

Book Reviews

Indiana Newspaper Bibliography: Historical Accounts of All Indiana Newspapers Published from 1804 to 1980 and Locational Information for All Available Copies, Both Original and Microfilm. By John W. Miller. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1982. Pp. xix, 538. Map, bibliographical essay, index of editors and publishers. \$25.00.)

Indiana Newspaper Bibliography is a significant contribution to historical scholarship. A bibliography of Hoosier newspapers from the time Elihu Stout commenced the *Indiana Gazette* at Vincennes in 1804, as the state's initial paper, to 1980, the volume includes about eight thousand titles. To the extent that information was found, data are given concerning variations in titles, mergers, political or other affiliations, and names of editors and publishers. The bibliography also notes where newspapers were published and when they began and ended. Especially helpful to researchers are the listings of newspaper holdings in numerous depositories within Indiana and selected ones elsewhere. This reviewer has already found these listings useful even in locating particular issues of newspapers.

Much labor over several years was required to compile this comprehensive bibliography. John W. Miller, whose doctoral thesis at Purdue University concerned "The Pioneer Newspapers of Indiana, 1804-1850," was appropriately chosen to head the project. As Miller notes in the preface, "this bibliography should encourage increased interest in Indiana newspapers"; promote the discovery of "'lost' issues of newspapers"; and stimulate additional preservation of newspaper files (p. vii). The information from which the bibliography was prepared has been recorded on computer tapes; hence, as more data are obtained, they "can easily be entered on the tapes, and updated printouts of holdings information can be produced quickly and inexpensively" (p. viii). Individuals having further information should share it with the Indiana Historical Society.

As the title suggests, *Indiana Newspaper Bibliography* is a *bibliography* and not a *history* of the Hoosier press. The compiler wisely forewarns that the "bibliography undoubtedly contains errors" It could not be otherwise because discrepancies "among sources are common"; however, an effort was made "to rely on actual copies of the newspapers for information, supplemented by the most reliable secondary sources available" (p. vii). Though indispensable as an aid to scholarly

studies of the Hoosier press, additional research in actual newspaper files remains a prerequisite for such studies. Commendation is due Miller and the Indiana Historical Society for this welcome publication, but acknowledgment is also due the late Eli Lilly, whose foresight and benevolence made its compilation and publication possible. If his benevolence is used with a devotion and wisdom even approximating that which he exhibited regarding historical study, his unusually important contributions will be enlarged from decade to decade.

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Beyond Graustark: George Barr McCutcheon, Playwright Discovered. A.L. Lazarus and Victor H. Jones. (Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat Press, 1981. Pp. xvi, 187. Illustrations, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$15.00.)

Author George Barr McCutcheon is best known for his fiction. His novels, for the most part written in the genre of romantic realism, sold in the millions. Particularly popular was his Graustark series, which chronicled life in a mythical Balkan country. McCutcheon's output was tremendous—he wrote a total of more than forty novels—and his readership was varied. According to the *New York Times* (October 24, 1928, p. 24), "college boys, kitchen maids, and daughters of millionaires" found pleasure in his books.

In contrast to his popularity as a novelist was McCutcheon's reputation as a playwright. He published only two plays during his lifetime, each in limited editions of fewer than one hundred copies. While doing research on another subject A.L. Lazarus discovered a collection of McCutcheon's unpublished play manuscripts in the Purdue University Library. Other such manuscripts were located in the Beinecke Library at Yale University and in the New York Public Library. *Beyond Graustark* includes a synopsis and discussion of each of these plays; the authors' main purpose, however, was to evaluate McCutcheon's work as a playwright. The book is also a biographical and literary study, in which the authors relate McCutcheon's life to his writing and evaluate his popularity as a novelist and his apparent failure as a dramatist. They indicate that writing plays was one of his top priorities and that his "heart and best work were in the theater, but the theater was not ready for him or his satires of Victorian mores" (p. xiv).

For the most part, McCutcheon's plays dealt with social issues such as activist feminism, unnecessary killing of wild