



Dorothy Hodder, Compiler

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rancis Speight, born in Bertie County, North Carolina, originally took art lessons in hopes of being able to illustrate his writings. However, he soon gave up writing to embark on an artistic career that would span almost 70 years. He was joined in a life devoted to painting by his student, and later wife, Sarah Blakeslee. *The Privilege to Paint* tells their story.

Speight first studied art on weekends at Meredith College in Raleigh. In 1920, he enrolled in the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia. After completing his studies, he was hired by the Academy as an instructor. The book gives an interesting account of traditional art education early in the twentieth century. Speight remained a traditionalist throughout his career, despite his occasional feeling that modernism had perhaps rendered his work obsolete.

Speight maintained a studio in Manayunk, an industrial area on the Schuylkill River northwest of Philadelphia. The modest homes, factories, and hillsides by the river served as inspiration for Speight's art. His work is comparable to that of Edward Hopper, but lacks Hopper's sadness. Speight's bright colors and energetic brushwork reveal a joy in ordinary life. After returning to Eastern North Carolina, he painted landscapes of the countryside surrounding Greenville and rendered an engaging view of the East Carolina campus in between classes.

While teaching at the Country School of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Speight met and married Sarah Blakeslee, a talented painter. They had three children. While Blakeslee painted little while the children were young, after the children were grown she returned fully to her profession. She became an in-demand portrait painter, as well as painting landscapes and still lifes. Her work displays a subtle palette and airy brushwork, which is shown to particularly good effect in her still life painting.

Author Maurice C. York is a librarian at East Carolina University, where Speight served as an artist-in-residence. York has degrees in history and in library science from UNC-Chapel Hill, and is co-author of *Our Enduring Past: A Survey of 235 Years of Life and Architecture in Lincoln County, North Carolina*. *The Privilege To Paint* is a short but solidly researched and well-written biography of Speight and Blakeslee, enhanced by excellent color illustrations of the artists' paintings. The book contains a bibliography, index, and chronologies of the artists' careers. This book is highly recommended to libraries with strong visual art collections.

— Amy K. Weiss
Appalachian State University

Maurice C. York.

***The Privilege To Paint:
The Lives of Francis Speight
and Sarah Blakeslee.***

Greenville, NC: Greenville Museum of Art, 2002.
146 pp. \$34.95. ISBN 0-9713910-0-9.

If you like a history book to inform and enlighten you, well-written with outstanding illustrations, then this is a book for you. Cecelski, already known for books about North Carolina's coast, has produced a minor masterpiece. If you know a lot about North Carolina or black history, this book will tell you about things you never guessed. If you do not know much about North Carolina, this will be a good introduction about matters and an area little-known and a way of life little-appreciated.

It is written with warm sympathy but no bathos. The story itself, as with most African American history, can be dismaying, but must be relayed and remembered. Its importance for North Carolina collections goes beyond the range suggested by the title, as it is an ecological as well as social, cultural, and political history.

Cecelski, a professor at Duke University raised near the coast, knows a lot about coastal life and history and works this information into his narrative of black life from early colonial times through Reconstruction. He has a thorough grasp of the ever-expanding historiography of black Americans, close familiarity with a mass of archival documents and almost-forgotten memoirs, and a keen sense of style. He makes use of statistics but his stories are of individuals, often only obliquely revealed in documentary fragments, that

Cecelski weaves together in an artful manner. If there is a fault, it is that he hammers on his major themes – the forgotten importance and skills of blacks in maritime North Carolina, and the social and political egalitarianism blacks espoused and practiced – again and again. One wishes for a closer look at potential class and color lines within African American society. Also one should note that a version of the penultimate chapter appeared earlier in David S. Cecelski and Timothy B. Tyson, eds, *Democracy Betrayed: The Wilmington Race Riot of 1898 and Its Legacy* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998).

The University of North Carolina Press has done its usual fine job but is to be specially commended for the abundant illustrations and for including Mike Alford's drawings of watercraft in the glossary. Although the book is heavily footnoted, Cecelski does not cite David Stick. Those interested in a more ecological look at today's coast will prefer David Griffith's *The Estuary's Gift: An Atlantic Coast Cultural Biography* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 1999).

