

fur trade as well as the Santa Fe trade, and McCandless clearly delineates the advantages and importance of the state's key geographical location as the gateway to the Far West. Its unique geographical position determined that Missouri would play a significant role in both southern and western history.

As represented by this volume, *The Missouri Sesquicentennial History* is a useful contribution to both local and national history. It sets a standard of balance that could well be followed by similar projects in other states.

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Victor B. Howard

Illinois: A History of the Prairie State. By Robert P. Howard. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1972. Pp. xxiv, 626. Illustrations, notes, maps, appendices, bibliography, index. \$10.95.)

It has been fifty years since anyone undertook to write a comprehensive history of Illinois. In that sense Robert Howard's book was long overdue, but it was worth the wait. *Illinois: A History of the Prairie State* ranks as the definitive account of an important subject in American state and local history and as a model of the state history genre.

The author, a veteran journalist and resident of the state capital in Springfield, exercised both head and heart in a task that took more than six years. His twenty-five page bibliography reflects exhaustive knowledge of the published literature, and his narrative incorporates the most recent findings and interpretations. At the same time, Howard was motivated by "a deep affection for the state and its people" (p. xxiv) acquired during a full career of travel and work throughout the state. That attachment is evident in his attention to colorful details and personalities in the story but not in his assessments, which are honest and critical.

Howard refrains from any grand design or majestic themes; three hundred years of history and the lives of millions of citizens are not susceptible to such simple generalization. Neither does he advance many fresh or revisionist interpretations; this book necessarily rests upon the published monographs and specialized studies of other historians.

Rather, he chronicles in rich detail the historical development of Illinois, noting in the text or footnotes those instances in which he has waded through an historian's controversy or incorporated the findings and judgments of recent scholarship.

A dilemma to historians of Illinois, just as to state politicians, is the division between Cook County and downstate. It is tempting and sometimes appropriate to treat such a subject independently, but Howard chose the more difficult job of interrelating it into the complex political and economic history of the entire state. He is at his best dealing with those topics which were central to his work as a legislative correspondent: political, constitutional, and institutional history. He also devotes generous attention to railroads, internal improvements, banking, industry, and other economic matters. There is interesting information on such diverse subjects as slavery, the early moviemaking industry in Chicago, pioneer aviation and automobile manufacturing, world's fairs, gangsterism after World War I, coal mining and union strife, and the home front during World War II.

There are a few disappointing lapses and omissions in this comprehensive story. State parks and the park system are neglected, as is that colorful institution, the Illinois State Fair. The reader looks in vain for references to Frank Lloyd Wright, Robert M. Hutchins, John Dewey, or R. Buckminster Fuller, who made significant contributions and international reputations while living in Illinois. While Howard does discuss major Illinois poets and Chicago's literary renaissance, he fails to cover the lives and works of novelists who wrote about Chicago: Theodore Dreiser, Frank Norris, and Sherwood Anderson.

Similarly but less important, the index contains errors and inconsistencies, chiefly in the form of omissions and failures to cross index proper names and subject headings. There are some useful maps, but the cartographer apparently was not interested in the past century of Illinois history; the final map traces the extent of the Chicago Fire of 1871. Future editions of the book would be improved by the addition of maps portraying such transportation networks as the interurbans of the early 1900s, modern day railroad lines, and the interstate highway system and also by repre-

sentations of the state park system and historical shifts in population density. However, the illustrations, tables, chronology, and bibliography are of excellent quality and help make this book a useful reference work as well as outstanding history.

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The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and His Midwest Contemporaries. By H. Allen Brooks. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1972. Pp. xxiii, 373. Illustrations, notes, figures, index. \$25.00.)

H. Allen Brooks has written a book as ordered as is the design of the Prairie School architects. He relates simply and in an intact context that rather complex and scattered style of building often confused with the Chicago School. The author describes the difference between the two schools and documents his findings to clarify the distinctions and characteristics of each style, putting each in its proper time and place.

While establishing this difference in the reader's mind, the author identifies the link between the two schools as Louis H. Sullivan, the only architect involved in both. In fact, Brooks further honors him, as did Frank Lloyd Wright, as "the Master," since the work of the Prairie School, the later of the two styles, was accomplished primarily by Sullivan's students. The author enumerates the architects of the Prairie School as Louis H. Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Burley Griffin, George Grant Elmslie, William Gray Purcell, Barry Byrne, Hugh M. G. Garden, Richard E. Schmidt, Robert C. Spenser, Jr., William E. Drummond, Marion Mahony, Thomas E. Tallmadge, Vernon Watson, Dwight H. Perkins, John S. Van Bergen, Percy Dwight Bentley, Francis C. Sullivan, Parker N. Berry, and "more peripherally," George W. Maher, Arthur Heun, George Dean, and many others (p. 8). With the Prairie School thus clearly defined, the interaction between the architects and the existing social environment is illuminated, bringing into clearer focus the meaning and rationale of the resultant buildings.

The author's examples are clear and accurate representa-