



ERIC MORTENSON / MHS

AS THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY of statehood approaches, it seems appropriate to revisit an earlier milestone. Minnesotans commemorated the state's centennial in 1958 with a variety of souvenirs. The Minnesota Historical Society holds some 70 different examples, from ashtrays to key chains to banners.

Most souvenirs feature the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission's logo. The striking design, with female and male profiles set against rural and urban landscapes, highlights the state's rich agricultural and manufacturing resources.

The emblem is prominent on a cotton handkerchief showcasing Minnesota's natural beauty and resources. Lakes and parks appear alongside mines and mills and other symbols still deeply associated with the state, including a stalk of wheat, a downhill skier, and a Lake Superior ore boat.

The ceramic trivet depicts the centennial logo in fine detail, and its green hue reflects the lively color palette of the

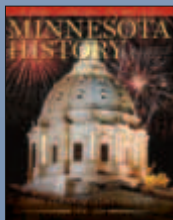
1950s. Better still, the trivet is a product of Red Wing Pottery—quintessential craftwork from the state's quintessential craft company.

The U.S. Postal Service issued a first-class-rate centennial stamp (three cents!) with majestic red pines surrounding one of those 10,000 lakes. The Society has four first-day covers with the stamp, all cancelled in St. Paul on May 11, 1958. The varied envelopes include images of the state capitol dome, first governor Henry Sibley, the state seal, and the ever-present centennial emblem.

Other keepsakes are more humble, such as a pair of paper coasters and a paper placemat branded with the centennial logo. Whether due to sentiment or accident, these items went unused.

We can be sure that this year's sesquicentennial will produce its own share of interesting mementos, just as we can be sure that people will look at them with curious fascination when 2058 rolls around.

—Matt Anderson, collections curator



### About the Cover

Florid prose, exuberant punctuation, and public spectacle marked announcements of statehood 150 years ago: "Glorious News!! Minnesota A State!!! 100 Guns Fired at Winona: General Rejoicing," exclaimed the *Winona Times*, May 15, 1858, for example. Anticipating Minnesota's sesquicentennial, this issue's cover features a photo illustration that shines a spotlight on one enduring symbol of statehood: the capitol (photo by David Oakes, Senate Media Services) with fireworks (added by Percolator Graphic Design).