

Arrangement of this book is by counties. Under each county Larson indicates depositories with collections of manuscripts, followed by a list of "Institutions." These are organizations which maintain their records within their place of business, mainly for their own use, and include better business bureaus; chambers of commerce; Red Cross chapters; banks; industries; hospitals; medical, social service, and welfare societies; fraternal organizations; newspapers; radio stations; and individual churches. There are an outstanding number of churches represented, eighty in Franklin County, and forty in Montgomery County.

The comprehensive index includes libraries, institutions, subjects, and references to collections within depositories by name. This work was compiled by twenty-five members of the Society of Ohio Archivists, who visited depositories and institutions, examined the holdings, and reported on the contents. The society is to be congratulated for their cooperative and carefully prepared work. The result is an attractive, clear, easy to read book, packed with information about Ohio's manuscript collections.

*Indiana Historical Society Library,*  
*Indianapolis*

Leona Alig

*Polish-American Politics in Chicago, 1888-1940.* By Edward R. Kantowicz. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1975. Pp. xi, 260. Maps, tables, note on sources and method, notes, index. \$12.95.)

Edward Kantowicz, currently an assistant professor at Carleton University, has written a first rate study of the voting behavior and political aspirations of Chicago's Polish American population. The book follows other modern studies on Chicago's ethnic groups by John Alswang (*A House for All Peoples*, 1971) and Humbert Nelli (*The Italians in Chicago*, 1970); but in some ways it is more focused, and it takes advantage of the insights gained by the authors of the earlier works. Since the Polish American element is perhaps the largest identifiable ethnic segment in the Chicago area, Kantowicz's information and critical judgments carry major significance. These findings are not only important for Chicago but also for the national scene. Polish Americans have been as often spurned by historians as they have been

ignored by political scientists. Kantowicz proves that to overlook *Polonja Amerykanska*—the Polish community in America—is to miss an important political and cultural force.

Kantowicz divides his treatment into five sections; each in turn encompasses several chapters. He traces the migration of Poles to Chicago, explains the emergence of Polish American political power, relates the dynamics of the Polish American vote to national elections, examines the relationship of Polish Americans to twentieth century machine politics, and concludes by assessing the successes and failures of Polish Americans in terms of their own goals and aspirations. The primary advantage of this approach is that it allows Kantowicz to study ethnic politics from the inside rather than viewing it as one of many forces acting in a situation. Although the author makes little effort to adduce much more than simple percentages from his voting statistics, his presentation is clear. Kantowicz's major shortcoming is his failure to use sophisticated statistical methods.

The book will be of value to scholars of varied interests. Kantowicz's proof of the persistence of a Democratic machine in the Polish American community is important. His assessment and evidence of how a minority group's very strength may frustrate the efforts of its leaders to achieve substantial recognition is an important application of ideas that have not been adequately explored in the past. Other readers will appreciate Kantowicz's careful delineation of the factionalism cloaked behind the monolith of newspapers that English readers could not understand, of a language without a Latin base, and of a population whose leaders seemed strangely inarticulate.

Kantowicz writes without heroes or villains. He sympathizes with the goals of *Polonja Amerykanska*, but he is neither filiopietistic nor maudlin. As a result the book will go a long way toward helping Polish Americans understand themselves and explaining them to others in the scholarly community. Students of politics, urbanization, ethnicity, and the Middle West will find this an extremely useful work.

Unfortunately, the author has been poorly served by his publisher, and this is astonishing because it is the University of Chicago Press. There are typographical errors of the crudest kind; a variable right hand margin for quotations makes for difficult reading; and the decision to use a double

column format with a variable right hand margin for the introductory portions of each section seems inappropriate for a scholarly work. The notes have been gathered at the end of the text. This is not a bad practice, except in this case when the author provides thoughtful and suggestive criticisms of the scholarly literature. Kantowicz's decision to free his narrative from scholarly dialogue may mislead lazy readers; they may assume that he is unaware of the implications of his perceptive comments. A sound, significant, scholarly work deserves more care from a distinguished press.

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Martin Ridge

*Downriver: Orrin H. Ingram and The Empire Lumber Company.* By Charles E. Twining. (Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1975. Pp. ix, 309. Notes, map, illustrations, appendix, selected bibliography, index. \$17.50.)

By any standard of measurement lumbering was one of the most important industries in nineteenth century America. Yet for some reason often commented upon but never explained, it has long been a neglected topic of scholarship. Recently, however, interest in the topic has begun to grow. Although no full study of the industry exists, a number of articles and monographs on lumbermen, lumber companies, and lumbering regions have appeared. *Downriver: Orrin H. Ingram and The Empire Lumber Company* is a valuable addition to this literature.

Charles E. Twining has written a first rate business biography. Making good use of a fine collection of business and personal papers, he fully describes the lumbering career of Orrin H. Ingram from a millhand in New York State to the leader of the Chippewa Valley lumbermen and business associate of the Weyerhaeuser syndicate. Ingram's story is not unique, but he is important as a representative of the more successful lumberman of the nineteenth century. Born in Southwick, Massachusetts, in 1830, Ingram wanted to be a mechanic but backed into lumbering and rose rapidly through the ranks. He chafed to put his mechanical and managerial talents to use in his own firm, and finally in 1857 Dole, Ingram and Kennedy was established at Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Despite severe shortages of both investment and