant for the department's overall history nor did they necessarily constitute a period of greater innovation or activity. In addition, given the limited size of the publication, an inordinate amount of space is devoted to lists of faculty and students and their origins and accomplishments. Perhaps these lists will provide some of the raw data for a future, more balanced history of the department.

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