
New North Carolina Books

Alice R. Cotten, Compiler

Paul D. Escott. *Many Excellent People: Power and Privilege in North Carolina, 1850-1900*. Fred W. Morrison Series in Southern Studies. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1985. 344 pp. \$29.00. ISBN 0-8078-1651-5.

Many Excellent People is an important book for everyone interested in North Carolina history, from professional scholar to casual reader. Paul D. Escott, chairman of the Department of History at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, has produced an astute and insightful social profile of the Old North State during the second half of the nineteenth century.

Escott's thesis is simple and direct: that North Carolina was as undemocratic in its political structure in 1900 as it had been in 1850. In Escott's view, the state was dominated by an elite social group, headed by the "Squirearchy," which weathered the traumatic events of Civil War, Reconstruction, New South industrialization, and an 1890s farmers' revolt. Always willing to resort to the wily appeals of "white supremacy," this elite held off repeated popular challenges to its power and privilege. While Escott concedes that the "succession of major events seemed likely to transform the state," his "conclusions emphasize continuity in power relationships and in the elite's undemocratic attitudes." (xvii-xviii.)

The continuity, however, did not persist without challenge. A related and vital theme of the work is the dedicated effort of poorer, less privileged North Carolinians, white and black alike, to redirect the state's energies into more democratic channels through a transformed political structure. This is a theme with tragic overtones, for the reform attempts twice fell victim to racism, fraud, and outright violent denial.

When Escott is at his best, the history is vivid and dynamic. This is particularly true when Escott treats the decades of Civil War and Reconstruction, a period in which he has previously published. His profile of the North Carolina gentry, which emphasizes propriety as well as property in defining the class, is undoubtedly the best the reviewer has read. Escott also avoids the ten-

dency of many liberal revisionists to romanticize those who were not among the elite. For example, Escott treats the numerically dominant yeomen farmers with judicious restraint, balancing their zeal for self-reliance with their outspoken prejudices. This balance is harmonized best in the fine chapters that detail the violent struggle and genuine suffering that were part of the homefront experience during the Civil War. Most readers should come away with an altered perspective on the sacred traditions of the Confederate cause, whether during the war itself or in the vicious years of Reconstruction that followed.

Escott's social tapestry, although finely woven, is not without threads that can be picked or frayed. This is most apparent in his treatment of the New South decades. While the chapters on industrialization are detailed and original, Escott argues, perhaps too strongly, that the benevolent paternalism ascribed to cotton mill owners of the period did not exist. The evidence that Escott presents does support his argument, but he neglects some evidence that supports the traditional thesis. For example, Escott is correct to reinterpret the famous revival that brought Salisbury its first post-bellum cotton mill. Tradition holds that local citizens in 1887 responded to an evangelist's admonition that what the town needed "next to religion, was a cotton mill" to benefit the poor. The Salisbury crusade was, as Escott claims, engineered by local business interests. Having uncovered the commercial design, however, he then fails to assess the very necessary evangelical rhetoric and benevolent emotion that "Preacher Pearson" evoked in Salisbury, Concord, and other Piedmont towns undergoing economic transformation. The lack of philanthropic intention does not in itself negate a paternalistic outlook among the industrialists.

There are other quibbles. In assessing post-bellum trends in agriculture the author fails to carry through with the previous close attention he paid to five representative counties. The reader will look in vain for the specific impact of the crop lien and other market forces in these counties. In addition, the presentation on Popu-

lism seems sketchy compared to the attention paid to Reconstruction. The reader needs to know more about who the Populists were and why some North Carolina farmers turned to protest through the ballot box, while others did not.

Such weaknesses, however, in no way mar the value or the beauty of the book. Escott writes with a grace akin to the skills of a Brushy Mountain fiddler. His narrative brings welcome lucidity to revisionist scholarship, which is often turgid and doctrinaire. His book is recommended for every North Carolinian who wants to learn the real heritage of the Tar Heel past.

Gary Freeze, *University of North Carolina at Charlotte*

Mary Jarrell, ed. *Randall Jarrell's Letters: An Autobiographical and Literary Selection*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1985. 540 pp. \$29.95. ISBN 0-395-34405-0.

