



# CULTIVATING THE CORN BELT

Grinnell College Libraries  
Department of Special Collections  
and Archives

*Fall 2010*



From November 16 to 18, 2010, Grinnell College will host “Corn Belts: Iowa and International Agriculture,” an interdisciplinary symposium sponsored by the Center for International Studies, Center for Prairie Studies, Luce Program in Nations and the Global Environment, and the Rosenfield Program. More information can be found at:

<http://www.grinnell.edu/academic/rosenfield/events>

In honor of this event, we have gathered items from the Department of Special Collections and Archives that illustrate the history of the Iowan Corn Belt. We hope that these objects and their accompanying materials provide a glimpse into the changes that have contributed to corn’s dominance within the state.

### ***Summary of Exhibition Cases***

#### **Case 1 (first floor)**

Early cultivation of corn (maize) and the promotion of Iowa’s agricultural potential

#### **Case 2 (south side of basement seating area)**

The Corn Belt’s prairie past

#### **Case 3 (north side of basement seating area)**

Henry Wallace and the industrialization of agriculture

#### **Case 4 (east side of basement seating area)**

Present-day corn production and controversy

In addition to the materials featured in this exhibition, we invite you to consult the resources listed below for further information on the history of lowan agriculture.

They can be found in the Department of Special Collections and Archives, located in the Iowa Room in the basement of Burling Library. Please visit us during regular hours (1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday) or by appointment.

*Phone:* 641-269-3364

*E-mail:* archives@grinnell.edu

*Fax:* 641-269-4283

***For Further Information: Iowa Room Resources***

Bennett, Mary. Meskwaki History [electronic resource]. Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 2004.

Bogue, Allan G. From Prairie to Corn Belt: Farming on the Illinois and Iowa Prairies in the Nineteenth Century. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1963.

Clark, Neil M. John Deere: He Gave to the World the Steel Plow. Moline, IL: Desaulniers & Company, 1937.

Danek, Ernie. Cedar Rapids: Tall Corn and High Technology. Woodland Hills, CA: Windsor Publications, 1980.

Hamilton, Carl. In No Time at All. Ames, IA: Iowa State University Press, 1974.

*Continued on the following page →*

Harker, Michael P. Harker's Barns: Visions of an American Icon.

Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2003.

Henry, Lyell D., Jr. Was this Heaven?: A Self-Portrait of Iowa on Early Postcards. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1995.

Holman, Reuben A. The Romance of the Farmers Grain Dealers Association of Iowa. Rockwell, IA: Rockwell Farmers Elevator Office, 1947.

Loveless, Leslie A. A Bountiful Harvest: The Midwestern Farm Photographs of Pete Wettach, 1925-1965. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2002.

Macdonald, Dwight. Henry Wallace: The Man and the Myth. New York: Vanguard Press, 1948.

Morris, Emmet L., ed. Iowa Today: "Where the Tall Corn Grows." Marquette, IA: School Necessities Co., 1931.

Richman, Irving Berdine. Ioway to Iowa: The Genesis of a Corn and Bible Commonwealth. Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1931.

Ross, Earle D. Iowa Agriculture: An Historical Survey. Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1951.

Walker, Joanne. Prairie Heritage: A Pictorial History of Kossuth County, Iowa. Virginia Beach: Donning Company Publishers, 1995.

*Thanks for taking a look!*