

## NEW NORTH CAROLINA BOOKS

By

WILLIAM S. POWELL

MALCOLM ROSS. *The Cape Fear*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1965. 340pp. \$7.00.

A volume in the "Rivers of America" series, this book is the biography of one of North Carolina's most important and historic rivers. Malcolm Ross, summertime resident of our mountains, obviously loved the Tar Heel State and spent much time in serious research. His book is divided into three broad sections devoted to the three centuries during which the river has been important to man. Scottish Highlanders, Regulators, Tories, steamboats, Rebels and Yankees, turpentine, the U.S.S. North Carolina, and many other subjects are adequately and interestingly discussed. His style is descriptive, moving, humorous, or tongue-in-cheek as best suits the subject at hand. Malcolm Ross died in May before his book was published in November. Had he lived, several insignificant but annoying errors in both text and bibliography surely would never have been printed, and it is quite likely that the index would have been more extensive. The single map in the volume, for which the author undoubtedly was not responsible, is most inadequate.

ELIZABETH GRAY VINING. *Flora, A Biography*. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1966. 208pp. Illus., maps. \$4.95.

We suppose that all North Carolinians have heard of Flora Macdonald, who saved Bonnie Prince Charlie in the Highlands of Scotland and later lived for a time in North Carolina. Loyal to the Crown, she helped unite Scottish Highlanders in the Cape Fear Valley for action against the Whigs at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge four months before the Declaration of Independence. Mrs. Vining has written a careful biography of Flora based on research on both sides of the Atlantic. Her sources are cited in chapter notes at the end of the volume. Contemporary letters and reports of persons present at important times help to make this an even more interesting book than it would have been otherwise. It is good to have the facts now. Tar Heels, however, will continue to cherish the Flora of legend. The absence of an index will be noted by those who would use this book for research rather than cover-to-cover reading.

RICHARD WALSER and JULIA MONTGOMERY STREET. *North Carolina Parade, Stories of History and People*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1906. 209 pp. Illus. \$4.50.

These interesting stories for young people are, in many cases, based on fact. Some, however, are fictional, but they help round out the subjects discussed in the book. In time they range from Virginia Dare to the Battleship North Carolina. Five or six pages each at the most, these stories are well written and should play an important part in giving Tar Heel youth a new appreciation of the state's past.

JASPER LEONIDAS STUCKEY. *North Carolina: Its Geology and Mineral Resources*. Raleigh: N. C. Department of Conservation and Development, 1965. 550pp. Illus. \$5.00.

While Dr. Stuckey's valuable study may be read with greatest benefit by geologists, it is by no means limited in its usefulness, and it contains much which is not strictly geological in classification. Some of its information is geographical and some historical.

We know of no better concise statement of the state's geography than that in the opening pages of this book. The main sections however, are devoted to the "Geological and Topographic History of North Carolina" which is introduced by an explanation of geologic time and illustrated by a chart of a geologic time scale for North Carolina. Mineral resources of the state, including the popular subjects of gold and gem stones, are adequately described and discussed. Worthwhile illustrations, a lengthy bibliography, and an index (though not as complete as we would desire) add to the book's value.

JAMES H. CRAIG. *The Arts and Crafts in North Carolina, 1699-1840*. Winston-Salem: Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, 1965. 480pp. \$8.00.

Mr. Craig has carefully combed all available North Carolina newspapers of the years 1751-1840 for references to craftsmen. These are reproduced in full in his book together with the name and date of the newspaper. He has also searched surviving county court minutes for apprentice indentures, and these have been extracted. The information he has turned up has been organized by type of craftsman: artists, gunsmiths and locksmiths; silversmiths, jewelers, watchmakers; potters; painters; metalworkers; cabinetmakers; architects; makers of musical instruments; upholsterers; mechanics and engineers; and other classifications. A magnificent index will refer the searcher to the names of the craftsmen, their products, the town and the county in which they worked, and other useful information in the text. The idly curious will spend many pleasant hours with this book checking such information as who made coffins, where toothbrushes could be obtained in those early days, and how mattresses were made and repaired. Antique collectors, genealogists, historians, biographers, and others will long be indebted to Mr. Craig and the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts for the good service they have rendered in compiling and publishing this record of arts and crafts in North Carolina.

LOUIS B. WRIGHT, editor. *The Prose Works of William Byrd of Westover, Narratives of a Colonial Virginian*. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1966. 438pp. Illus. \$9.75.

This is a book which no librarian should overlook. It makes available again an important North Carolina book long out of print and available only at a very high price. It offers, in fact, more than William K. Boyd's edition of Byrd's writings. William Byrd took part in the surveying of the North Carolina-Virginia line in 1728, and his *Secret History of the Line*, his *History of the Dividing Line*, as well as two other works, *A Progress to the Mines* and *A Journey to the Land of Eden*, are included in Dr. Wright's book. An introduction on Byrd as a man of letters, an appendix with information on the text and the manuscripts, and a thorough index complete the book. Byrd was a keen observer of things around him and a polished writer. His accounts make delightful reading, and we hope every library in the state will have a copy to keep on hand for the browser and several copies to circulate.

BERNADINE BAILEY. *Picture Book of North Carolina*. Chicago: Albert Whitman and Co., 1966. Rev. ed. 32pp. Illus. \$3.00.

It would be difficult to find a short book such as this which contains more errors of fact, more wrong dates, and which gives more incorrect impressions of North Carolina as it exists today. We have not compared the 1950 edition with this revision, but some of the faults may lie in the author's failure to seek current information. Any library which fails to purchase this book will be doing its young readers a favor.