This curiously uneven collection of the letters of Randall Jarrell reveals that he was a better poet, critic, and teacher than he was a letter writer. Beginning in 1935 with a letter to Robert Penn Warren and ending with a letter to Adrienne Rich, the volume includes a number of letters to poets and writers who were friends and contemporaries of Jarrell, as well as many letters to the two women to whom he was married. Jarrell's widow edited this volume and supplied the explanatory italicized passages that bridge the letters and offer Mrs. Jarrell's own reminiscences of the events described by Jarrell. The editor's note indicates that some portions of the letters have been omitted, but there are no ellipses in the text to indicate where these omissions occur. There is a good index and a short list of Jarrell's published work.

Jarrell was a poet of stature, ranked with the other major American poets of World War II and the post-war era. A disciple of John Crowe Ransom and a younger friend of Robert Penn Warren and Allen Tate, Jarrell graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1935 more anxious than agrarian, more rambunctious than rural. His bibliography lists ten volumes of poetry, one novel, and four children's books. Several translations and anthologies attest to his creative and far-ranging interest in literature.

Obsessed as he was with writing, Jarrell apparently did not consider letter writing an art to be developed. The letters are informative but many are not stylistically pleasing, and the reader

senses his effort to sustain the letter after the initial paragraph or two.

The most interesting letters are those Jarrell wrote to other poets in which he gave generously of his critical talent. It would be well to read these letters with the works of his poet-correspondents in hand. As one reads Jarrell's comments to Robert Lowell, Adrienne Rich, Louise Bogan and other poets it would be interesting to know whether Jarrell's admonitions to change a word here, a line there, were acted upon by the recipients of his advice.

On the other hand, we learn very little of Jarrell's own work. He wrote more about the creation of his novel, *Pictures from an Institution*, a satiric academic novel, than he did about his poetry. His letters tend to enumerate poems he has written and to speak more of their publication and reception than to tell how the poem came into being. Perhaps the poetic process cannot be described, but the letters that deal with his own work are not very revealing and not up to the quality of the poetry itself.

The same is true of many of the letters describing events from which some of the best poetry emerged. Reading Jarrell's war letters one thinks that he was emotionally untouched by the war though he served in the army for several years. In long letters to his first wife he recounted his daily life and clerical assignments, but the letters do not convey the horror and futility of war that is expressed so eloquently in his poems in *Little Friend*, *Little Friend* and *Losses*.

Women were the subject of many of Jarrell's poems, and it is apparent from these letters that he liked women and felt comfortable with them. He wrote more personally to them than he did to men; the letters to his two wives and to the women poets he admired are warm, passionate, friendly, and humorous. He is more self-revealing and the letters flow more spontaneously than in many of the letters to his male literary peers.

Jarrell began his teaching career at Kenyon College and taught at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (then Woman's College) for eighteen years. He was a frequent contributor of critical essays to *The Nation* and *The New Republic* during those years and a number of the letters deal with the publication of those brilliant and controversial articles. One senses that their creation and reception were a matter of considerable anxiety to Jarrell. His teaching was perhaps more rewarding; he apparently liked teaching and was probably good at it. He loved cats, classical music, tennis, and sports cars, and

the letters contain rhapsodic accounts of his adventures with each.

The last year of Jarrell's life was marred by illness as his emotions were caught up in the roller coaster of manic depression. It is to Mary Jarrell's credit that she includes a number of letters he wrote under the cloud of that illness, and the reader is allowed to witness his descent into and emergence from depression. It is tragic that just as he was recovering he was killed by an automobile as he strolled one evening in Chapel Hill, shortly after his 51st birthday.

This book will be of particular interest to students of contemporary American literature. It is recommended for college and university libraries as well as for public libraries with collections of modern American literature.

Frances A. Weaver, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Jean Bradley Anderson. ***Piedmont Plantation: The Bennehan-Cameron Family and Lands in North Carolina***. Durham: Historic Preservation Society of Durham. 1985. 227 pp. \$24.95. ISBN 0-9615577-1-0. (Historic Preservation Society of Durham, Durham Arts Council Bldg., 120 Morris Street, Durham 27701.)

When Richard Bennehan moved to Piedmont North Carolina from Virginia in 1768 his immediate object was to assume management of a country store in the rapidly developing backcountry of the province. In so doing Bennehan laid the foundation for a dynasty of plantation aristocracy that stretched for four generations. Bennehan's daughter, Rebecca, married Duncan Cameron in 1803 and through succeeding generations the Bennehan-Cameron family rose to be the wealthiest in North Carolina. In addition to Stagville and Fairtosh plantations in modern Durham County, their property spread into Wake, Granville, Person, and Orange counties as well as including plantations in Mississippi and Alabama. Their holdings ultimately included between 20,000 and 30,000 acres with a slave population of almost 1,000.