Cecelski ties North Carolina blacks into a wider Atlantic and Caribbean culture. His book is an important corrective for the old vision that African Americans had little knowledge of the wider world, few skills beyond basic farming, and little opportunity to change things. Maritime and coastal blacks, free and enslaved, lived and operated in a world that often was very different from inland blacks. Their influence extended along submarine lines of communication to plantation slaves otherwise cut off from knowledge of their kin, sold or taken far away. Black sailors, fishermen, pilots, stevedores, canal diggers, boatmen, and their families faced tremendous obstacles that many overcame through diligence, craft, and belief in themselves. This book will help ensure that their story is not forgotten. High school as well as public and college libraries will want to add it to their collections.

— Patrick M. Valentine
Wilson Public Library

David S. Cecelski.

The Waterman's Song: Slavery and Freedom in Maritime North Carolina.

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001.
304 pp. Cloth \$39.95. ISBN 0-8978-2643-X. Paper
\$17.95. ISBN 0-8978-4972-3.



When one thinks of sports and North Carolina, college basketball immediately comes to mind, followed closely by stock car racing, golf, and football. Surprisingly, baseball also has a long and rich history in the Carolinas, dating from the Civil War. Chris Holaday is a

Durham resident and member of SABR (Society for American Baseball Research) whose previous books on baseball include *Professional Baseball in North Carolina: An Illustrated City-by-City History, 1901-1996* (McFarland, 1998), winner of the 1998 *The Sporting News*–SABR Baseball Research Award. In *Baseball in the Carolinas* he has gathered a duke's mixture of

writing celebrating the long affiliation of baseball with the region. While the book covers both of the Carolinas, most of the essays deal with hardball in North Carolina. The publisher, McFarland, has in recent years made baseball a specialty of the house.

The authors included in the collection are all baseball fans who have been involved with the game in one way or another, from Termite League hero to minor league president to baseball journalist. Their contributions primarily recall professional baseball—a special season, the history of a team or league, a profile of a player. The pieces vary in depth and quality, but all help document the history of baseball in the region.

The essay topics range from North Carolina natives who played in the All-American Girls Baseball League to the history of Durham Athletic Park. The cream of the collection for this reader was “Diary of a Minor League Season” by Miles Wolff, a humorous account of the first year of his ownership of the Durham Bulls franchise, and “The Cannon Street All-Stars” by Gene Sapakoff, the heart-wrenching story of a Charleston, South Carolina, team from the first black Little League in the state that was denied the chance to play in the 1955 Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The “Let them play!” chant of the crowd still haunts me. Also deserving special mention is an interview with “Crash” Davis, the inspiration for the Kevin Costner character in the film *Bull Durham*.

The reviewer has a bone to pick with Matthew Eddy's choice of second basemen in “The All-Time South Carolina Team.” How can you ignore Bobby Richardson of Sumter, South Carolina? Richardson was the quintessential second baseman with great range, sure hands, and the ability to turn a double play. He started for the Yankees from 1959 to 1966, had a .266 career batting average as a model lead-off man, and really came to the fore in post-season play, when he routinely got key hits to win games. Author selections Willie Randolph and Del Pratt had solid careers, but Richardson was a seven-time All-Star, won five consecutive Gold Gloves, was named Most Valuable Player of the 1960 World Series, and was second only to teammate Mickey Mantle in balloting for the 1962 American League MVP. Ah, well, such discussions eternally fuel the Hot Stove League.

Baseball fans of all ages will enjoy this book, and any library collecting North Carolina history should have a copy.

— Suzanne Wise
Appalachian State University

Chris Holaday, ed.

***Baseball in the Carolinas:
25 Essays on
the States' Hardball Heritage.***

Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2002.
192 pp. Paper, \$21.00. ISBN 0-7864-1318-2.

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arjorie Hudson's book, *Searching for Virginia Dare: A Fool's Errand*, is the story of one person's fascination with the truth and legend that surrounds the "Lost Colony" of Roanoke Island and Virginia Dare, the first English child born in America. Hudson crafts her book with a mixture of straight history and historical fiction. She also shifts in time from the 16th century to the mid-1990s. The author interweaves her own personal journey with Virginia Dare's history and legacy. Hudson's book, ostensibly an investigation into a provocatively obscure historical figure, quickly becomes a vehicle for the author's own quest for self-discovery.

