

# New North Carolina Books

by WILLIAM S. POWELL

ELIOT PORTER. *Appalachian Wilderness, The Great Smoky Mountains. Natural and Human History* by Edward Abbey. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1970. 123p. \$30.00.

Forty-five lovely color photographs, most of which are nearly a foot square, will appeal to anyone with a spot in his heart for the Great Smoky Mountains. Close-ups of wildflowers, ferns, trees, shrubs, lichens, moss, rocks, streams, and waterfalls, and sweeping views of mountains and stretches of trees—at all seasons of the year—are unbelievably beautiful. The text is an interesting combination of diary-form commentary, contemporary history of the region, and geology-natural history. Above all, however, this is a picture-book to delight the eye and a book to read for information, inspiration, and as a warning. There is an oft-mentioned hint, sometimes a bold warning, that we must all be alarmed at the threat of destruction from commercialization of scenic spots, strip mining, pollution from mills, and concentrated population. The author's tribute to the national park system is genuine. He describes it as "one of the very few decent things which the U. S. Government—that remote and faceless institution—has ever provided for ordinary citizens. Maintaining the park system is almost the only *nice, friendly* thing which the Federal Government does for ordinary people. Nearly all of its other activities, carried on at our expense, are for the benefit of the rich and powerful, or for the sake of secret, furtive, imperial causes that can inspire in us feelings only of sickness, shame and dread."

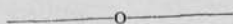
Written in a conversation-like style, often reflecting the author's spur-of-the-moment reaction to the sight immediately before him as he wandered through the mountains, this is a book which should be high on the "must" list for every library in the state.

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HAROLD GRIER McCURDY. *The Chastening of Narcissus*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1970. 54p. \$4.00.

Dr. McCurdy, a member of the Psychology faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has been writing poems since childhood. One previous collected volume of his poetry has been published and his poems have appeared in magazines and anthologies. His life-long interests are reflected in his poetic work: religion, reading, flowers, the classics, art, and science. Poems written between 1934 and 1959 appear in this collection; they are traditional in form and spirit.

I stepped out of the dark house and the sky took off my head  
 And filled me with windy blueness and puddles that doubled the sky,  
 And my feet went over the addled bricks through patches of sun  
 and shade  
 As if the whole wide world was moving, and not I.



ROBERT S. STAROBIN. *Industrial Slavery in the Old South*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1970. 320p. illus. \$7.95.

This is not a book devoted exclusively to North Carolina nor is its author a North Carolinian, but it was based on research in the Duke University manuscripts collection, in the Southern Historical Collection in Chapel Hill, and in the State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, to a greater degree than in similar resources in any other state. North Carolina, naturally, is mentioned frequently in this study of the use of slave labor in industry between 1790 and 1861. It is a subject which will interest the traditionalist as well as the newly identified "black historians." Its readable style undoubtedly will appeal to both groups as well as to the general reader. The reference librarian, however, will regret that the index is not more complete.



ANNE FIROR SCOTT. *The Southern Lady From Pedestal to Politics, 1830-1930*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1970. 247p.

In a happy blend of contemporary comment and her own synthesis of facts from a variety of sources, Professor Anne Scott of the Duke University History faculty leads the reader effortlessly through a century of fascinating history. Chapter 1, to set the stage, relates the traditional image of the Southern lady; Chapter 2, however, will astound the old-timers who believe ante-bellum ladies in the South led lives of leisure. A catalogue of their jobs and some of their own comments about them should lay that myth to rest forever. Pre-war discontent, struggles during the Civil War, and the hard times of Reconstruction, led Southern ladies stage by stage to a more overt role outside the home; their sphere of influence grew rapidly. The right to vote was a not unexpected step in this changing pattern, and with that giant step came new opportunities and, naturally, new results. North Carolina, of course, is only one of the Southern states dealt with in this pioneering work, but many of Professor Scott's illustrations are drawn from North Carolina sources; the names of numerous prominent North Carolina ladies grace her pages. *The Southern Lady* should be in every library in the state, but, like the subject, we predict it will not be content to keep its place—it will be out circulating in the community doing its work.

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## NEW NORTH CAROLINA BOOKS

(Continued)

SARAH McCULLOH LEMMON. *Parson Pettigrew of the "Old Church": 1744-1807*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1970. 1680. \$4.50. Volume 52 in the James Sprunt Studies in History and Political Science.

The Rev. Charles Pettigrew (1744-1807), born in Pennsylvania, the son of a Scottish immigrant, was brought to North Carolina by his family as a child. A Presbyterian turned Anglican, he was a schoolmaster of good repute who went to England late in 1774 to be ordained to the Anglican ministry. Upon his return he served St. Paul's Church, Edenton, and several missionary stations in the vicinity. In 1794 attempts were made to revive the Anglican faith, and Pettigrew was elected bishop of the Episcopal Church. However, he was never able to attend a general convention at which he might have been consecrated. These are the facts generally recited by historians, but Professor Lemmon goes deeper into the life of this interesting man. He was literate and well read, as his letters indicate. He was a loving husband and father, as his moving tributes in verse to a new-born son, a daughter who died young, and his wife at her death prove. He worked hard and engaged in more pursuits than preaching, but he was never wealthy. His life, which Dr. Lemmon relates in good style, was in many respects not unlike that of others near the end of the eighteenth century. This book will inform (and perhaps even entertain in a moving way) anyone with an interest in the everyday life of the time.

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BLACKWELL P. ROBINSON. *The North Carolina Adventure*. Durham: Moore Publishing Company, 1969 [i.e., 1970?]. 209p. illus. \$5.95.

We reviewed this book a few months ago when it first appeared, but we found little or nothing good to say about it. The publisher, in the meantime, has reported that all copies of that printing which remained in stock have been destroyed and the book reprinted with revisions. The copy now under consideration, though not so indicated on the title page or on the copyright page, is the second version. A comparison of the two, however, reveals that none of our outspoken criticisms of factual error previously reported need to be altered. They still have not been corrected: the date of the Battle of Alamance, for example, is still wrong; the words and actions of the ladies at the Edenton Tea Party are still reported incorrectly. We do find that two obvious typographical errors have been corrected; there may be others. Fourteen lines on contemporary Negro leaders have been added. Until this work gets the attention it must have to make it factually correct, it should not appear on any library shelf in the state (most especially not a school library) to misinform the children (11-12-year-olds?) to whom it is directed.