Using the plantations as a backdrop upon which the Bennehan and Cameron characters move and work, the author proceeds in a chronological fashion to recount the construction of houses, barns, shops, and mills. She examines the slave population and the family's relationship to the community of slaves; she follows the Camerons through their various business, political, educational, and philanthropic undertakings; and she explores the new order of agricultural life

after the Civil War. Without question the author has succeeded in preparing a highly readable yet fully documented study of plantation life and business enterprises that spans one hundred and fifty years of North Carolina history.

Piedmont Plantation is based on two reports prepared for the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. The author expanded and reworked these studies which were prepared when the buildings and grounds of Stagville became a state historic site in 1977. The book retains the massive attention to minute detail expected of historic sites reports, but that very feature enhances the publication's usefulness as a fact-laden source of nineteenth century plantation life. Extensive appendixes contain lists of family land purchased, slaves acquired by purchase or gift, overseers of the various plantations in the complex, cemeteries on the property, agricultural census data, stock and tools, and mill statistics. Genealogical charts and an eleven page index make it possible to locate facts and family with minimum difficulty. The book will be of particular interest to college and university libraries and to large public libraries with highly developed North Carolina holdings.

Donald R. Lennon, East Carolina University

Richard Cooper. ***Henry Berry Lowry: Rebel With a Cause***. 48 pp. ISBN 0-89136-057-3. Thomas Wolfe. ***Voice of the Mountains***. 48 pp. ISBN 0-89136-061-1. Raleigh: Creative Productions, 1985. \$107 for the set of twelve "Famous Tar Heels." (Box 30515, Raleigh 27612.)

Henry Berry Lowry, a Lumbee Indian, was the Robin Hood of his people during the late 19th century. Through the lean days of Reconstruction, Lowry and his gang stole food and provisions to help keep their people alive, careful to take only from those who could afford it.

Thomas Wolfe, one of the University of North Carolina's most famous alumni, is well known for his novels, several of which are based on his boyhood in Asheville. Wolfe grew up in a strange family with parents who maintained separate houses a block apart. His father was a stonecutter with a weakness for alcohol; his mother, known as a penny pincher, ran a boarding house called Old Kentucky Home.

What do Henry Berry Lowry and Thomas Wolfe have in common? Both are North Carolinians, and both are included in a set of twelve biographies by Richard Cooper in a series called "Famous Tar Heels."

The twelve biographies, each forty-eight pages in length, compare favorably with other biographies for children. Written on the fourth grade reading level, the books seem to be a valuable accompaniment to the unit on North Carolina history studied in that grade. They may also be useful to eighth graders who study North Carolina history.

Among the ten other North Carolinians included in "Famous Tar Heels" are several well known names such as Billy Graham, O. Henry, Sugar Ray Leonard, Sam Ervin, and Manteo. Others that may be less well known, particularly to children, are Richard Caswell, John Chavis, James Augustus McLean, Susie Sharp, and Zeb Vance. A quick check in *Books-in-Print* revealed available biographies for only three of those included in the set: Billy Graham, Sam Ervin, and Thomas Wolfe. Of those three, the only ones written for children were of Billy Graham.

An experienced newspaper reporter who has often drawn editorial cartoons, Richard Cooper not only wrote the biographies but illustrated them as well. The color illustrations complement the texts nicely and help bring the characters to life. Each book, short enough to be read in one or two sittings, begins with an anecdote in an attempt to catch the reader's attention.

Cooper is currently compiling a second set of biographies of famous North Carolinians which will become available this spring. Among those to be included will be Elizabeth Koontz, Charles B. Aycock, Mary Martin Sloop, Michael Jordan, Elizabeth Dole, and "Carbine" Williams. For libraries interested in building their women's collections, Cooper will make available as a separate set his six biographies of women.

"Famous Tar Heels" includes biographies ranging from people active in North Carolina's earliest days to those still in the news. North Carolinians from various walks of life, some more famous than others, help Richard Cooper achieve his goal of providing children with a positive look at the people who have accomplished things for North Carolina. Recommended for elementary school, junior high school, and public libraries.

