

# Books

Dorothy Hodder, Compiler

**B**efore diving into Bland Simpson and Ann Cary Simpson's unique homage to North Carolina's coastal region, the land of their birth, prepare for a wet, sticky, and convoluted journey. The author, Bland, and photographer, Ann, seem to have traversed every river, creek, sound, swamp, and bog to be found east of I-95, and with their images they take the reader along on a humid and squishy journey. Part memoir, part travelogue, and part history book, *Into the Sound Country* will strike a note of familiarity with anyone who has lived or visited this part of the state. Like the region itself, there are joys to be found in this work, but often they require slogging through some flat and unexciting territory first.

Bland Simpson and Ann Cary Simpson.

## *Into the Sound Country: A Carolinian's Coastal Plain.*

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997.  
269 pp. \$34.95 ISBN 0-8078-2381-3.

The Sound Country, as Simpson describes it, begins in the northeastern part of the state where the Dismal Swamp dominates, then stretches two hundred miles south to Cape Fear. By organizing this reminiscence along geographic lines, the author takes the reader through the coastal plain from top to bottom, beginning with the area around Elizabeth City where he grew up, down along the great Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds, to the Valley of the Neuse and into the corner of the state surrounding Wilmington.

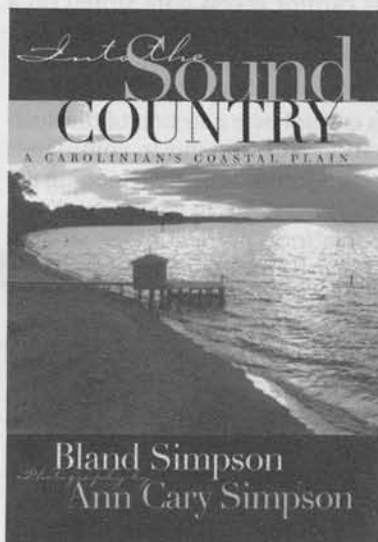
Each area provides a fertile source for the storyteller to draw

upon personal memories of growing up in the 1950s and 1960s and from the legacies passed down by ancestors and acquaintances who settled that part of the country. On one page he may relay a memory of going to work with his father or seeing a matinee in the local movie palace, while on another he may recount the time Robert Frost, George Washington, or FDR visited the area. A personal recollection may lead into a detailed retelling of the Tuscarora War in the early 18th century. One chapter describes the Albemarle region by elaborating on the scuppernong grape and its impact on culture and economy while another chapter is devoted to the turpentine industry that made the coastal area world renown for its naval stores. In each case the author follows the pattern of relaying personal encounters as well as historical revelations, such as the fact that smoke from burning tar filled the streets of Wilmington in 1862 in an unsuccessful effort to ward off a yellow fever epidemic that claimed 450 lives. Along the way, we are never too far from geography and the environmental impact that development and over-cultivation have had on the region. Lamented are the days when great forests of longleaf pine covered the coastal plain and when shellfish were abundant and safe to eat.

The writing style found here fits well with the often marshy nature of the subject matter. Simpson's prose can bog the reader down with labored descriptions like that of Edenton, which he calls "a place deeply steeped in its own historicity." Also, though occasionally charming, every walk through the woods, canoe trip down a river, or visit with a farmer is not as fascinating as a tingling encounter with the ghost of Joe Baldwin and his Maco light. This unevenness of material brings to mind the varied nature of our coastal plain. The accompanying photographs by Bland's wife Ann Cary Simpson, the detailed map of the region, and the inclusion of an index enhance the sometimes slow trip through the lowlands. This work is recommended for all libraries with collections devoted to North Carolina. It is hard to imagine a work more evocative of this specific and often neglected place.

