

Around the Shores of Lake Michigan: A Guide to Historic Sites.

By Margaret Beattie Bogue. (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1985. Pp. xv, 382. Illustrations, maps, selected bibliography, index, removable map of highways and historic sites. Clothbound, \$35.00; paperbound, \$19.95.)

Having tested the waters of guidebook writing in *Around the Shores of Lake Superior* (1980), Margaret Beattie Bogue, who teaches history at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, turns her attention to the 1,660-mile shoreline and environs of Lake Michigan. Of the five Great Lakes only Lake Michigan lies totally in the United States. Compared to the other lakes it ranks second in length and depth and third in size and width. The Lake Michigan region, touching four states, is one of contrasts, from the heavily populated and industrialized southern quarter to the sparsely settled stretches of beach, flanked by national forests, in the northern section.

To this diverse landscape the author brings an exacting and critical historical perspective that ranks this work a cut above the usual tourist guide. The physiographic and historical setting is detailed in fifteen opening chapters, which comprise a quarter of the book. They cover such topics as the lake's origins and its exploration; the bitter and lengthy contests between nations for control of the area; the growth of timber, iron ore, and fish industries; and the evolution of settlements. Accompanying the survey of the region's rich heritage are copious illustrations including six maps that convey such useful information as the location of Indian tribes in 1600, the foreign-born population in 1890, and iron ore and coal transportation patterns in 1935. With this solid introduction the author fulfills what is often an elusive goal of guidebook writing: compelling the traveler to observe things in a serious and often new way.

The bulk of the text is given over to describing 182 major sites, mostly communities, along with subsets of attractions. The tour begins at Chicago and proceeds clockwise through Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana and ends southwest of Joliet, Illinois. The Indiana portion takes in Michigan City, the dunes country, Burns Harbor, Gary, Hammond, East Chicago, and Whiting. Of particular value is the treatment of ethnic neighborhoods in the larger cities. Guidebooks have to be selective in content; thus, the author lists other publications to help persons explore beyond the described locations. The photographs, practically one per page, many contemporary, are crisp and clear. The book's format, an uncommon square form, allows for three wide columns of text and larger than usual graphics. The attractive lay-

out, ample background material, and lucid writing go into making *Around the Shores of Lake Michigan* an exceptional combination history and guidebook.

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The Curve of the Arch: The Story of Louis Sullivan's Owatonna Bank. By Larry Millett. (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1985. Pp. xv, 203. Illustrations, reference notes, bibliography, index. Clothbound, \$24.95; paperbound, \$14.95.)

Every building has a story behind it, and Millett has used his skills and experience as a journalist with the St. Paul *Dispatch-Pioneer Press* to produce a readable history of the National Farmers' Bank in Owatonna, Minnesota. The book's subtitle is almost misleading as Millett explains not only Sullivan's role as architect but also the substantial contributions made by his ornamentalist and his client in the designing of the building. Universally recognized as a landmark in American architectural history, the Owatonna bank is a squat brick structure banded with unglazed and green terra cotta decorative tiles and stylized cartouches in the florid style. The building's major feature is the large elliptical arch with stained glass, which bathes the banking room in a green hue.

The principal characters in Millett's account are Chicago architect Louis Sullivan (1856-1924); his chief draftsman and ornamentalist, George Elmslie (1871-1952); and their client, banker Carl Bennett (1866-1941). Combining architectural history, local history, and biography, Millett defines the roles of these men and their relationship to one another in terms of the Owatonna bank, which became a milestone in the lives of all three. The building was the first of a series of small-town banks designed by Sullivan, the brilliant pioneer of the Chicago-Prairie School; the bank also marked the end of a twenty-year professional relationship between Sullivan and Elmslie. Bennett, who had "dared to seek out a truly original design for his new building" (p. 8), placed the small farming community of Owatonna on the beaten path of architectural historians and students of the Sullivan style, but both he and the National Farmers' Bank failed during the agricultural depression that followed World War I.

Millett not only traces the sagging careers of Sullivan, Elmslie, and Bennett after the bank's construction he also examines what happened to the building itself after Bennett's departure. Succeeding owners executed a series of brutal and