Marjorie Hudson.
*Searching For Virginia Dare:
A Fool's Errand.*

Wilmington, NC: Coastal Carolina Press, 2002.
173 pp. Cloth, \$19.95. ISBN 1-928556-34-5

Hudson vividly depicts her exploration of small towns, forests, and swamps as she searches for some remnant of Virginia Dare and other lost colonists. She hopes for archaeologists with new finds, historians with new facts, and storytellers with new interpretations. She seeks insight from persons who now inhabit the proximity of the colony, share a surname, or supposedly descend from those early sixteenth-century English settlers abandoned to a hostile and alien continent. The author soon sees parallels between Virginia Dare's life and her own. Each step into Virginia Dare's history is an occasion for the author to reflect on her

own life, her childhood, her parents, and her early adulthood as a roving hippie. The author feels she, like Dare, was lost at a young age, wandering through a kind of wilderness, threatened by dangers on the road, plagued by uncertainty and the unknown. Thus, this book is as much about "finding Marjorie Hudson" as it is about searching for Virginia Dare.

Hudson follows a number of threads, including the annual outdoor production of Paul Green's drama, *The Lost Colony*, and the discovery of a gold ring near Hatteras Island, believed by some to have belonged to one of the original colonists. The author interviews historians and storytellers, including LeBame Houston (sic) and Rosebud Fearing. She becomes fascinated with the circuitous journey of a statue of Virginia Dare that almost perishes at sea only to reside finally in obscurity (like Dare herself) within a lesser-known North Carolina park. She is drawn to Sallie Cotton's nineteenth-century dedication to Virginia Dare's place in history and with Cotton's story of the white doe that emerges as a metaphor for both Virginia Dare and the author.

Hudson's style of mixing history with personal autobiography in *The Search for Virginia Dare* is reminiscent of a tradition of personal or confessional writing that became popular with new journalists in the 1970s and the "personal critics" of the 1990s. Hudson's ambitions seem to be attuned to spiritual reflection. One feels almost voyeuristic, as though looking into the diary notes of a writer who cannot keep it separate from her field notes. All ends up in the book. Hudson's writing style is fluid and poetic. Those who are seeking a straightforward historical investigation might be disappointed. Those who value the art of writing as well as substance will enjoy this "fool's errand." Perhaps the only shortcoming is the need for some editing of her long diversion into the Lumbee Indians.

This is Marjorie Hudson's first book. Previously, her reputation has been linked with publications of fiction and historical essays in *Story* and *North Carolina Literary Review*, among others. The narrative of this book reflects this literary background. Hudson provides chapter notes and a selected bibliography, but no indexing. The book is a good purchase for large public libraries with North Carolina collections and may be of interest to academic libraries in North Carolina and surrounding states.

— Allan Scherlen
Appalachian State University



light and airplanes in North Carolina equal the Wright brothers, right? Well, think again. Thomas C. Parramore's *First to Fly* is not just a history of the Wright brothers' exploits, it is a history of North Carolina's love affair with heavier-than-air machines and all the trappings that go with the machines.

First to Fly looks at ballooning, parachuting, helicopters, and *aeroplanes*. It tells the story of Tiny Broadwick, the first female to parachute from an airplane and the accidental inventor of the ripcord. It describes the people surrounding the first mechanized flight, including Bill Tate, the North Carolinian who made sure that we know about Orville and Wilbur Wright. It recounts the first helicopter liftoff by North Carolinian William Luther Paul and details the exploits of North Carolina flyers in World War I France as part of the Lafayette Escadrille. The early movers and shakers in the airplane business were North Carolinians, and Parramore covers the good, the bad, and the ugly, including swindlers like Dr. Christmas.

Thomas C. Parramore.

***First to Fly:
North Carolina and
the Beginnings of Aviation.***

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press,
2002. 372 pp. Cloth \$29.95. ISBN 0-8078-2676-6.
Paper \$18.95. ISBN 0-8078-5470-0.

