The Building of Galena: An Architectural Legacy

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.8832

Hosted by Iowa Research Online
American fiction. Anyone with an interest in American literary regionalism and the University of Iowa will find this book intriguing and rewarding.


The compiler of this book is coordinator for the Czech Village in Cedar Rapids. The book contains 115 Czech recipes from eastern Iowa and elsewhere in the nation. But the book also is composed of historical sketches of the cultural life of the Czech people, including the American poet, Paul Engle who relates the importance of the poppy seed kolache and Elsie Chadima who tells about the visit of the famous composer Dvorak to her father's farm in Spillville. The photographs (some in color) were taken by Joan Liffring-Zug of Iowa City. A very interesting book to be enjoyed by all kolache lovers and Czech buffs.


Charles B. Hosmer, Jr., professor of history at Principia College, analyzes the changing national priorities that affect preservation of historic buildings and sites from the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg through the creation of the National Trust. During this time the emphasis in preservation shifted from volunteer efforts to save individual buildings to involvement by professionals on a large scale. The book takes a look at the fascinating behind-the-scenes work of such benefactors as John D. Rockefeller, Jr.; Henry Ford; and Henry Francis du Pont. The author has carefully combed through letters, minutes, reports and manuscripts throughout the U.S. and has combined these with oral history interviews and 225 illustrations to produce a two-volume work which few historians and certainly nobody interested in historic preservation can neglect.


The author, an artist, has described the architectural heritage of Galena in this scrupulously researched and impressively illustrated
book. Galena was a very prosperous trade center in the Upper Mississippi region—the scene of lead mines, steamboat commerce, and traders from the 1820s through the mid 1850s. The Panic of 1857 put a temporary stop in this growth, but after the Civil War the town regained some of its previous affluence and new buildings joined the old ones to make the town one of distinction and beauty. To this very day Galena is admired by thousands of people who tour the historic region each year. The book is enhanced by fifteen original watercolors from the collection of Alfred Mueller and is one that those who have ever toured the town will want on their library shelves.


Although only a pamphlet, this work contains much new data on the Chippewa, Winnebago, Potawatomi, Oneida, Menominee, and Stockbridge groups. The author, a well-known anthropologist and ethnohistorian, gives a vivid account of the struggle of these Indians to preserve their land base and their continued effort to maintain their own cultural identity.


One of the oldest historical societies, the Indiana Historical Society is the envy of most historical agencies with its 23.6 million-dollar endowment from the Eli Lilly Foundation. The founder, John Hay Farnham, was a well-known crusader for public schools, prohibition, and women's rights. Unlike the midwestern pattern in which historical societies blend public and some private support into one institution and centralize their state historical programs, Indiana diverged by dividing its historical endeavors among three agencies and limited its program commitment to a research library, publications, and archaeological studies. This handsome book is one which all state historical societies should strive to emulate. A "must" for anyone working with historical programs in any state.

—MDG