

## Landmarks on the Iron Road: Two Centuries of North American Railroad Engineering

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*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

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