Parramore does an excellent job interweaving quotes from newspapers, interview accounts, and other primary source material, bringing his subjects to life for the reader. The book is filled with photographs of these early aviators and diagrams and pictures of their early *aeroplanes*, a bounty for the eye.

First to Fly is full of interesting facts that one would not ordinarily find in a regular history book about flight. By focusing on North Carolinians, Parramore gets to the obscure. His book arrives at an opportune time in North Carolina history, as 2003 represents the Centennial anniversary of the Wright brothers' historic flights.

This work has a bibliography and is well-indexed. It is easy to read, with not too many technical terms to slow the reader down. The author is well-versed in the history of North Carolina, having written many monographs on its history and many articles for the *North Carolina Historical Review*. *First to Fly* would be suitable for any public or academic library.

— Caroline Keizer
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Additional Items of Interest

Fiction:

Storyteller, musician, flute maker, and outdoor educator Hawk Hurst has written *The Story of the First Flute*, based on an ancient Cherokee legend about a boy named He Who Brings Trouble, who seeks refuge in the forest from the disapprobation of his elders. The creatures of the forest give him a unique gift that helps him grow into and understand his true self, and on his return to his people he is renamed He Who Touches the Heart. Illustrated with block prints and colored pencil by Lindley Sharp. (2001; Parkway Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 3678, Boone, NC 28607; 16 pp.; paper, \$9.95; ISBN 1-887905-53-7.)

In *Step Ball Change*, action whirls through the Raleigh household of Tom and Caroline like a fast-paced musical comedy. Tom works as a public defender and Caroline runs a dance studio with help from live-in law student son George, while tripping over the practically live-in contractors who are adding a Florida room to the house and attempting to shore up its crumbling

foundations. Then daughter Kay announces her engagement to the most eligible young man in the city, but waffles over an old boyfriend while her parents sweat over how to pay for a high society wedding. At the same time Caroline's sister Taffy moves in from Atlanta to escape a rotten husband, bringing her obnoxious ankle-biting lapdog Stamp. Fortunately Woodrow the contractor is more than a match for Taffy and Stamp, Taffy's daughter whirls through town in time to resolve Kay's ambivalence, and everyone dances happily off the stage. Good writing and well-drawn, likeable characters make this a delightful read about life in the new South. By Jeanne Ray, author of *Julie and Romeo*. (2002; Shaye Areheart Books, 1540 Broadway, New York, New York 10036; 226 pp.; cloth, \$22.95; ISBN 0-609-61003-1.)

North Carolina country music songwriter Billy Edd Wheeler has compiled jokes from the likes of Vince Gill, Dolly Parton, Ralph Emery, Jimmy Dean, Charley Pride, Mel Tillis, and a host of other country music personalities, and calls it *Real Country Humor*. Dedicated to the memory of Chet Atkins, it includes chapters on Drinking and Carousing, Religion, Show Business, Aging, Funny Country Songs, and more. (2002; August House Publishers, Inc., PO Box 3223, Little Rock, AK 72203; 129 pp.; paper, \$6.95; ISBN 0-87483-652-2.)

History:

With a lack of navigable waterways, accessible ports, and adequate roads contributing to widespread indolence, poverty, and conservatism, the young state of North Carolina was often called the "Rip Van Winkle state." Alan D. Watson, professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, describes the efforts of Archibald D. Murphey and others to obtain state funding for improved transportation in his new book, *Internal Improvements in Antebellum North Carolina*. He includes chapters on the development of roads, bridges, inland navigation, canals, inlets, railroads, and steam navigation, as well as an introduction, index, and extensive footnotes. (2002; Historical Publications Section, Office of Archives and History, 4622 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4622; 165 pp.; paper, \$8.00 plus \$4.52 shipping and handling; ISBN 0-86526-300-0.)

