

New North Carolina Books

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Baba Yaga's Geese and Other Russian Stories, translated and adapted by Bonnie Carey. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1973.) 128pp. Illus. \$5.95.

Bonnie Carey teaches Russian at Hale High School in Raleigh. She is a poet in her own right and holds degrees in both Russian and Slavic languages and literature. Each of the folktales which she relates for us is brief, aimed at the 5-11 age group, but adults will enjoy them, too. They deal with people of various ages, with animals, and with inanimate objects as subjects as well. Many of the tales have a moral while others are simply entertaining little stories. There also is a brief section of riddles which readers-out-loud might want to intersperse with the stories when they need a rest.

SARAH McCULLOH LEMMON. *Frustrated Patriots, North Carolina and the War of 1812*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1973.) 223pp. \$10.50.

North Carolina's role in the War of 1812 has never before been the subject of detailed investigation, and Prof. Lemmon has rescued many Tar Heels from near oblivion. She has given all just dues to several heroes from the state — Otway Burns, Johnston Blakeley, Benjamin Forsyth — and countless others who played less significant roles in this second war with Great Britain. This was an unpopular war, in many respects like the Vietnam War, but North Carolina and North Carolinians participated as a patriotic gesture rather than from conviction and with en-

thusiasm. In addition to being a narrative account of the war and wartimes, this book contains a great deal of local history and biography which is certain to please many North Carolina readers. Librarians will find its mass of well organized detail and its splendid index handy reference tools to help answer a variety of questions.

DONALD R. LENNON and IDA BROOKS KELLAM, eds. *The Wilmington Town Book, 1743-1778*. (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1973.) 266pp. Illus. \$10.00.

Wilmington is the only town in North Carolina for which municipal records survive from the colonial period. From 1743 until 1778 town officials carefully recorded their transactions in a book. From that book we can now read the minutes of the meetings of the town commissioners and aldermen, and discover what they were doing about taxes, what laws and ordinances they adopted, what public works they authorized, and other actions which they took for the public welfare. This book is a careful transcription from the manuscript record. The records themselves, together with the interesting notes supplied by the editors to identify people and subjects, make fascinating reading. It can easily put the reader into a "you are there now" frame of mind and trigger great flights of fancy as to what Wilmington must have been like in the eighteenth century. Such works as this, with numerous references to the everyday activities of people, may help correct the ancient belief that North Carolina was a crude and undesirable place to be in the early days.

HUGH T. LEFLER and WILLIAM S. POWELL. *Colonial North Carolina, A History*. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1973.) 318pp. Illus., maps. \$10.00.

This volume on North Carolina is one of a series to be published by Scribner's on each of the thirteen British colonies in America. To date only those dealing with North Carolina and New Jersey have appeared; others are scheduled for the near future. Written for the interested adult, this book on North Carolina during the period before the adoption of the state constitution in 1776, is based on fresh research in contemporary sources and has much new material on the period with which it deals. Many of the illustrations have not heretofore appeared in histories of the state. There is an annotated, classified bibliography and a detailed index.

DALLAS WALTON NEWSOM. *Along the Silent Ways, Poems*. Edited by Dorothy Newsom Rankin and Tempe Newsom Prouty. (Durham: Seeman Printer, 1973.) 202pp., port., \$7.95: (Order from Wills Bookstore, Lakewood, Durham, N. C.)

Dallas Walton Newsom (1873-1949) was treasurer of Trinity College for a number of years and became Durham County's first county manager. A native of Warren County, he spent the remainder of his life in Durham after entering Trinity College as a student in 1895. His poems are philosophical, lyrical, and in some cases personal. Many of them were published in newspapers and magazines during his lifetime. Some of them were written to honor specific people or events. In some instances he seems to have served as Durham's unofficial poet laureate. There are poems suggesting this, such as one commemorating Greater Durham Day, another entitled "To the Four Negro Orphan Children Who Sang before the Durham Lions' Club, January 15, 1924," and still another, "Trinity College Greets Her Unfailing Friend, Benjamin Newton Duke," read at a birthday dinner in honor of Duke on his 68th birthday in 1923.

MARGARET GOFF CLARK. *Their Eyes on the Stars, Four Black Writers*. (Champaign, Ill.: Garrard Publishing Co., 1973.) 174pp. Illus. \$3.78.

Designed for use at the level of grades 5-9, this book contains life stories of four Negro writers "who gave voice to the longings of their people." Two of the four had strong North Carolina ties. George Moses Horton was a slave owned by a Chatham County family which permitted young George to work in Chapel Hill. At the University of North Carolina there it was soon discovered that he was a practicing poet, and he was employed by students to compose poems which they sent to their sweethearts. Some faculty families befriended Horton and several volumes of his poems were published. At the end of the Civil War he left the state with a Union soldier and eventually made his way to Philadelphia where he died about 1883 at the age of eighty-six.

The second biography relates the life of Charles Waddell Chesnutt who had Fayetteville connections and spent a number of years there as well as in Charlotte. Chesnutt was a novelist and short story writer whose works were popular when they appeared between 1899 and 1905; some are now available in paperback editions. Both of these biographies (as are the other two non-North Carolina subjects) are well written and interesting; they are factual although they do contain some contrived conversation.

GLEN ROUNDS. *The Day the Circus Came to Lone Tree*. (New York: Holiday House, 1973.) [34]pp. Illus. \$3.95.

This is a perfectly delightful story about the fate that befell a circus in Lone Tree when cowboys tried to rescue a Lady Lion Tamer from a lion that was only doing what he was trained to do. Glen Rounds' story and his splendid drawings combine to make this a book to delight the young reader. Parents who read it to young children will also enjoy it.