

The Editor's Page

All the articles in this issue were first presented at the Annual Symposium of our Society. Terry A. Barnhart presented his at the 2001 event; the three "senatorial papers"—if my memory is accurate—were all given in 2000. All four are the work of dedicated and accomplished professional historians who, though at different stages of their careers, have mastered the art of preparing manuscripts for publication. Apart from getting the notes to conform to our style, I did virtually no tinkering with these articles.

The issue is also more about politics than is typical of historical journals these days, including this one. To be sure, the first and longest article is about intellectual history, but the intellectual concerns of the founders of this state were never far removed from their political concerns. If this makes the issue old-fashioned, one suspects that it is nevertheless fashionably so: books about American politics and politicians have once again proved to be bestsellers throughout the United States.

As if some sort of invisible hand were at work, we received fewer book reviews than expected while we were receiving mostly very long articles for recent issues. With our four articles returning mostly to our former average length, we had space for a properly full set of reviews in this issue and, fortunately, enough arrived to fill that space. They do so with distinction.

The reviewers, like the authors of our articles, have definite points of view. No effort has been made to change any of them. A *Journal* such as this should represent those who are willing to write for it. The task of the editors—the book reviews are, with rare exceptions, solicited and edited by Michael Batinski—is to make sure our writers set forth their own findings and convictions with clarity and without those occasional errors and ambiguities which all but the most astute authors will commit from time to time.