Jenny Henderson of Wilmington has compiled a monumental reference book in *The North Carolina Filmography: Over 2000 Film and Television Works Made in the State, 1905 through 2000*. The book purports to list every film, documentary, short, television program, newsreel, and promotional video which was filmed in whole or part in North Carolina through 2000. Entries include alternate titles, type of film, studio, cities, counties, scenes, comments, director, producer, co-producer, executive producer, cinematographer, writer, music and casting credits, additional crew, and cast. A list of resources and indexes of places and personnel round out this useful volume. (2002; McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640; 272 pp.; paper, \$49.95; ISBN 0-7864-1294-1.)

Now available: *Addresses and Public Papers of James Baxter Hunt Jr., Governor of North Carolina*, vol III 1993-1997, edited by Jan-Michael Poff. The volume includes 254 speeches and press releases selected from more than 1,800 issued during the third term of the state's longest-serving chief executive. (2002; Historical Publications Section, Office of Archives and History, 4622 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4622; 716 pp.; cloth, free to the public with \$4.00 shipping and handling; ISBN 0-86526-289-6.)

Ghosts and Gore:

Former librarian Linda Duck Tanenbaum and Barry McGee visited 21 haunted sites between Charlotte and the Triangle, interviewed the hauntees, and told their stories in *Ghost Tales from the North Carolina Piedmont*. Many of the tales

have never been published before, making this an indispensable purchase for public libraries. (2002; Bandit Books, P.O. Box 11721, Winston-Salem, NC 27116-1721; 116 pp.; paper, \$12.95; ISBN 1-78177-13-3.)

Murder for Breakfast: The True Story of Alma Petty Gatlin and the Preacher who Betrayed Her is Phil Link's account of a case that shook Reidsville, North Carolina, in 1928. Twenty-year-old Alma had confessed to a minister that she had murdered her father with an axe as he sat at the breakfast table, but denied it when he went to the police with her story. Link, who was 11 at the time, watched police dig up the body when they finally found it buried beneath the coal pile in the cellar of the family home. (2002; Down Home Press, P.O. Box 4126, Asheboro, NC 27204; distributed by John F. Blair, Publisher, 1406 Plaza Dr., Winston-Salem, NC 27103; 185 pp.; paper, \$14.95; ISBN 1-878086-94-4.)

The Ballad of Tom Dula, by John Foster West, originally published in the 1970s by Moore Publishing Company of Durham, is back in print. (2002; Parkway Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 3678, Boone, NC 28607; 212 pp.; paper, \$14.95; ISBN 1887905553.)

Ben Wofford has written a "lighthearted detective story dressed in bib overalls" titled *Uncle Henry's Ghost*, set in Catawba County in 1933. Uncle Henry sets out to debunk the local superstition that a ghost guards a cache of money at an abandoned roadhouse near the site of an unsolved murder, and his nephew sets out to find the money. (2002; Parkway Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 3678, Boone, NC 28607; 212 pp.; paper, \$14.95; ISBN 1887905588.)

Consider the Eel is part natural history, part cookbook, by Richard Schweid, whose previous books studied catfish, hot peppers, and cockroaches. He traveled the globe to delve into the murky subject of eels, stopping in North Carolina, New Jersey, Spain, Northern Ireland, England, and Japan. Touted as the first book for adults on freshwater eels, the book includes a bibliography and index. (2002; University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288; 181 pp.; cloth, \$24.95; ISBN 0-8078-2693-6.)

Wars and Rumors of Wars:

Ben Wofford and William Richard White collaborated on *The Marine: A Guadalcanal Survivor's Final Battle*. Marine telephone wireman Bill White spent five months on Guadalcanal in 1942, laying and repairing telephone wires while under attack from land, air, and sea. Fifty-some years later, while living in North Carolina, he developed cancer and met Dr. Ben Wofford, a Navy veteran who had served in the Pacific during World War II and the Korean War. After White's death in 1997, Wofford was moved to write this account of his friend and patient's courageous struggles against war and terminal illness. (2002; Naval Institute Press, 291 Wood Rd., Annapolis, MD 21402-5034; 162 pp.; cloth, \$28.95; ISBN 1-55750-880-1.)

Huey Earl Tyra of Gastonia memorializes an uncle who was killed in action in Germany in 1944, in *Love Always, Ben*. Born in Alabama, Pfc. Ben F. Strickland was a 22-year-old infantryman when he died. (2002; P&H Publications, P.O. Box 550669, Gastonia, NC 28055-0669; 248 pp.; paper, \$19.95; ISBN 0-9719635-4-1.)

