



**THE JOHN M. LAMB COLLECTION**

**The Collected Works of Historian John M. Lamb:**

*The History of the Illinois and Michigan Canal  
and Related Subjects*

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Professor John Lamb has created a scholarly collection, housed in the Lewis University Library, which is known and recognized nationally and internationally. The University is pleased to be the repository of what has become the largest compilation in the country of historic material devoted to the inland canals of America in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is a center of distinction for the University and reflects our substantial commitment to scholarly research and community service.

Professor Lamb came to the University in 1956, shortly after completing an advanced degree at Fordham University and later studying for two additional years at Oxford University in England, and served for almost four decades as a history professor. John developed an interest in the rich local history of the region, especially the Illinois and Michigan Canal and its impact on the growth and development of Chicago and the State. A sizeable personal collection of books, maps, manuscripts, photographs, models, artifacts, and other primary research materials has accrued over the years.

John has produced more than fifty articles and presentations and two books on the history of the Canal and of the region. His writings explore range of social, cultural, business, and legal history. John's articles have appeared in scholarly journals such as *Chicago History* and the *Journal of the Illinois Historical Society* and in the local Lockport *Free Press*.

Taking a leading role in preservation efforts for Will County and along the Canal, he helped to spearhead the movement that eventually led to the creation of the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor in 1984. In that same year John established the I & M Canal U9up

This collection of John's writings is a remarkable testimony to his profession as an historian and to his person commitment to preserving the memory of the extraordinary achievements of those who built and promoted the I & M Canal. Thank you to Char Giardina, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Laura Patterson, Director of Library Services at Lewis University, and Mary Ann Atkins, Special Collections Librarian at Lewis University for assembling this collection. As you read through John's body of work, you will learn about the growth and development of this region and perhaps you will be inspired to sustain John's work to preserve and appreciate the historical record.

Brother James Gaffney, FSC  
President of Lewis University



# Acknowledgments

Thanks are extended to the following for permission reprint articles: Editors of *American Canals*, Faye Steingold Yates of *The Wetlands Initiative*, and John Shoulberg of *The Waterways Journal Weekly*.

Special thanks go to artists Kathleen Farrell and Kathleen Scarboro for permission to reproduce the Sesquicentennial poster with the likeness of the author.



# **I**ntroduction

## **The Collection**

The John M. Lamb Collection meets the needs of an increasing number of researchers who seek a comprehensive and easily accessible body of work on the Illinois and Michigan Canal and related subjects. Dr. Lamb has distinguished himself as the foremost I&M Canal historian with over 50 works to his credit. Covering virtually all relevant topics, Dr. Lamb conveys the significance of the subject in a manner that speaks to seasoned scholars, young students and history buffs alike. Dr. Lamb's work is essential to understanding the connection between local, regional and national history. Organized and made accessible, The John M. Lamb Collection is a valuable resource for present and future generations.

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## **Editors Note**

Any changes to the original typescripts and articles have been made with the approval of the author. Some documents are scanned in whole or in part.

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## **Collection Updates**

Over time the collection may be updated with the approval of the author.

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## **Project Participants**

The Collection has been prepared with the cooperation of Dr. John M. Lamb. Mary Ann Atkins, Lewis University Librarian, has served as the technical coordinator and web publisher. Judith Richardson (retired executive secretary, Argonne National Laboratory) has been the chief typist and proofreader. College intern Carrie Tarasuk helped initiate the project with Charlene Giardina, who prepared the drafts. Lewis University published the collection in its printed format.

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