

tered political coalitions, and the Great Depression affected political leadership. Even today, however, the state retains its basic political outlook and remains divided along the dimensions observed by Garreau.

An interesting feature of this study is Madison's inclusion of thumbnail biographies of individuals who have shaped Indiana's history. Especially valuable are his observations about Claude R. Wickard, Paul V. McNutt, and Dr. Ada Schweitzer, to name only a few. These individuals reacted to events and helped to shape the state's response to the twentieth century.

Indiana's history reflects the triumphs and tragedies in our recent history. During the 1930s and 1940s labor organizations and scientific agriculture in the state helped to usher in a rising standard of living. Political reorganization in the 1930s enabled the state to cope with a mass society. Even the tragedy of Ku Klux Klan activities of the 1920s gave way to subsequent improvement in race relations.

Finally, the Society should be congratulated on the desire to produce a well-turned-out book. The type face is clean, footnotes appear at the bottom of the page, the bibliographical essay will be useful to students of the state's history for many years to come, and the index is carefully prepared. This effort has enhanced the author's purpose to focus on the relationship of Indiana to the rest of the nation.

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Their Infinite Variety: Essays on Indiana Politicians. Indiana Historical Collections, Volume LIII. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1981. Pp. viii, 488. Illustrations, notes, bibliographic essays, index. Clothbound, \$25.00; paperbound, \$16.00.)

Their Infinite Variety is a companion volume to *Gentlemen from Indiana: National Party Candidates, 1836-1940*, edited by Ralph D. Gray in 1977 and reviewed in this journal by Holman Hamilton (June, 1978, pp. 157-58). Like the earlier volume in the Indiana Historical Bureau's ambitious series, this book is composed of twelve essays, in this instance spotlighting "a variety of Hoosier politicians, from the famous to the relatively unknown" (p. v). Spanning the period from William Hendricks and early statehood to Charles Marion LaFollette in World War II and the early Cold War, these essays reassess the role of Hoosier politicians within biographic contexts. Lorna Lutes

Sylvester limits her careful examination of Oliver P. Morton more narrowly to his extraordinary direction of Indiana finances, 1863-1865, while Philip R. VanderMeer, through the use of collective biography, departs more substantially from the typical format of the essays in his analysis of speakers of the Indiana House of Representatives, 1896-1920. A number of pieces are based on recent dissertations from Indiana University; all reflect the most recent scholarship on their topics.

Readers will naturally respond differently to the selection of subjects and the coverage of each. This reviewer was most fascinated by Charles W. Calhoun's masterful treatment of Walter Q. Gresham as a Republican "Jeremiah" torn by contradictions and quixotic drives and by Ernest C. Bolt, Jr.'s discussion of Louis L. Ludlow, who can now be understood as a more sympathetic figure than the stereotypical isolationist and peace advocate of war referendum reputation. In addition to LaFollette and Ludlow, coverage of Will H. Hays brings to three the number of twentieth-century figures examined; Henry Smith Lane, Jesse David Bright, Lew Wallace, James "Blue Jeans" Williams, and John W. Foster round out the nineteenth-century Hoosier politicians. The collection is especially strong in covering the turbulent 1850s and 1860s as well as demonstrating the personal pettiness and political maneuvering that cut across the generations.

Whether *Their Infinite Variety* comes close to an adequate title or a conceptual means of unifying this collection is doubtful. All of the subjects are white men of greater education and wealth than their peers and with moderate electoral or appointive successes; nearly all were fiscal conservatives. The contradiction between the title and the actual coverage points out the urgent need for accelerated study of women and ethnic politicians in Hoosierland along with radicals, failures, and those whose faces were more likely to grace post office walls than postage stamps. Within the context of this book, one especially wishes to know more from Sylvester of Morton's post-war state and national role; conversely, Lew Wallace may not warrant as full a coverage as he receives, and "Blue Jeans" Williams does not become as politically believable as he certainly must have been. More serious is the felt need for an ample introduction or afterword to provide more focus and synthesis to the various parts of this volume. In fact, it is not clear how this book came together, as no editor seems to claim responsibility for it. So much is the pity, for other aspects of the editing and production are excellent: there are no typographical

errors, the index is sufficient, the binding and typography are handsome, and the footnotes and bibliographic essays are a guided tour through the current source materials of Indiana political history.

Aficionados of Indiana history or political biography will devour this book from cover to cover; for others it will serve as reserved reading to supplement textbooks in Indiana history courses or as a useful library reference work.

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Water Runs Downhill: A History of the Indianapolis Water Company and Other Centenarians. By Marjie Gates Giffin. (Indianapolis: Privately printed, 1981. Pp. 251. Illustrations, bibliography, index. Clothbound, \$9.95; paperbound, \$5.95.)

A good history of the Indianapolis Water Company would be extremely valuable to students of the city's past. Little now exists on the subject, and what does is scattered, fragmentary, and dated. Such a pioneering work would require the labor of several years. *Water Runs Downhill* is not that work. Most of the familiar histories of Indianapolis appear in the bibliography, along with newspaper items, magazine articles, a few company pamphlets, and numerous interviews with past and present employees. Research for this book thus entailed no small effort, but the result, nonetheless, is not serious history. There are no maps or charts or footnotes. The photographs are often pointless. The number of employees at any time in the company's history is never stated, nor is the company the true spine of the book. Rather, the narrative follows the lives of the managers and owners with the emphasis as much on their careers outside as within the firm.

The writer, the wife of the company's director of governmental affairs, was assured that the project was "not intended as a routine exercise in corporate goodwill," and she asserts that the book stands as a "candid account" (p. 5). In the Preface, the chairman of the board expresses the hope that although "judgments tend to be less critical of the living," the reader "will not misinterpret . . . favorable comments" about company officials (p. 3). Here the board chairman is the better guide, for the work is a litany of all that is of good report of company officials since its founding. This is not always easy: