

## Book Reviews

*"No Cheap Padding": Seventy-five Years of the Indiana Magazine of History, 1904-1979.* Compiled by Lorna Lutes Sylvester. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1980. Pp. xix, 558. Notes, tables, illustrations, maps, diagrams. \$14.50.)

In 1905 a hesitant editor began a new historical journal. Uncertain of his success, unsure of his finances, George S. Cottman paused only slightly, then pushed forward with resolution. The fruits of that labor and birth are presented in this book, a celebration of seventy-five successful years. It is a work that will delight and educate Hoosier and non-Hoosier alike.

As with most works of this genre, *"No Cheap Padding"* is a compilation of twenty-eight articles previously published in the *Indiana Magazine of History*. They have been reset, and in some instances reedited, for this volume. But if typical in those regards, the book is somewhat atypical in others. First of all, many such works are organized either by subject matter—politics, agriculture, and the like—or by chronology—the antebellum period, the "modern" era, etc. This book is arranged instead by date of original publication of the article (with one strange exception—the third article).

The reason for such an arrangement is evident when the second unusual feature of this book is noted. Unlike compilations that present themselves as the "best" articles from the various journals involved, *"No Cheap Padding,"* in Lorna Lutes Sylvester's words, includes selections "meant to be representative of the materials published in the magazine through the years" (p. xvii). In other words, this is more a historical sample of the journal and its contents, and less a piecemeal history of the state. Such an approach has both drawbacks and rewards, but, in this selection at least, the rewards dominate.

Indeed, Indiana history comes alive in this volume. Not only through the well-known historians—John D. Barnhart, Paul W. Gates, Kenneth M. Stampp, Donald F. Carmony, Robert W. Johannsen, Emma Lou Thornbrough, Reginald Horsman, Francis Paul Prucha, and others—but also through writings of lesser-known and, on occasion, almost forgotten authors. Their topics range widely, from flatboat building to fugitive slaves, from the Civil War to the 1916 Centennial, from Indians to immigrants. They include documents, one extended book review, articles on local history, studies of national scope, and reminiscences. In fact, of all the selections, my favor-

ite was the recollection of George W. Busbey, a retired army officer. His few lines, for example, about the numerous meetings, picnics, and reunions that so abounded in his youth include both wit and insight: "Upon these, a freeloader with a good memory of blood and marriage lines, a fluent line of flattery, and unlimited gall, could subsist all month without spending a cent or losing an ounce" (p. 435). Ah, for the good old days.

This, then, was—and is—the *Indiana Magazine of History*, as presented in this book. While a desperate editor has perhaps included some padding in his journal, overall the magazine has remained faithful to its 1905 promise that "There will be no space given to advertising 'write-ups,' and no cheap padding" (p. 2). In fact, it has gone far beyond that, for its six previous editors and present one have combined to make it today one of the most respected of state journals. This book serves as a proud tribute to that worthy heritage.

*Kentucky Historical Society,*  
*Frankfort*

James C. Klotter

*Local History Today: Papers Presented at Three 1979 Regional Workshops for Local Historical Organizations in Indiana.* By David J. Russo, Dorothy Weyer Creigh, Roger Fortin, John J. Newman, and Pamela J. Bennett. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1980. Pp. viii, 100. Notes, tables, appendix. Paperbound, \$1.50.)

The Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Historical Bureau co-sponsored regional workshops for historical societies and organizations in Indiana in two series, one in 1978-1979 and the second in 1979. The first volume of *Local History Today* was published by the Society in 1979 and contained papers presented at the four workshops in the first series. The second volume, under consideration here, contains papers presented at the three workshops in the second series (1979).

Both series were prompted by the sponsors' desire to help local organizations upgrade present programs in order to accomplish their common purpose, which is to study and promote local and community history. The workshops were a combination of lectures, slide presentations, and hands-on demonstrations, covering such topics as funding for local societies, conservation of museum artifacts and library materials, oral history, historic preservation, publications, operating a small museum, and several others. Each workshop contained a keynote address