— William H. King

State Library of North Carolina





Opening David Brook's intensively researched history of the first thirty-five years of the "Antiquities" society begins a journey into a fascinating world of socialites, dreamers, schemers, and visionaries. Their goal was the creation of an organized preservation movement in the Tar Heel state that would reverse a growing trend to forget the historic past, especially the structures associated with the history of the state. Turning to well-established organizations such as the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, and Colonial Williamsburg, the Society for the Preservation of North

Carolina Antiquities (SPA) selected sometimes disparate elements of the models. The Society emerged during the last years of the Depression, struggled through the war years, faced an indecisive future fraught with demolitions, and finally matured as a leader in the world of preservation planning, funding, and education. During the journey, numerous dynamic people, each with an ideal and opinion, come into focus: Ruth Coltrane Cannon, dubbed "Choo Choo Busy Bee" for her enthusiasm and energy; Christopher Crittenden, dedicated to awakening the public to history; Elizabeth "Buffy" Ives, who charged local preservationists to "get together and do it yourselves"; Gertrude Carraway, persisting in getting Tryon Palace rebuilt and never missing a session of Culture Week; Jack Tyler, a "quiet pusher" who nurtured the growing professionalism in preservation; H.G. Jones, Bob Stipe, and Frank Stephenson, who reduced the drain of life memberships, attracted foundations to underwrite preservation, and worked to bring the society into a new age with new goals and the expertise to attain them. These and many more are the cast of characters who urge the story forward from the dreams of a few stalwarts with favorite projects in mind to an awakened popular awareness of the broad scope of history on the dawn of America's bicentennial year.

Lost, however, in the restructuring of the society was Culture Week, held annually from 1939 to the 1970s, in which members of various historical organizations met in Raleigh to discuss the past and plan the future. To me, as a thirty-something newcomer to North Carolina in 1972, "couth week" was a feast, a gathering together of the cultural movers and shakers from across the state, an event unique in the nation, the essence of how to bring history to the people and get them to protect an irreplaceable heritage.

Probably because the author has directed his attention to culling a vast amount of documentary and verbal information, *A Lasting Gift of Heritage* tends to become turgid and rambling. For example, there is great repetition of lengthy names throughout the book which could have been mitigated by introducing the person by his or her full name and then using a shortened form. A lot of the text is repetitive because facts and events are recounted again in successive chapters. And the lack of footnotes makes it necessary to turn to the index to find references. The best section — the last chapter entitled "Forward to Renewal, 1970-1974" — comes alive with a spirit of revitalization and a victory over the depressing "never carried out" endings of earlier episodes. But the highlight of the book is actually at the very end where an overview of the whole tale is succinctly retold. Perhaps this should be read first to get a proper perspective of the history of the society.

Essentially a reference book with an appeal to more general reading, the volume is especially useful for scholars interested in tracing the development of SPA and the volunteer members who brought the organization through the first thirty-five years of its history. The appendices are filled with names of the society's charter members, officers, directors, and district leaders; lists of recipients of revolving fund grants and the annual Cannon Cup Award; enumerations of historic buildings and sites in the state; and to cap it off, a voluminous bibliography.

David Brook holds a juris doctorate from the College of Law at Ohio State University, and a masters degree in history from North Carolina State University. He has been administrator of the State Historic Preservation Office of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History since 1984.

— Edward F. Turberg  
Preservation Consultant, Wilmington, North Carolina

David Louis Sterrett Brook.

***A Lasting Gift of Heritage:  
A History of the  
North Carolina Society for the  
Preservation of Antiquities,  
1939-1974.***

Raleigh: Division of Archives and History,  
North Carolina Department of  
Cultural Resources, 1997.  
205 pp. \$24.00.  
ISBN 0-86526-274-8.

**N**

early everyone who visits the quaint coastal village on Ocracoke Island hears about the "British Cemetery." Some will search it out, others happen upon the small graveyard plot nestled beside a winding dirt lane, but few leave the island with an understanding of its significance. The solution is a short book *In Some Foreign Field* by L. VanLoan Naisawald, which will entertain and fully enlighten the reader by the time the island ferry reaches the mainland.

This smoothly written, well-researched account, complete with plenty of photographs, tells the story of the British antisubmarine trawler *Bedfordshire* torpedoed by the German submarine *U-558* during the early days of World War II. Although his only tie to the incident was his induction into the US Army on the same day that Ocracokers found the bodies of four British sailors on the ocean beach, Naisawald became infatuated with the subject. For the thirty years since he first visited the island, the author has gathered a wealth of information from US, British, and German archives, as well as interviewing parties on both sides of the ocean that were involved with the *Bedfordshire's* sinking.

