

*A Bibliography of Illinois Imprints, 1814-1858.* By Cecil K. Byrd.  
(Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1966. Pp. xxv, 601.  
Index. \$12.50.)

This inventory of Illinois imprints includes 3,089 items, ranging from a communication to the Illinois legislature by Governor Ninian Edwards in 1814 to the constitution and bylaws of the Chicago YMCA in 1858. The intermediate material is amazingly diversified. In form there are broadsides, leaflets, pamphlets, programs, handbills, and printed books. In content there are legal codes, sermons, addresses, gazetteers, almanacs, prospectuses, directories, college catalogues, petitions, public letters by candidates for office, announcements of concerts, and of course volumes of prose and verse. Thirteen different communities produced printing of one kind or another, beginning with Kaskaskia and Edwardsville 1814-1820; the first Chicago imprint listed is dated 1834, a memorial from the citizens of Cook County to the general assembly calling for a navigable link between Lake Michigan and the Illinois River. By 1858, interestingly enough, Kaskaskia is missing, Edwardsville appears twice, while Chicago gets credit for 154 items. In the 44 year period covered by the bibliography Chicago produced 866 imprints while Alton had 441, Springfield 286, and Jacksonville 231. No other publishing center had as many as two hundred.

A volume of this kind is primarily a research tool, the conspicuous virtues of which must be thoroughness and accuracy. Cecil K. Byrd, university librarian at Indiana University, has produced a model book. He has drawn on the resources of over two hundred institutional and municipal libraries plus five private collections. He has examined the books he lists, and he notes at least one location for each item. Sufficiently full bibliographical data are provided for the specialist while the background material is both helpful and interesting. Thus the reader is given succinct but useful biographical accounts of such important early Illinois figures as Ninian Edwards, Morris Birkbeck, Peter Cartwright, James Hall, John Mason Peck, and John Reynolds. Material about early newspapers and magazines is presented, and the student of Illinois political or religious history will find considerable information about his specialty. Certainly the published records of Baptist association meetings account for a substantial number of items.

The arrangement is properly chronological and the index is thorough. Not only are biographical and geographical names listed, but collective references to poetry and sermons are also given (fiction seems to have been neglected). The titles of newspapers alone comprise three columns of the index. Nevertheless, it might have helped the reader if the authors of verse and fiction had been identified. Only by paging through the volume can one discover that Horatio Cooke published a volume of poems in Chicago in 1843, that William Asbury Kenyon published another in 1845, and that William H. Bushnell's *Prairie Fire! A Tale of Early Illinois* appeared in Chicago in 1854.

An enterprise of this nature inevitably produces a strange kettle of fish. Side by side with the legal codes, the directories, the church records, and the lists of lands on which taxes were still due are curious

items which reflect the period covered. Joseph Duncan, for example, issued a broadside in 1837 about his stud horse Rob Roy. In 1846 the Jersey County Horse Thief Detecting Society published a list of the members' names, some ninety-eight in all. Three years later an Oquawka horticulturist circulated a catalogue of fruit trees which he offered for sale, and in 1850 the Northern Cross Railroad Company printed a report of its experimental survey from Quincy to Meredosia. By the 1850's the published programs of McVicker's Theater and Rice's Theater in Chicago accounted for many items.

Byrd has produced an invaluable reference volume which is also surprisingly readable. One wonders, however, why the volume ends after forty-four years. The editor states bluntly that there is no historical or bibliographical reason for concluding with the year 1858, and the terminal date seems rather freakish. The Chicago fire of 1871 might have made a more logical termination. One can only hope for an extension of the work in the future.

*University of Illinois*

John T. Flanagan

*The French in the Mississippi Valley.* Edited by John Francis McDermott. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1965. Pp. ix, 247. Notes, illustrations, index. \$6.75.)

Despite the possible inference of the title, this work is not a political discussion of the French regime in the Mississippi Valley. Composed of fourteen papers originally presented at a conference observing the bicentennial of the founding of St. Louis in 1764, it describes many aspects of the history of New France: historical, architectural, literary, scientific, and bibliographical. All of the essays are interestingly written and carefully researched. The variations in literary style simply add charm to a volume which is well edited, scholarly, and informative.

Quite appropriately the first six papers are either directly or tangentially connected with St. Louis. The next five essays range widely from this central theme, dealing with contributions of the French to the Mississippi Valley in general. The final three papers will perhaps do most to "stimulate other investigations of French activities in the Mississippi Valley" (p. viii): the editor's hope for the work. In these essays Noël Baillargeon, James M. Babcock, and Winston De Ville describe and evaluate the source materials for the history of the French in the Mississippi Valley at, respectively, the Seminaire de Quebec, the Detroit Public Library (Burton Historical Collection), and various Louisiana archives.

Of especial interest to Indiana readers is Father Joseph P. Donnelly's discussion of Father Pierre Gibault. Donnelly credits the "patriot priest" with contributing greatly to the success of St. Louis and describes his stabilizing influence in the Illinois Country during the critical period from 1768-1778. Gibault's assistance to George Rogers Clark during the Revolution—which the author feels was not the priest's greatest contribution to the Mississippi Valley—and thus his connection with early Indiana history is briefly detailed. Also related