

closer to Stryker's own intentions—and corrects a number of factual errors which, made early on, have been endlessly repeated.

The editors have chosen to reproduce single, complete assignments recorded by each of the principal photographers. An example is the fourteen-print selection from a series by Gordon Parks entitled "Ella Watson, U.S. Government Charwoman." Only one photograph from this series has heretofore been widely published (a close-up of Watson and her broom against an American flag background), and while it is an arresting image, alone it gives no hint of the details of a life that can be viewed when the entire series is examined. The point made is that the hit-the-high-spots approach of most earlier works on the FSA photographs results in misconceptions about the nature of the work and of its real value as a source of historical information.

An assessment of this value is made in the opening essays by Lawrence W. Levine and Alan Trachtenberg. The best, however, is saved for last. At the back of the book is a wonderful essay in which the authors describe not only the FSA/OWI files' content and arrangement, but also their assembly and reorganization by the Library of Congress. Thanks to this essay, future researchers will know much more about what they can expect to encounter when working with the files. The authors reveal, for instance, that their detailed count puts the size of the file at only about half the figure most commonly cited. Even so, there appears to be a vast amount of material not previously dealt with by historians. *Documenting America* is an important work for anyone interested in documentary photography. It is an essential one for scholars interested in the history captured by the FSA/OWI photographers.

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Iowa History and Culture: A Bibliography of Materials Published Between 1952 and 1986. Compiled by Patricia Dawson and David Hudson. (Ames: State Historical Society of Iowa, in association with Iowa State University Press, 1989. Pp. xiii, 356. Indexes. \$34.95.)

Compiled by two Iowa librarians, this bibliography both supplements and expands upon William Petersen's *Iowa History Reference Guide* (1952), covering the broader culture—as well as the history—of the Hawkeye state. The book is divided into several major sections: general histories, regional and local history, biography and autobiography, and subject histories. Excluded are genealogies, newspaper articles, manuscripts, and audio-visual materials. There are excellent personal name and subject indexes, and entries

are annotated where titles provide insufficient information about subject. Though one could wish a larger typeface had been used for the entries, this is a well-organized and comprehensive resource.

LEIGH DARBEE, curator of printed collections and head of reference at the Indiana Historical Society Library, is currently working on a bibliography of the Society's books and maps printed through the year 1840.