

The Editor's Page

In case any readers have not seen our recent *Dispatch/News*, it should be mentioned here that the Summer, 1998 (91:2) issue of our *Journal* was a ten-page affair mailed in very limited numbers to satisfy requirements of the Post Office. We are making up for this deprivation with substantially longer issues, appearing at somewhat more frequent intervals than every three months, until we are fully caught up with our schedule.

Our book reviews in this issue are characterized by high quality but low quantity. However, as I write over a dozen members and contributors are hard at work reviewing recent books in the history of Illinois and the midwest, and more will join them shortly. Beginning with the next issue we should have reviews in useful abundance.

This issue includes a double-length article on Stephen A. Douglas and the Kansas-Nebraska Act. I especially welcome it because it performs several valuable functions. It takes a story which, in outline, still should be familiar to all of us who studied our US History in high school, college, or grad school. It then reviews both old and new views of the story, offers fresh research, and presents a new interpretation. No writings about the coming of the Civil War have ever received complete acceptance and agreement, which our young author himself understands very well indeed. But this review of a subject we thought we understood has certainly provided food for thought.

The issue also provides, coincidentally, contributions from two colleagues of many decades at the University of Illinois. They, like the Editor, have officially retired while staying hard at work at what we hope we do best.

It is also an interesting coincidence that both Maynard Brichford's article and Roland Guyotte's book review mention a certain incident in Chicago: an America First rally at Soldier Field in Chicago shortly before World War II. Eventually everything weaves together in Clio's tapestry.