In the first two chapters, "The Gray Wolves Return" and "H.M.S. *Bedfordshire* Goes to War," the author provides a historical context within which to understand German strategies for disrupting Allied shipping and the corresponding counter actions, which brought the British vessel to American waters. Naisawald continues his story by carefully piecing together evidence from a wide variety of sources to disclose the trawler's final moments, its destruction, and the recovery of four crew members. The simplicity of the chapter entitled "The Cemetery" underscores the compassion and sensitivity the islanders showed the young Brits lost so far from home. Living on

the edge of the ocean from which they make their livelihood, it is evident that the Ocracokers have a special feeling for those lost at sea, especially those who died protecting their shores. Naisawald completes his story nicely by revealing, primarily through photographs, the present situation of the H.M.S. *Bedfordshire* as it rests peacefully off Cape Lookout in 105 feet of water.

L. VanLoan Naisawald's other writings include the book *Grape and Canister: The Story of the Field Artillery of the Army of the Potomac*. His background as an army officer with a master's degree in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is reflected in his thoroughness and ability to translate the *Bedfordshire* incident into a story suitable for reading by all but the very young. Perhaps because of the popular nature of the subject, Naisawald has opted not to include footnotes or a bibliography, which is unfortunate for the more serious reader. The author divulges his source materials throughout the text, however, and has included a thorough index. There are many shipwrecks off North Carolina, each with an untold story; luckily, L. VanLoan Naisawald has taken the time to research and write *In Some Foreign Field*, and thus bring to light one of the more touching episodes of its kind.

— Mark Wilde-Ramsing  
North Carolina Underwater Archaeology Unit, Fort Fisher

L. VanLoan Naisawald.

***In Some Foreign Field:  
Four British Graves and  
Submarine Warfare on the  
NC Outer Banks.***

Raleigh: Historical Publications Section,  
Division of Archives and History, 1997. 99 pp.  
\$10.00. ISBN 0-86526-272-1.

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century ago North Carolina women were extraordinarily vulnerable to an alcoholic husband's profligacy and violence. In 1883, author Anastatia Sims reports, the state's "age of consent" — the age at which a girl could legally agree to sexual relations — was ten. In 1900 the illiteracy rate for white North Carolinians was 19.5%, and 47.6% for African Americans.

Schools were unsafe, unsanitary, and ill-equipped for education. Smarting from defeat, white citizens strove to reinterpret Southern history and portray the Confederacy in a heroic light. North Carolina's organized women fought tirelessly during the period from 1880 to 1930 to bring these issues to the forefront of the political arena. Long before the Nineteenth Amendment gave women the vote in 1920, they organized, raised money, wrote letters to legislators, and spoke with great eloquence in support of the causes that they felt were a logical extension of their roles as wives, mothers, and housewives.

Anastatia Sims tells the stories of these women and their volunteerism. Her first book is based on her dissertation, *Feminism and Femininity in the New South: White Women's Organizations in North Carolina, 1883-1930* (The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1985). In *The Power of Femininity in the New South*, she has interwoven a second set of stories, those of African American women's organizations. She first lays the groundwork by discussing the political milieu of North Carolina at the end of the last century. The ideal white Southern woman, delicate and vulnerable, yet possessing courage and moral rectitude, was a potent symbol in the racially charged political rhetoric of the 1890s. African American women adopted the same standard of gentility. Women's presumed moral authority enabled them to be effective players in what became an increasingly public sphere.

As Sims discusses the development of each area of activism, it is clear that issues of race, class, and gender permeated every one. Hereditary societies such as the Daughters of the Confederacy were founded in large part to preserve the elite status jeopardized by the impoverishment of former land- and slave-holding families. Interracial cooperation in work on the Women's Christian Temperance Union broke down due to racial prejudice. Schools remained very much separate and unequal because each group of reformers provided money and equipment exclusively to schools for children of their own race. Finally, white Southern women's concern that possessing

political power might be "unfeminine" and white men's fear that they might lose their supremacy complicated and ultimately defeated the state's woman suffrage campaign.

Sims has done a tremendous amount of careful research, using sources ranging from letters and diaries to census records, organizational documents, newspapers, and broadsides. She documents each fact and assertion through her extensive footnotes and provides a lengthy bibliography and index. This work of careful scholarship is beautifully structured, clearly written, and enlivened by quotes and illustrations. It is highly recommended for public and academic libraries and for any special libraries focused on the history of North Carolina.

— Elizabeth Bramm Dunn  
Duke University

Anastatia Sims.

