New on the Shelves

“New on the Shelves” is a list of recent additions to the collections of the State Historical Society of Iowa. It includes manuscripts, audio-visual materials, and published materials recently acquired or newly processed that we think might be of interest to the readers of the *Annals of Iowa*. The “DM” or “IC” at the end of each entry denotes whether the item is held in Des Moines or Iowa City.

**Manuscripts and Records**

Gilbert, George Wallace. Papers, 1877–1945. 53 vols. Diaries and memoranda books maintained by Gilbert, who was engaged in the printing business in Iowa, first with the Hawkeye Printing Co. (Burlington), then the Marshall Printing Co. (Marshalltown), of which he assumed ownership in 1895. DM.

Grett, Gerald L. Papers, 1942–1943. ¼ ft. World War II letters of this Iowan who served with the 44th Bombardment Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps’ 67th Bomber Squadron. Most of the letters were written during his training as a bomber mechanic. Staff Sergeant Grett died in August 1943 when his B-24 bomber crashed during a mission to destroy Romanian old fields. His correspondence is accompanied by several letters his mother received from military associates after his death. DM.

KRNT Theater (Des Moines). Records, 1950s–1972. 4½ ft. Administrative records and ephemera acquired by Gerald E. Bloomquist, general manager of this entertainment venue from 1961 until its closing in 1972. Collection contains marketing materials, promotional literature from booking agencies, procedures manuals, and ephemera related to musical, dance, and dramatic performances staged at the theater. DM.

Mitchell, George Washington. Diary, 1863–1864. Civil War diary kept by this soldier while serving in Company A of the 12th Iowa Volunteer Infantry. DM.

Pearson Family (Alfred J. Pearson). Papers, 1893–1939. 4 ft. Diaries, correspondence, articles, scrapbooks, ephemera, and photographs of the family of Dr. Alfred J. Pearson, professor and dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Drake University (1907–1939), and U.S. Minister to Poland (1924–1925) and Finland (1925–1930). Materials of special interest include letters written by Dr. Pearson during his diplomatic assignments, a diary he maintained while minister to Poland, correspondence and diaries of his daughter Elaine, who accompanied him during segments of his time abroad, and clippings from several international newspapers carrying his account of an interview he conducted with Adolf Hitler in 1934, just days after the infamous “Night of the Long Knives.” DM.
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Polk County Historical Society (Des Moines, Iowa). Records, 1968–2006. ½ ft. Addition to records of this organization, including minutes, project files, and reports. DM.

Sackett, Alexander Thomas. Papers, 1863–1864. Civil War letters of this Eddyville resident who served in Company B of the 8th Iowa Cavalry. Sackett perished in a fire on board the transport steamer General Lyon shortly after his release from a Confederate prison. DM.


Thomason, Rev. Frazer and Loris. Papers, 1964. ½ ft. Reports, photographs, and newsletters documenting the civil rights work of this Des Moines couple who spent the summer of 1964 in Clarksdale, Mississippi, where Rev. Thomason assisted with an African American voter registration program and Loris volunteered at the local “Freedom School.” DM.

Audio-Visual Materials

Iowa Legislative Ladies’ League. Photograph, 1947. Composite portraits of members of this organization for the 52nd General Assembly. DM.

Iowa Postcards. Ca. 1910. 54 photographic and lithographic postcards showing views of Adel, Algona, Armstrong, Bancroft, Burlington, Decorah, Des Moines, Early, Fort Madison, Guthrie Center, Indianola, Iowa Falls, Keokuk, Lansing, Menlo, Nora Springs, Red Oak, Sioux City, Spirit Lake, and Ute. DM.

Pollock, Reva. Photographs, 1920–1921. Photo album compiled by a teacher at the Morley Consolidated School, including views of local residents, buildings, and school activities. DM.


Published Materials


“Are Philosophers and Fools Forcing Us Back to Barbarism?” by F. I. Herriott. Paper read at the Prairie Club of Des Moines, October 3, 1936. 24 pp. DM.


The Botany of Shakespeare, by Thomas H. Macbride. Davenport: Contemporary Club, 1899. 18 pp. DM.


Childhood on the Farm, by George Kisner. [Wellman, 2006?]. 70 pp. DM, IC.


Early Social and Religious Experiments in Iowa, by Dwight G. McCarty. Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1902. 31 pp. Reprinted from the Iowa Historical Record for the National Society of Colonial Dames in Iowa. DM, IC.


Extracts of School Laws as Amended by the Thirty-Fifth General Assembly. Des Moines: Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1913. 29 pp. DM.


Hydrogeology of Pre-Illinoian Till at the I380 Rest Stop Site, Linn County, Iowa, by Keith Scilling and Stephanie Tassier-Surine. [Des Moines]: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 2006. viii, 53 pp. IC.


Iowa, by Ann Heinrichs. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2004. 48 pp. Book for young people in the This Land Is Your Land Series that describes the geography, history, government, people, culture, and attractions of Iowa. IC.


Joint Session of the 57th General Assembly of the State of Iowa to Observe the Centennial of the Constitution of 1857, House Chamber, State House, Des Moines, Thursday, March 14, 1957, 11 A.M. [Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1957?]. 24 pp. DM, IC.

Karl Lawrence King, composer and conductor, Karl L. King Municipal Band from January 1921 to March 1971. [Fort Dodge?: Rotary Club?, 2006.] 7 pp. Program accompanying dedication of Karl King sculpture in Fort Dodge, 10/22/2006. IC.


A List of Books Recommended for a Children’s Library, compiled for the Iowa Library Commission by Annie Carroll Moore. Des Moines, 1903. 21 pp. DM, IC.
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Midwestern Unlike You and Me: New Zealand’s Julian Dashper, by Christopher Cook and David Raskin. Sioux City: Sioux City Art Center, 2005. Art exhibition catalog. IC.


Numbers in a Row: An Iowa Number Book, by Patricia A. Pierce. Chelsea, MI: Sleeping Bear Press, 2006. [38] pp. Iowa’s history, inventors, industry, livestock, etc. introduced using rhymes and numbers. IC.


Television in American Society, by Laurie Collier Hillstrom. 4 vols. Detroit: UXL, 2006. IC.


Tomás and the Library Lady, by Pat Mora; illustrated by Raúl Colón. New York: Knopf, 1997. 30 pp. Juvenile fiction set among migrant laborers in Iowa, inspired by the real life story of Tomás Rivera, who became chancellor of the University of California at Riverside. IC.


Two Rivers Flowing: Recent Archaeology in Downtown Des Moines, Iowa, by Richard Dressler. N.p., [2005]. 29 pp. DM.


Writing the Trail: Five Women’s Frontier Narratives, by Deborah Lawrence. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2006. 158 pp. DM, IC.