



INDIANA

MAGAZINE OF HISTORY

VOLUME 105 • NUMBER 2 • JUNE 2009

Owned by Indiana University
and published quarterly by the Department of History
in cooperation with the Indiana Historical Society

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The *Indiana Magazine of History* documents and investigates the changing culture of Indiana and the Midwest. The editors welcome critical writing that highlights the history of the state and its surrounding region, that adds historical perspective to contemporary issues, or that deepens public understanding of historical problems. Submissions should be presented in hard-copy form (two copies), double-spaced, and with wide margins. Articles are peer reviewed prior to publication. Unsolicited book reviews are not accepted. For further information on the journal's editorial policies, visit our website at www.indiana.edu/~imaghist. Please direct any correspondence regarding editorial matters to: Editor, *Indiana Magazine of History*, 742 Ballantine Hall, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405 (phone, 812-855-4139, or e-mail, imaghist@indiana.edu).

The *IMH* (ISSN 0019-6673) is printed in March, June, September, and December by Indiana University Printing Services, Bloomington, Indiana. Periodicals postage paid at Bloomington, Indiana; publication number 262240. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Indiana Magazine of History*, Ballantine Hall 742, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405.

The *IMH* cover design, as well as the motifs found on its inside pages, are based on woodcuts made by Gustave Baumann for James Whitcomb Riley's *All the Year Round* (Indianapolis, 1912). Graphic design by AB Graphics Studio, Bloomington.

Thomas Hart Benton's Indiana Murals at 75

A Special Issue

Guest Editors: Kathryn Lofton and
Matthew Pratt Guterl



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EDITOR'S NOTE

In 1933, Thomas Hart Benton completed a remarkable cycle of murals for the Indiana pavilion at the Chicago Century of Progress International Exposition. Today, thanks to the efforts of Indiana University president Herman B Wells, those murals grace the IU campus in Bloomington, where they have been subject both to admiration and to controversy.

In April 2008, IU commemorated the anniversary of the Benton murals with a public symposium, "Thomas Hart Benton's Indiana Murals at 75: Public Art and the Public University." In this special issue of the *IMH*, edited by Kathryn Lofton and Matthew Pratt Guterl, we bring together many of the scholars who spoke at that session to consider the larger significance of the Indiana Murals: for art, for American culture, for IU's own history.

The event, and this issue, were made possible by support from the Indiana University College Arts and Humanities Institute, the IU American Studies Program, the IU Office of the Provost, the IU Art Museum, the IU Foundation, the IU Auditorium, and the Efroymson Fund. The conference planning committee included Nanette Brewer, the Lucienne M. Glaubinger Curator of Works on Paper, Indiana University Art Museum; Jeremy Efroymson, Executive Director, Midwest Museum of Contemporary Art (MiCo); Matthew Pratt Guterl, Director of American Studies and Associate Professor of African American & African Diaspora Studies; Frederic Lieber, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Education; Amy Walker, Architectural Historian, Indiana Department of Natural Resources-Division of Historic, Preservation and Archaeology; and *IMH* editor Eric Sandweiss.

—ES



Thomas Hart Benton at work in an Indiana University classroom, 1941.

Courtesy IU Archives.