***The Power of Femininity  
in the New South.  
Women's Organizations and  
Politics in North Carolina,  
1880-1930***

Columbia: University of South  
Carolina Press, 1997.  
300 pp. \$29.95. ISBN 1-57003-178-9.

A new column will debut in the next issue of NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES. "Between Us" will offer opinion pieces from librarians about library-related matters. Some pieces may be serious, some may be tongue-in-cheek, but all will reflect the concerns of those individuals who daily go about the business of informing, educating, and entertaining North Carolina's library-going public. NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES invites all would-be pundits and opinion makers — well-known curmedgeons and fresh faces alike — to rev up their keyboards (or pull out their dip pens and ink).

Those interested in contributing are invited to contact the column editor Keven Cherry at

[cherryk@co.rowan.nc.us](mailto:cherryk@co.rowan.nc.us)

or (704) 638-3021.

# M

yths about Duke University abound, including the oft-repeated story that James B. Duke offered his gift to Princeton University if it would change its name to Duke. *If Gargoyles Could Talk* is a compilation of seventy-one articles originally published in the *Dialogue*, a weekly campus newsletter, which lays to rest many of these oral traditions. It also provides, through succinct sketches, a brief history of Duke from its beginnings as Union Institute in Randolph County in 1838.

The work colorfully portrays the early presidents of Duke, as well as many of the faculty members and administrators who served under them and who laid a solid foundation for the later reputation of the university. King also has included essays on the founders of Duke's athletic programs, the building of the gothic campus, academic freedom, campus statuary, town-gown relationships, and the campus's response to various social issues of the day. The reader learns that the only time the Rose Bowl was played outside California was in 1942, when it was played at Duke; that the origin of the moniker "blue devils" has nothing to do with religion; and that the wall around Duke's East Campus (the original Durham site of Trinity College) is not, as often stated, ten feet high with three feet above ground and seven below.

William E. King has been archivist of Duke University since 1972, when the Archives was first established. He is a Duke graduate with a Ph.D. in history from Duke as well. Drawing on materials from the Archives for these sketches, King states as his goal to "add clarity, correct error, and illustrate the varied contributions of the many individuals who have made Duke University what it is today." This fascinating publication will be a delight to Duke alumni and others with an interest in Duke, higher education, or Durham.

— Joline Ezzell  
Duke University

William E. King.

## ***If Gargoyles Could Talk; Sketches of Duke University.***

Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 1997.

208 pp. \$22.50.

ISBN 0-89089-814-6.

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his publication, one of seven in the *Folklife in the South* series, tells a fascinating story of the ongoing struggle by inhabitants of the Carolina Piedmont to hold on to the values and attitudes of their agricultural past while embracing the economic opportunities of an industrial future. It also presents a riveting account of how, despite the separating force of racism, the beliefs and practices of the Anglo-Americans and African Americans of one geographical area

(located mainly between Charlotte, North Carolina and Greenville, South Carolina) became "irretrievably interwoven," as both groups developed "a sense of place" quite distinct from the experience of people in regions outside the South.

According to Coggeshall's objectives, "this book examines the way in which the loom of Carolina folklife became established after the Civil War, and then reviews the process that, through the course of time, blended a variety of traditions into contemporary Piedmont

folklife." In meeting these goals, the author is quite successful. Well-versed in the southern regional studies of other social scientists, he skillfully combines their observations with his own study, illustrating both with recollections gleaned from oral history interviews. In fact, it is the words of the men and women recalling their own experiences that give this book its most memorable quality. For example, in explaining what role the making of moonshine whiskey played in the life of impoverished North Carolina farmers during the Depression, a woman from that locality declared that it "was the biggest cash crop they had."

Avoiding a one-dimensional study of the Carolina Piedmont, the author traces its evolution from farms to mill towns to commercial centers by focusing on two typical Piedmont communities, Hammondville and Kent. Within these communities he examines such folklife elements as cultural values, speech, storytelling, religion, games

and recreation, food, occupations, and architecture. At the end of this work, the author provides his readers with brief biographies of the "informants," a biographical essay, and an index.

*Carolina Piedmont Country* is the third book by Coggeshall, an anthropologist at Clemson University. His other publications include: *Vernacular Architecture in Southern Illinois* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1988), and *Transcending Boundaries: Multi-Disciplinary Approaches to the Study of Gender* (New York: Bergin & Garvey, 1991), an edited work with Pamela R. Frese.

