

special qualities. Unruffled, generally conservative (even those who consider themselves liberal), reflective, and wary, Hoosiers have demonstrated a stability and maturity which is likely to endure. Although his synthesis of the state's historical development is disappointing, Peckham is to be congratulated upon his analysis of the Hoosier character.

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The Postal History of Indiana. By J. David Baker. 2 volumes. (Louisville: Leonard H. Hartmann, Philatelic Bibliopole, 1976. Pp. x, vi, 1061. Maps, illustrations, tables, bibliography. \$75.00.)

"The United States postal system . . . can be easily characterized by a continuous reduction of postal rates and a continuous increase in services" (II, 861). This statement might be challenged by many citizens today, but no one has more right to say it than J. David Baker. In *The Postal History of Indiana*, in fact, the statement is thoroughly demonstrated with the specific history of Indiana set in the context of national developments. This massive work is a potpourri of history and philately, of mundane and fascinating narrative, of extremely interesting illustrative materials, and of tabulations which make the work a valuable research tool.

Volume I begins with a chronological development of the area from pre-Indiana Territory through statehood. Do not read this narrative for its historical expertise; it is choppy, sources are not given, and quotation marks are often baffling. Actual historical errors are generally quite obvious; the *postal* history, which must be considered definitive, is the focal point of the work and must be judged apart from the general historical survey. These historical chapters are extremely important, however, for their demonstration of two things: the crucial importance of the postal service in the development of the western settlements and the relationship of the postal service to the transportation history of the country. In the 1930s and 1940s, for example, the failure of the post office to help the financially troubled railroads assured the loss of local connections, "thereby effectively destroying the most efficient and expeditious postal distribution system this country has ever had" (II, 659). The move to the highways and the development of rural free delivery, following the earlier treatments of road development and stagecoaches, steamboats, and canals, provide

a complete overview of the Indiana postal service in the context of the growth of Indiana's transportation facilities. The chapters on Indianapolis provide a case history of the importance of the mails in a town's development. It is not surprising that one of the first considerations for residents of the new state capital in January, 1822, was the establishment of postal service. One of the most interesting historical chapters covers the mails in the Civil War and was written by Richard Graham. Considering how many Civil War letters are extant, especially in private hands, this section should be required reading for a great many people. Included also is Graham's edited version of the Indiana section of Frederick H. Dyer's *A Compendium of The War of the Rebellion* emphasizing locations of units.

Throughout the historical chapters and in separate sections are included the most complete listings, often illustrated, of Indiana postmarks and covers in existence. Postal markings and covers vary incredibly and are fascinating; manuscript, handstamped, machine cancels, counties, cities, steamboat routes, railroad routes, highway post offices, rural free delivery, stamps, illustrations, imprints, and services are some facets of the variety included. There is also an interesting section by Theodore Stevens on franks—a privilege easily illustrated today by the congressional newsletters which periodically appear in mailboxes in Indiana.

One extensive part of the history deserves particular notice—the listing of Indiana post offices and postmasters from 1800 through 1970. The immensity of the information is indicated by its format: the 1800-1880 listing occupies 170 printed pages; the 1890-1970 listing is included as a microfiche at the back of Volume II. The listing is arranged alphabetically by post office name and gives for each the county, date established, date closed, and chronological list of postmasters with dates of service. Changes in town names are also listed and cross referenced. This section has proved invaluable and highly reliable in research now being conducted on members of the Indiana General Assembly.

Much of the material in these two volumes may attract the interest of no one except philatelists, but that would be unfortunate. Local and regional historians could learn a lot about an area's growth and development by sorting through the information and illustrations contained in this postal history. Baker, as well as his contributors and collaborators, deserves much credit for compiling these materials and for making them available. At the risk of sounding trite, this set ought to be in

every major library in Indiana, and it should be consulted at least by a wide variety of researchers into Indiana historical topics.

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Indiana University: Midwestern Pioneer. Volume IV, Historical Documents Since 1816. By Thomas D. Clark. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1977. Pp. xii, 803. Tables, figures, index. \$15.00.)

There is little that is new under the academic sun. With the exception of developments that spring from technological change, few aspects of current university life represent a sharp break with the concerns and practices of the past. One need change only the vocabulary and mode of expression, and nearly every debate on contemporary campuses has had its counterpart in the past. It is this characteristic that gives the academician who reads the documents in this volume the feeling that he has heard it all before.

Readers familiar with Thomas D. Clark's fine narrative history of Indiana University will especially appreciate this collection of sources, for they add depth and specificity to the narrative account. Selections range from the constitutional origins of the State Seminary in 1816 to a 1968 message from Interim President Herman B Wells, who had just resumed presidential duties during a period of campus unrest. Characteristic of that period, Wells' address was a detailed refutation of charges leveled against Indiana University by various "radical" or disaffected groups. The talk ended with the hope that in the post-Vietnam War period the university would be "still invulnerable to the pressures that would erode its strength and violate its cherished principles: freedom to teach, to learn, to seek new knowledge and to serve society" (p. 787).

There is something in this collection for everyone interested in American higher education. Clark has arranged his material chronologically and has assembled documents covering a broad range of subjects. Each section of the book and each document is described in a brief, useful editorial comment. The result is a valuable reference work for members of the Indiana University community and for historians of higher education. All the usual themes are represented: try and find one that is not. A central thread is the continuing argument over the proper location of the institution. In the university's formative