Mary L. Kirk, University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Seth B. Hinshaw. *The Carolina Quaker Experience, 1665-1985: An Interpretation*. North Carolina Yearly Meeting, North Carolina Friends Historical Society, 1984. 342 pp. \$14.00.

The Carolina Quaker Experience is written by a Quaker for Quakers. The author, Seth B. Hin-

shaw, has been a Quaker pastor and administrator and has written several other books on Quakers. In this book, he describes in detail the history of Quaker migration into and through the Carolinas. There are references to South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee, but most Quaker activity was in North Carolina. He also recounts the organizational growth and theological changes that occurred among the Quakers (or Friends), their service to the community, and the areas of conscience where they went against community norms. He does this thoroughly and, for the most part, objectively. Often Mr. Hinshaw points out both the admirable aspects and the failures of the Quaker experience.

He does occasionally allow his partisanship for the Quaker faith to intrude, mostly in the form of (almost) parenthetical comments. The most glaring example is in his interpretation of Quaker opposition to slavery before the Civil War. For years before the war, Quakers in the South freed their own slaves when possible, cared for other freed slaves, and arranged for transport for them to the West and Canada, where they could live in freedom without fear of being "repossessed" into bondage. This was a difficult, expensive, and unpopular effort, and Quakers deserve a lot of credit for it. But very few non-Quakers followed this lead, as Mr. Hinshaw points out. Where he missteps is in adding the following comment: "Friends did prove, however, that slavery could be eliminated peaceably and that the War Between the States could have been avoided. This was no small achievement." (p. 137) It seems to this reviewer that the actions of the Quakers, far from "proving" that the Civil War could have been avoided, showed instead how different the Friends were from their fellows, and how courageous they were to act in opposition to their community. In trying to give Quakers credit for proving the impossible, Mr. Hinshaw has actually denigrated their conscientiousness and de-emphasized the separateness from the world that the Quakers desired for themselves.

As a non-Quaker, this reviewer had hoped to learn more about who the Quakers are and what they believe. I did learn quite a lot, but this book is not written to educate the non-Quaker. Mr. Hinshaw begins the book by plunging right into who came to North Carolina and where they settled. He gives no background on how the Friends movement started, or what they believed. This knowledge is all assumed, and the uninformed reader must pick it up in bits and pieces along the way. Many organizational terms such as "monthly meeting" and "yearly meeting" go undefined, and

the reasons for the early persecution of Friends are unclear. It is not until the third chapter, entitled "Some Unique Customs," that Mr. Hinshaw directly describes some special attributes of the Society of Friends. To the non-Quaker, the most interesting chapters of the book deal with the Quakers' refusal to bear arms in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, their active opposition to slavery, their espousal of the equality of the sexes, and the sufferings they endured as a result of these unpopular stands.

In summary, this is a carefully researched history and interpretation. It includes many notes, an extensive bibliography, and several appendixes, including a chronology. It is aimed at Quaker scholars and others within the Society of Friends who are interested in the group's activities in the South. It is full of family names and dates, so it is a Quaker genealogist's dream. Recommended for libraries where there is a substantial Quaker population or particular interest in the subject, especially in the Piedmont. For reasons that the author does not explore, few Quakers settled in western North Carolina; they apparently by-passed the Carolina mountains for Tennessee.

Elizabeth White, Asheville-Buncombe Library System

Alan Feduccia, ed. *Catesby's Birds of Colonial America*. Fred W. Morrison Series in Southern Studies. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1985. 176 pp. \$29.00. ISBN 0-8078-1661-2.

Owing largely to Professor Feduccia's work, eighteenth-century naturalist Mark Catesby is emerging from the shadows cast by his successors Alexander Wilson and John James Audubon. The relative obscurity of Catesby's research has been due in part to the absence of a standard system for naming newly discovered species prior to Linnaeus' *Systema Naturae* (1758). The post-Linnaean publications of Wilson and Audubon were more useful to the scientific community and enjoyed greater popularity. Yet Catesby's contributions were considerable. His *Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands*, 1731-43, "remained until the time of Audubon, a century later, the best illustrative treatment of the flora and fauna of North America" (Preface), and won him considerable fame in both America and Europe.