This book is recommended to a wide variety of readers whether they are served by academic, public, or school libraries. More particularly, the work is a must for southerners wanting to revisit their past as well as for non-southerners wishing to understand the region better.

— Richard Shrader

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

#### Instructions for the Preparation of Manuscripts for North Carolina Libraries

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 Keyes Metcalf, *Planning Academic and Research Library Buildings* (New York: McGraw, 1965), 416.  
 Susan K. Martin, "The Care and Feeding of the MARC Format," *American Libraries* 10 (September 1970): 498.
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11. Issue deadlines are February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10. Manuscripts for a particular issue must be submitted at least 2 months before the issue deadline.





Christopher Camuto's *Another Country*, the story of captive-bred wolves released in the Great Smoky Mountains region, will appeal to a variety of readers. A work of nonfiction, it is nonetheless as beautiful as it is informative; indeed, it borders on poetry in some passages.

This property will make the book accessible to anyone who appreciates a literate study of natural history, and perhaps even to readers of poems and fiction about the natural world. The author presents material any ecologist or population biologist might find pertinent, yet he succeeds in explaining such slippery concepts in population biology as the relation of subspeciation to hybridization clearly enough to reach the educated lay reader.

*Another Country* would make an excellent addition to any zoo, nature museum, or museum of natural history on the grounds that any exhibits of or about red wolves elicits questions. Especially in modern zoos, where the emphasis is on larger habitats with more naturalistic spatial and temporal arrangements, docents and other volunteers field many inquiries about the shyer animals, which include red wolves. In museum settings, questions more likely would pertain to the animal's survival status. In either setting, where libraries exist in part to educate the staff who work directly with the public, Camuto's book would provide substantive support and training material.

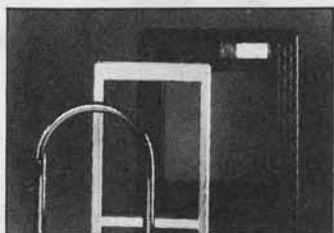
*Another Country* has almost unlimited potential as a recommended adjunct text for a number of university courses, both graduate and undergraduate. There is enough religion and history presented as ecology, so that all manner of cross-disciplinary classes and seminars could be enhanced by having students read this work. The relationship of the red wolf and its ecology to the culture of the Cherokee, who occupied the Appalachian habitat at the time of European contact, forms the backdrop of this narrative on the near-extinction and attempted re-establishment of the species. *Another Country* would add considerably to the reading lists of classes in, among other topics, Native American spirituality, human geography, colonization history, philosophical aspects of ecology, and animal rights.

Most public libraries are blessed with readers who are excited to see diverse areas of inquiry fitted together, and Camuto's book will be an important addition to their collections.

Readers who are not comfortable with some degree of uncertainty will not enjoy this book. Camuto tests his audience in several ways, always coming back to the realization that there are no easy answers for profound questions regarding humans and non-human animals. He speaks of sentimentality about animals as counter-productive, then achingly describes the loss of several project wolves. He raises troubling questions about stereotyping and the general problem of seeing animals through human eyes. The reader must practice critical thinking, examining and re-examining how he or she feels about key issues throughout the book.

*Another Country* is a deeply thoughtful, original, and integrative piece of writing. It makes a substantial contribution to the literature and will make a permanent impression on anyone who, being ready for a brisk workout of mental and emotional faculties, is fortunate or discerning enough to read it. *Another Country*, given as a gift or chosen as an addition to one's personal library, will certainly be used and re-used.

— Meredith Merritt  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte



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## OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST ...

Richard Krawiec, editor of *Cardinal: A Contemporary Anthology of Fiction and Poetry by North Carolina Writers* (Jacar Press, 1986), has added to the number of Tar Heel literary collections with *Voices From Home: The North Carolina Prose Anthology*, a volume of fiction and nonfiction from a few well-known and many lesser-known writers from North Carolina. The editor's purpose was not to compile a "Best of North Carolina," and he did not limit his selections to those set in the state. His introduction says, "When discussing writers, people often forget the other half of the equation — readers. I wished to compile a miscellany of prose that would appeal to the diversity of readers in this state." A valuable introduction to the next wave of Tar Heel writers. (1997; Avisson Press, Inc., P.O. Box 38816, Greensboro, NC 27438; 376 pp.; paper, \$18.00; ISBN 1-888105-30-5.)