Frances H. Casstevens evaluates the performance of *Clingman's Brigade in the Confederacy, 1862-1865*. Despite a lack of formal training, Brigadier General Clingman was entrusted with four regiments and the task of defending eastern North Carolina from Federal troops. His military career has been largely ignored, by his contemporaries and by later historians. This book examines Clingman himself, each of his four regiments, and the battles they engaged in. Appendices include Clingman's two order books, a roster of his officers, miscellaneous letters, a bibliography, and index. (2002; McFarland & Company, Inc.,

Publishers, Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640; 253 pp.; cloth, \$45.00; ISBN 0-7864-1300-X.)

Howard Eugene Alley speculates on the fate of forbear Cornelia Nelson in *Presumed Dead: A Civil War Mystery*. It is known that Yankee marauders raided the Cashiers Valley home of Col. John Alley four months after the war supposedly ended. Supposed remains of John Alley's niece Cornelia were found on a mountain trail, but her fate was never known, and Howard Alley (great-grandson of John) conceives of a heartbreaking romance between North and South. (2002; Bright Mountain Books, Inc., 206 Riva Ridge Dr., Fairview, NC 28730; 241 pp.; ISBN 0-914875-36-1.)

Created to Be Free is Juanita Patience Moss's historical novel, loosely based on the life of Crowder Pacien, an ancestor who in 1863, at the age of 17, escaped from slavery and enlisted in the Union Army. Unusual as an identifiable black man serving in an all-white regiment, Pacien was garrisoned at Plymouth, North Carolina, and, according to records "apparently escaped capture at the battle of Plymouth" (April 17-20, 1864), in which most of the Union soldiers were either killed or captured and sent to Andersonville Prison in Georgia. Pacien was mustered out of the army at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, eventually met a young mulatto "bound girl," married, settled in northeastern Pennsylvania, and reared eight children. How their isolation from others of their race affected each of the children, and what they each accomplished, rounds out the story. (2001; Willow Bend Books, 65 East Main St. Westminster, MD 21157-5026; 398 pp.; paper, \$30.00; ISBN: 1-58549-704-5.)

Jerry Bledsoe brings the Civil War into present day in *Death by Journalism? One Teacher's Fateful Encounter with Political Correctness*. In 1997, Jack Perdue was recruited to teach an evening continuing education class on the Late Unpleasantness at the Archdale campus of Randolph Community College. A perhaps deliberately sensational write-up by the county reporter for the *Greensboro News & Record* was picked up by the national networks, and the story ran for months. The reporter was put on probation, the course was canceled, and Perdue died of a heart attack in the midst of the controversy. (2002; Down Home Press, P.O. Box 4126, Asheboro, NC 27204; distributed by John F. Blair, Publisher, 1406 Plaza Dr., Winston-Salem, NC 27103; 241 pp.; cloth, \$24.95; ISBN 1-878086-93-6.)

Laws:

North Carolina Child Support Statutes is a new publication by John L. Saxon, compiling statutory provisions governing civil and criminal actions for child support, establishment of paternity, interstate child support enforcement, and the child support enforcement program. Along with a number of other useful Institute of Government publications, it is available in PDF format at <https://iogpubs.iog.unc.edu>. (2002; Institute of Government, CB#3330 Knapp Building, UNCCH, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3330; 202 pp.; paper, \$35.00; ISBN 1-56011-411-8.)

Open Meetings and Local Governments in North Carolina: Some Questions and Answers, is available in a newly revised 6th edition, by David M. Lawrence. Originally published in 1976, the latest previous update was in 1998. The 6th edition reflects two new decisions by the North Carolina Court of Appeals that address closed sessions under the attorney-client privilege and the minimum content of closed session minutes and general accounts. The author has also expanded coverage on unchanged provisions of the law, answering the questions he receives most frequently in his area of expertise. (2002; Institute of Government, CB#3330 Knapp Building, UNCCH, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3330; 63 pp.; paper, \$14.00; ISBN 1-56011-416-9.)