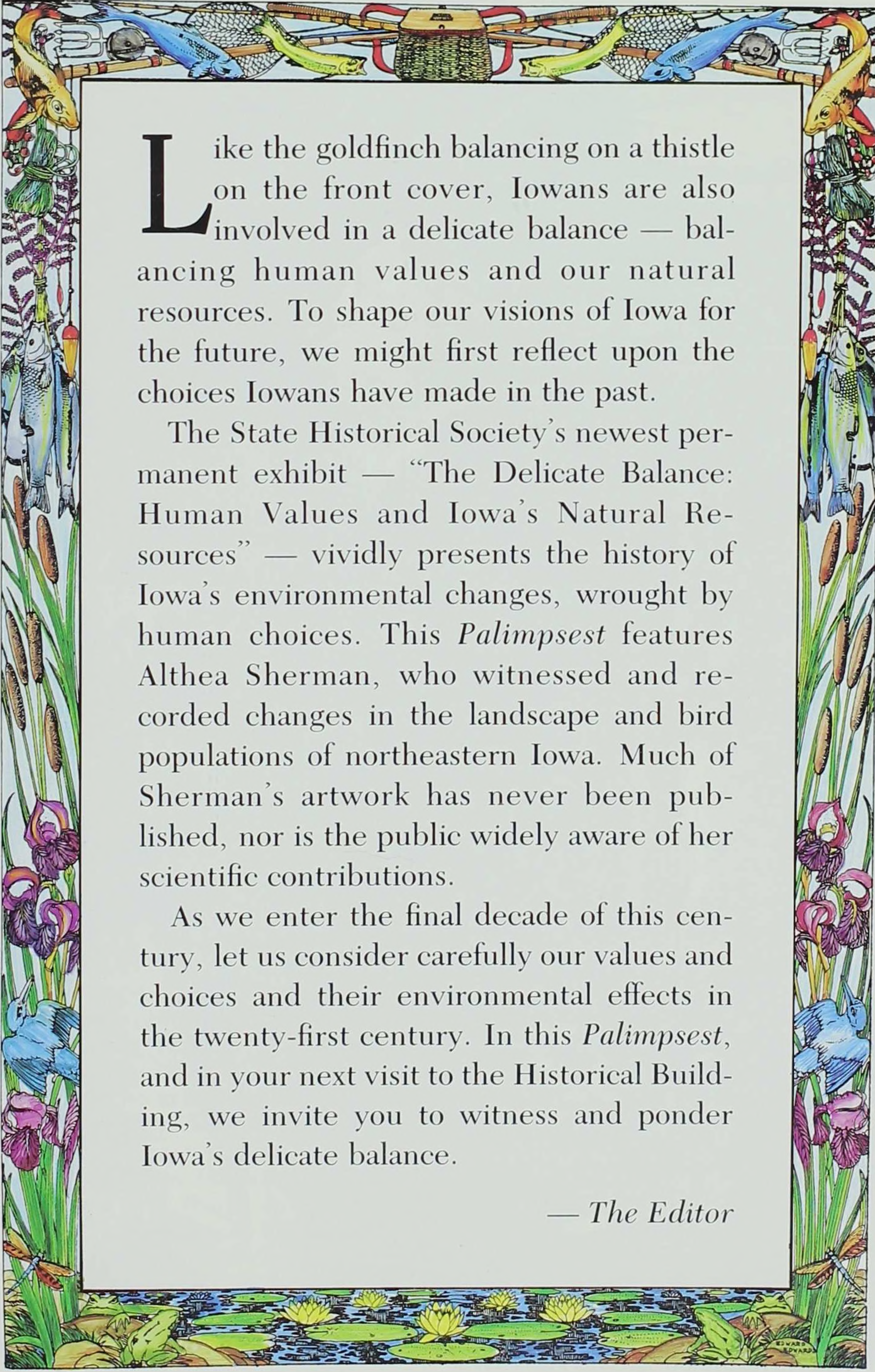


Witness
the
Delicate
Balance



Like the goldfinch balancing on a thistle on the front cover, Iowans are also involved in a delicate balance — balancing human values and our natural resources. To shape our visions of Iowa for the future, we might first reflect upon the choices Iowans have made in the past.

The State Historical Society's newest permanent exhibit — "The Delicate Balance: Human Values and Iowa's Natural Resources" — vividly presents the history of Iowa's environmental changes, wrought by human choices. This *Palimpsest* features Althea Sherman, who witnessed and recorded changes in the landscape and bird populations of northeastern Iowa. Much of Sherman's artwork has never been published, nor is the public widely aware of her scientific contributions.

As we enter the final decade of this century, let us consider carefully our values and choices and their environmental effects in the twenty-first century. In this *Palimpsest*, and in your next visit to the Historical Building, we invite you to witness and ponder Iowa's delicate balance.

— *The Editor*