Book Reviews


Historians of Indiana or state legislatures will be pleased by the publication of this volume. The “Introduction” and “Key to Sources” reveal careful planning and prodigious research. The procedures for acquiring information and reconciling conflicting data are sound and improved over those in volume 1. (To confirm this impression of comprehensiveness and reliability, I compared my own, arduously collected data on Indiana legislators, 1900-1920, with data from this volume: in a few cases my collection was more complete, in slightly more instances the Directory was better, and in most cases our information was identical.) This work is also more useful than volume 1 especially concerning occupational data: both volumes list all the occupations a legislator ever held, but this volume indicates clearly an individual’s occupation at the time of legislative service.

Any data collection project faces hard choices about what information to seek and how to record it. The editors of this volume included demographic characteristics, economic and social interests, political activity, and military service; and most recording decisions were straightforward. However, some choices deserve comment. The only information about legislators’ parents is the vague category of “Ancestry.” Thus, any study of family influences on political careers will require additional research (aided, however, by good source references in the Directory). Involvement in political parties is sometimes mentioned, but since printed party records were not checked, the information is incomplete. One must be cautious, therefore, about using this volume to evaluate the importance of party involvement in political careers or to estimate the general significance of parties. Students of legislative turnover or political careers will be disappointed that although the Directory notes some electoral defeats, it omits the most important—those which terminated legislative service. The most questionable decision was to record memberships in voluntary associations without identifying when
they were acquired. Although determining this involves a painstak-
ing evaluation of sources, it is simply erroneous to assume that all memberships listed were held at the time of legislative
service. While still useful for end-of-career assessments, these
data are not reliable for evaluating legislative recruitment.

In the final analysis a directory is only as good as its basic
conception. This volume was designed to provide information
about the life experiences of legislators and, to a certain extent,
about their political careers. In this regard it is largely success-
ful although the editors could have taken a broader approach—
one more in keeping with the aims of the legislative history
project—that would also have advanced the study of legislative
activities and structures. If they had included information on
various leadership positions, committee service, and reasons for
leaving the legislature, this good reference work would have been
even better.

Arizona State University, Philip R. VanderMeer
Tempe

*Karl Bodmer's America.* Introduction by William H. Goetzman;
annotations by David C. Hunt and Marsha V. Gallagher;
artist's biography by William J. Orr. ([Lincoln]: Joslyn Art
Museum and University of Nebraska Press, 1984. Pp. viii,
376. Illustrations, maps, sources, notes. $65.00.)

“About 1834, a gentleman, Prince Maximilian, visited the
town. He had with him three or four scientific men. He traveled
under the name of Baron Brownsburg. While here he had a room
in the northwest corner of No. 2, on the second floor.” So wrote
Victor Colin Duclos of Maximilian's visit to New Harmony.¹ One
of the scientific men was the artist Karl Bodmer, the subject of
this volume.

An essay by William H. Goetzman on Maximilian's trip to
America and up the Missouri in 1832-1834 opens the book. This
is followed by David C. Hunt's and Marsha V. Gallagher's com-
ments on the paintings produced by Bodmer during this trip and
William J. Orr's sketch of Bodmer's life. Based primarily on
Maximilian's writings, these essays unfortunately emphasize
Maximilian's accomplishments over those of Bodmer. Such an

¹ Victor Colin Duclos, “Diary and Recollections of Victor Colin Duclos,” in
Harlow Lindley, ed., *Indiana As Seen by Early Travelers: A Collection of Re-
prints from Books of Travel, Letters and Diaries Prior to 1830* (Indiana Historical