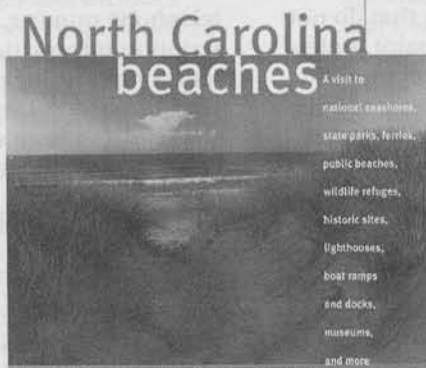
*Mandy Oxendine* is Charles Chestnutt's first novel, just published by the University of Illinois Press. Chestnutt was an eminent African American author at the turn of the century. His treatment of racial, class, and gender issues, particularly Mandy's decision to pass for white, was considered too scandalous for publication in 1897. Mandy is courted by Tom Lowrey, a fair-skinned man who remained in the black community, and Robert Utley, an unscrupulous white landowner who is killed while sexually assaulting her. Includes an introduction and notes on the text by Charles Hackenberry. (1997; University of Illinois Press, 1325 South Oak St, Champaign, IL 61820; xxvii, 112 pp.; cloth, \$27.50; ISBN 0-252-02051-0; paper, \$11.95; ISBN 0-252-06347-3.)

*Quilts, Coverlets, & Counterpanes: Bedcoverings from the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts and Old Salem Collections* is a handsome catalog by Paula W. Locklair, Director of Collections and Curator at MESDA and Old Salem. It is illustrated with full-color photographs, showing whole coverlets, details, and quiltmakers tools and implements. Includes an introduction, notes, and bibliography. (1998; An Old Salem Book, Winston-Salem, NC; distributed by University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288; 71 pp.; paper, \$16.95; 1-879704-04-8.)

*A Paul Green Reader* has been compiled and edited by Laurence G. Avery, who is also responsible for *A Southern Life: Letters of Paul Green, 1916-1981*, published in 1994. The Reader includes texts of three of Green's plays, six short stories, several essays and letters, and an excerpt from *The Wordbook*, his collection of regional folklore. (1998; University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288; 297 pp.; cloth, \$39.95; ISBN 0-8078-2386-4; paper, \$17.95; ISBN 0-8078-4708-9.)

*The Face Finder*, by Raleigh author Carol F. Fantelli, will be enjoyed most by fans of forensic science. Devon Gardiner, a forensic sculptor for the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh, is approached by the SBI to reconstruct the face of a man whose body has just been found 45 years after his death. The solution to the mystery depends heavily on Devon's psychic abilities, and the plot hangs on two preposterous coincidences, but the passages describing the process of building a face onto a skull are fascinating. (1996; Marblehead Publishing, 3026 Churchill Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607; 200 pp.; paper, \$11.95; ISBN 0-943335-07-8.)

Glenn Morris



Glenn Morris's north-to-south, island-by-island, pier-by-pier tour of *North Carolina Beaches*, originally published in 1993, is available in a new edition, completely updated to reflect changes wrought by hurricanes and other recent events. (1998; University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288; 294 pp.; paper, \$17.95; ISBN 0-8078-4683-X.)

New publications from the Institute of Government include *Public Records Law for North Carolina Local Governments* by David M. Lawrence (1997; Institute of Government, CB No. 3330 Knapp Building, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3330; 207 pp.; paper, \$24.00; ISBN 1-56011-299-9.), *Ethics, Conflicts, and Offices: A Guide for Local Officials* by A. Fleming Bell, II (1997; Institute of Government, CB No. 3330 Knapp Building, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3330; 228 pp.; paper, \$20.00; ISBN 1-56011-287-5.), and *Creating Effective Partnerships for Community Economic Development*, prepared by Anita R. Brown-Graham for the Community Development Roundtable (1997; Institute of Government, CB No. 3330 Knapp Building, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3330; 39 pp.; paper, \$11.50; ISBN 1-56011-314-6.). Write for a complete catalog of publications, which include many new editions of works on topics such as animal control law, city council procedures, and sentencing, probation, and parole.