In addition to his talents as an observer and illustrator of nature, Catesby was a skilled writer and possessed an inquiring and creative mind. The *Natural History* includes descriptions and

illustrations of 109 species of bird and relates general observations regarding the air, water, aborigines, agricultural crops, animals, and fish of the colonial South. Catesby's writing reflects his awareness of contemporary scientific thought and dedication to thorough, usually objective observation, and is imbued with a contagious delight in the splendors and curiosities of the New World. An example of the the naturalist's innovations is his idea that bobolinks disappear in winter because they migrate and not, as the prevailing theory had it, that they hibernate in caves or in the mud at the bottom of ponds.

Feduccia and the UNC Press should be applauded for the attractive and practical way in which they have reintroduced Catesby's work. Had they simply produced a facsimile, the resulting volume would have been a handsome curiosity: difficult to read due to the layout and typeface and of little interest to most scholars because of Catesby's naming system and the discrepancies between some of his conclusions and current biological knowledge. Instead, Feduccia chose to use Catesby's original illustrations but to print the text in a modern typeface. The commentary on each plate is accompanied by editorial notes by Professor Feduccia and, where relevant, remarks made by other naturalists. Thus, the reader is treated to a short history of the scholarship on each bird. Most of the excellent illustrations are in black and white, but twenty of the loveliest appear in full-page color plates so the reader has a good sense of Catesby's considerable abilities as both colorist and draftsman. To alleviate the nomenclature problem, Feduccia provides a list of the 109 species discussed in the book by current common name, Catesby's name, and scientific name.

The value of *Catesby's Birds of Colonial America* for school, public, and academic libraries is considerable. It holds appeal for naturalists; hobbyists; historians interested in science, art, or the South; and for anyone curious about the wildlife enjoyed by our colonial forebears. A bibliography and an index by common and scientific names of birds and plants are included.

Alan Feduccia's credentials are impressive. A professor of biology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he has made numerous contributions to ornithological scholarship. Of greater interest to the non-specialist is his 1980 *The Age of Birds* (Harvard University Press), a description of avian evolution written for a general audience.

Elizabeth A. Bramm, Duke University

Alec Wilkinson. *Moonshine: A Life in Pursuit of White Liquor*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985. 153 pp. \$13.95. ISBN 0-394-54587-7.

A highly enjoyable biography that reads like fiction, this slender volume chronicles the life and times of Garland Bunting, a longtime Alcoholic Beverage Control Officer in Halifax County, North Carolina. Bunting, depicted as a gray-haired, thin-lipped man with clear, steel blue eyes and a figure he himself describes as having "that sweet potato shape—small at both ends and big in the middle," is brought marvelously and vividly to life in this delightful account of one man's life as a modern-day revenuer.

As portrayed by Wilkinson, Bunting is an articulate, gregarious soul, a fifty-seven-year-old native of North Carolina, who has devoted most of his life to tracking down bootleggers and their stills. He has held his present post since 1953, in an area of eastern North Carolina that appears to be brimming with moonshiners. Wilkinson's descriptions of Bunting's many exploits are fascinating, and often humorous as well. Bunting is represented as a slick, undercover operator, who, instead of trying to blend into the crowd, uses flamboyant disguises (or hide-behinds, as Bunting calls them) to trap unsuspecting bootleggers. Some of his more notable roles include a Bible-thumping preacher, a door-to-door fish peddler, a carnival barker, an obnoxiously loud drunk, and a woman character named "Sweet Mama Tree-Top Tall" (which he has used on occasion to fool drivers).

It is Bunting's endless supply of anecdotes, heavily spiked with down-home humor, action, and colorful language, all faithfully reported by the author, that add a superb sense of realism and credibility to the narrative. Wilkinson is at his best when describing midnight coon hunts, long jaunts down the dusty back roads of rural eastern North Carolina, Bunting's many undercover deeds, and a stake-out at a backwoods still. Various characters, such as Asia Herring, Alphonso Exum, Earl Outland, and a host of others are made real through the author's ability to entertain.

Moonshine, besides being entertaining, is also informative, for intertwined with the descriptions of Bunting's escapades are facts about the history of moonshine and a discussion concerning the distillation of bootleg liquor today. The author's picture of the backwoods production of moonshine is quite graphic and apt to create a few raised eyebrows.

Alec Wilkinson, also the author of *Midnights* (which concerned the life of a small-town police-

man), has carefully researched his subject and has written a deft portrayal of a man ferociously intent on extinguishing the moonshine trade in eastern North Carolina. It is funny, serious, true to life, and a wonderful tribute to a truly remarkable North Carolinian.

