

## Governors' Mansions of the Midwest

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*Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indian Project in the Field*, edited by Mick Gidley. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2003. xiii, 200 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$49.95 cloth.

Reviewer Lisa E. Emmerich is professor of history and coordinator of American Indian Studies at California State University, Chico. Her publications include "Right in the midst of my own people': Native American Women and the Field Matron Program" (*American Indian Quarterly*, 1991).

Photographs crafted by Edward S. Curtis are among the most famous in American history. His striking images—sepia-toned Native women and men bearing mute testimony to the destruction of their cultures—appeared in parlors and libraries across America. Between 1907 and 1930, thousands of non-Indians learned the tragic history of the "vanishing race" from Curtis's 20-volume masterwork, *The North American Indian*.

But Curtis and his collaborators—family members and ethnographic assistants—did more than create a remarkable series of photographs. They took extensive field notes, sent detailed letters, and wrote magazine articles describing their experiences among the Indians. Mick Gidley, professor of American literature at Leeds University and a leading Curtis scholar, has collected and edited some of these materials in a fascinating volume that takes contemporary readers behind the scenes of this massive venture. Gidley uses Curtis's own geographic designations to track the photographer and his staff through much of North America. Of particular interest for readers of the *Annals of Iowa* is the chapter focusing on Indians of the Plains. Here, he skillfully blends multiple voices to create a literary "snapshot" of those behind the cameras as they viewed reservation life, healing ceremonies, and a Sun Dance. The various writers offer a unique "insider's" view that echoes the ethnocentrism of their time while discussing Curtis and the Indians. Placing readers just behind Edward Curtis as he worked, Gidley's thoughtful book offers a new vantage point for viewing both the Native subjects and their remarkable photographer.

*Governors' Mansions of the Midwest*, by Ann Liberman, photographs by Alise O'Brien. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2003. xii, 172 pp. Color illustrations, bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth.

Reviewer Charles T. Goodsell is emeritus professor of public administration at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. His many books include *The American Statehouse: Interpreting Democracy's Temples* (2001) and *The Social Meaning of Civic Space: Studying Political Authority Through Architecture* (1988).

This is the first book written on multiple examples of the official residences of American state governors since Jean and Price Daniel's 1969

volume, *Executive Mansions and Capitols of America*. It covers the twelve midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. For each, Liberman provides a half-dozen pages that comment gracefully on the character of the state, the background of the mansion, its architectural style and furnishings, and finally its renovations and restorations. The handsome book is illustrated by numerous gorgeous exterior and interior color images taken by the author's daughter, a professional photographer.

Although these mansions vary greatly, all of them are intriguing physical connectors of their respective states' past and future. Some were originally built as gubernatorial residences; others were privately constructed and later bought by—or donated to—the state. Rather than reflecting regional architectural variations, they mimic styles in fashion in the East during the era of construction. In a kind of hang-over from the sexist past, gubernatorial First Ladies often redecorate them to make their mark on this temporary family nest.

Terrace Hill, the governor's mansion in Iowa, is one of the largest and most architecturally distinctive in the group. An extravagant Second Empire structure built by two Des Moines business tycoons in the Gilded Age, it was donated to the state in 1971, saving it from likely demolition and giving Iowa's chief executive a striking Victorian setting in which to live and entertain.

*The Carnegie Libraries of Iowa*, by John M. Witt. Washington, MO: Robidoux Books, 2003. x, 309 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$24.95 paper.

Reviewer Karen L. Wellner is lecturer of science education at Arizona State University. In addition to writing many articles on science education, she has photographed and researched many of Iowa's Carnegie libraries.

*The Carnegie Libraries of Iowa*, by John M. Witt, is neither a true architectural guide nor a comprehensive history of Iowa's libraries, but simply documents pictorially and descriptively the impact of Andrew Carnegie on town and public library development in the Midwest. The author visited all of the 95 still-standing libraries across the state, which enabled him to combine photographs with interesting local history and public documents that help place each library in context. His style is friendly and not imposing. His use of primary sources such as blueprints, newspaper articles, and letters from the Carnegie Corporation provides valuable evidence related to the history of early library development, such as the role that women and library associations played in obtaining Carnegie grants, the requirements that had to be

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