Public libraries should consider including this interesting piece of Caroliniana in their collections.

Mike Shoop, Robeson County Public Library, Lumberton

Lala Carr Steelman. *The North Carolina Farmers' Alliance: A Political History, 1887-1893*. Greenville: East Carolina University Publications, Department of History, 1985. 295 pp. \$9.95 paper; \$19.95 cloth.

The Farmers' Alliance was formed in North Carolina in 1887 as a part of a national organization created to address the social and economic problems of farmers. Its initial aim was to call attention to their needs, yet to remain clear of religion, politics, and racial questions. The nature of the concerns, however, soon led the Alliance into politics when members pondered such matters as the need for a railroad commission to regulate freight rates. They also came to discuss taxes, better public schools and trained teachers, new election laws, the protection of oyster beds from raids by fishermen from Virginia and Maryland, the need for a college of agriculture, a public college for women, and other topics. Appealing to the predominant Democratic Party for solutions, they were rebuffed. Machine politicians, it was said, drove reformers out of that party and into a budding Populist Party.

Professor Steelman has made a careful study of the various political moves preliminary to the "fusion" of the Populist and the Republican parties which marked the government of North Carolina at both the state and local levels at the end of the nineteenth century. Various factions are noted and their leadership defined. She explains the accomplishments of the Alliance through its political action—inspection of fertilizer, improved public roads, measures to conserve natural resources, new statutes pertaining to the care of the unfortunates, legislation to establish what is now North Carolina State University, among others.

This scholarly study is not without a hint of humor. The predicament of Edward J. Hale, publisher of a Fayetteville newspaper, when he discovered that one of his reporters held opposing views to those of himself, will bring at least a smile

to the face of the reader. Both advocates and opponents of women's history will be amused at the brief story of a pioneer female politician, Mary Elizabeth "Raise Hell" Lease, who accompanied presidential candidate James B. Weaver on a speaking tour through North Carolina.

This book will help to round out any collection of North Carolina books. There is much local history and biography to be found in it as county leadership is covered and those involved identified in some detail.

William S. Powell, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

William David Webster, James F. Parnell, and Walter C. Biggs, Jr. ***Mammals of the Carolinas, Virginia, and Maryland***. Fred W. Morrison Series in Southern Studies. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1985. 255 pp. \$16.95. ISBN 0-8078-1663-9.

Nearly every habitat contains characteristic mammals, some, like the grey squirrel, so familiar as to go unnoticed, but others nearly always unseen though close at hand. Yet, because they are important in practical and aesthetic ways, they need to be known and appreciated. Wide circulation and use of this attractive book will surely help.

The authors, all from the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, succeed in their goal to introduce the abundance and variety of mammal life in the four state area to those who have not yet discovered it.

The introductory section (33 pp.), well illustrated by color photographs, augments the book's value as a work about mammals rather than just a guide to them. Following descriptions of the general habitat regions (mountains, piedmont, coastal plain, and ocean), it describes mammal characteristics and adaptations, tells how to observe and study them, and considers factors regulating population size and the importance of preserving undisturbed, unpolluted native habitats. Two maps show the location of areas, such as wildlife refuges and state parks, where mammals are more protected and easier to observe.

The main section of the book is a systematic accounting of 118 mammals, including five no longer found (extirpated) in the region and eight exotic (introduced) species. Each of the seventy-five land-dwelling species is given a separate account. Related species of marine mammals are

usually grouped in a single account.

Each account consists of a brief non-technical description to help the reader recognize the mammal and distinguish it from similar species, an indication of where it occurs geographically (with a range map) and its characteristic habitat, concluding with a discussion of its natural history, e.g. food, activity cycles, reproduction, interaction with man, and enemies. Every account is accompanied by a color photograph of the mammal, many taken in its native habitat.

A glossary (110 terms) has been provided to help with some of the more technical terminology. The bibliography (forty-four citations) is subdivided into regional publications, general publications, field guides, techniques manuals (on collection and preservation) and periodicals. The index, consisting entirely of common and scientific names of mammals, is to the accounts section only. It would have been more useful had it covered the entire book.

Every library in the region serving patrons interested in mammals should have this in its collection. It would be useful in helping librarians answer inquiries about local mammals.

John B. Darling, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Martha Stoops. ***The Heritage: The Education of Women at St. Mary's College, Raleigh, North Carolina 1842-1982***. Raleigh: St. Mary's College, 1984. 532 pp. \$29.95 (plus \$3.35 tax and postage). (Order from St. Mary's College Alumnae Association, St. Mary's College, 900 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, N. C. 27603.) ISBN 0-9613833-0-5.

The Heritage is a well-executed account of St. Mary's College in Raleigh, N. C. Founded in 1842 under the auspices of the Episcopal Church, St. Mary's offers young women a curriculum which covers the last two years of high school and the first two years of college. It is highly appropriate that the author, Martha Stoops, has been a St. Mary's faculty member since 1960 and is, herself, a women's college graduate. Her personal experience of the college's conscious efforts to define and fulfill its purpose is critical to her task as a historian to evaluate the enormous mass of available primary information and to formulate a comprehensive interpretation of St. Mary's program to prepare its students for intellectually and spiritually productive adulthood.

Central to this comprehensive interpretation is the "golden chain" of individual people who

absorbed and then transmitted to ensuing generations the best of the qualities and traditions which defined the nature of St. Mary's. These included the students who became teachers at St. Mary's or who sent their daughters and granddaughters to the school. There were also the families who—especially in the early days—assumed a particular responsibility for maintaining and administering this ward of the Episcopal Church through rocky social and financial times.

The history of an American educational institution—especially of a small, private, church-affiliated, single-sex institution—is the history of the people who made its work their own. *The Heritage* properly focuses on the working lives of the teachers and administrators who shaped and defined St. Mary's. Stoops has organized her material by administrations, and has presented a splendid series of detailed group portraits which reveal the personalities of the teachers, the administrative and curricular policies and decisions, and the pastimes and living conditions of the students. National and regional events (wars, depressions, inaugurations), as well as the location of St. Mary's (in the state capital and near N. C. State and Chapel Hill) also contributed to the nature of the school's development.

It is clear that Stoops' direct experience of the events following 1960 expands the scope of her coverage, and despite the convolutions in chronology made necessary by the topical organization of these chapters, her personal knowledge makes these the most interesting chapters. The 1960s brought remarkable changes to American higher education, and St. Mary's experienced both the good and the bad which befell all colleges and universities during that time. *The Heritage* suggests that in the 1980s, St. Mary's has emerged the stronger for its trials and difficulties. It becomes apparent that an institution's awareness of its heritage makes renewed commitment possible even in the midst of change.

Librarians and scholars alike will appreciate the care with which this volume has been prepared. The bibliography of books and collections of personal papers excludes articles, which are cited in full in the extensive collection of detailed and informative notes. The index is good, and the pictures of the buildings, founders, teachers, and student groups are well chosen and helpful.

Any reader genuinely concerned about the future of small, especially private, institutions of higher learning in this country would find in *The Heritage* clear evidence of the kinds of leadership, sacrifice, and personal dedication and devotion to defined ideals that preserve such institu-

tions. Similarly, readers interested in the history of women's education should read this volume. At a time when coeducational institutions would seem to have taken over the mission of the women's colleges, it is important that anyone engaged in the education of women comprehend the lessons learned by those colleges about the peculiar task of preparing *women* for a productive and satisfactory role in a society which now either ignores or (still too often) subtly denigrates their difference from men. Herein lies the importance of the collective history of women's colleges.

The Heritage is recommended for most academic libraries.

Rose Simon, Salem Academy and College



New Reading Encouragement Poster Set

"Reading Time" is the theme of the Children's Book Council's new eight-poster reading encouragement series. Four popular children's book artists have created delightful posters that tie in reading with special occasions important to children throughout the year.

Valentine's Day and starting school are the subjects depicted by popular artist James Marshall. Arlene Dubanevich encourages family reading on Mother's Day and books as gifts at holiday time. The late Jack Kent portrays reading on Father's Day and in the New Year. Halloween and Graduation reading are interpreted by Denys Cazet. The eight full-color, 11 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 17", "Reading Time" posters are available in a prepacked kit for \$23.95.

An illustrated "Reading Time" brochure is available from CBC for a 22¢-stamped, self-addressed, #10 envelope.

The Children's Book Council, sponsor of National Children's Book Week, is a non-profit association of children's and young adult trade book publishers. Proceeds from the sale of materials support CBC projects related to young people and books.



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