

New North Carolina Books

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F. ROY JOHNSON. *The Algonquians, Indians of that Part of the New World First Visited by the English*. (Murfreesboro: Johnson Publishing Co., 1972.) 112pp. Illus., maps. \$6.50.

Reports of a great many contemporaries who observed the Algonquians of north-eastern North Carolina as well as reports of archaeological surveys have been carefully combed by Roy Johnson in producing this book. In one convenient place it is now possible to read of the Indians who occupied this area many thousands of years ago. There are sections on many aspects of their life including their government, their towns, the farmers, hunters, and fishermen, their dress, arts and crafts, religion, warfare, and medicine. The style is readable and the facts interesting, leaving the reader wanting to know more, but this undoubtedly is all that is known.

PHILLIPS RUSSELL. *These Old Stone Walls*. Chapel Hill Historical Society, P. O. Box 503, 1972. 147pp. Illus. \$5.00.

Recorded here in polished prose, as only Professor Russell can write it, are fourteen delightful essays on the village of Chapel Hill. These stories of the old days range from the time of William R. Davie and the first president of the University, Joseph Caldwell, to the Mason family of the late nineteenth century. Much

that is recorded here is traditional, but Professor Russell has also engaged in extensive research among contemporary documents to fill out the tradition with fact. There is a section of illustrations and there are interesting end papers. The book is attractively designed, well printed and bound and might serve as a model for similar productions of other local historical societies.

DAN LACY. *The Lost Colony*. New York: Franklin Watts, Inc., 1972. 87pp. Illus., maps. \$3.75.

This book for young people in the publisher's "First Books" series is a thorough and careful recounting of the facts of the famous Lost Colony of 1587 which Sir Walter Raleigh planted on Roanoke Island. Dan Lacy, who grew up in Rocky Mount was graduated from the University of North Carolina, has known this bit of history for most of his life, and he tells it well. Beginning with rivalry between Spain and England, he tells of Raleigh's attempt to explore and settle the New World between 1584 and 1587. Several possible answers to the perpetual question of the fate of the colonists are given, and the book concludes with a brief mention of the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site and the annual production of the drama, "The Lost Colony," by the Roanoke Island Historical Association.

CONSTANCE FECHER. *The Last Elizabethan, A Portrait of Sir Walter Raleigh*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1972. 241pp. Illus. \$5.50.

Of the writing of biographies of Sir Walter Raleigh there surely can be no end. As Miss Fecher writes: "There is something legendary about Sir Walter Raleigh. You do not quite believe in him. He was courtier, soldier, seaman, poet, colonizer, scientist, historian, medicine man—it is too much. Even his contemporaries were puzzled by him. He was too clever, his ideas were too different from theirs, too far in advance of his time. They did not understand him, so they distrusted him, envied him, hated him." The whole life of Raleigh is told here including his efforts at colonization and his countless other activities before he was beheaded by James I in 1618. This biography of Raleigh is beautifully written, with sympathy and understanding both of Raleigh and the time in which he flourished, and it should have a wide appeal to North Carolina readers.

L. VANLOAN NAISAWALD. *In Some Foreign Field, The Story of Four British Graves on the Outer Banks*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1972. 80pp. Illus. map. \$2.95.

In May, 1942, H. M. S. *Bedfordshire*, a British antisubmarine trawler operationally on loan to the United States Navy, was sunk off the Outer Banks by a German submarine. Within the next week four bodies were washed ashore; with proper ceremony they were buried in a small plot of ground on Ocracoke Island. Two of the bodies were identified by local citizens who had known the crew of the British ship, but identity of two of them was not possible. Mr. Naisawald has dug into British, German, and American records of World War II to tell the facts of this interesting and unusual case of British-American co-operation and friendship and of the British Cemetery on Ocracoke Island which remains as a monument to this occasion. Spontaneous care of the cemetery and the continuing communication of British and

American friends which it has generated are related here in an attractive little paperback book that deserves to be cited in a footnote to greater events of that era.

MARJORY BARTLETT SANGER. *Billy Bartram and His Green World*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1972. 207pp. Illus. \$6.50.

William Bartram (1739-1823) was America's first native-born ornithologist. He might also be called an ecologist: he was a writer, a naturalist, and a traveler, as well. William was closely related to the Bartrams of Bladen County, North Carolina, who had settled there early in the eighteenth century. The naturalist visited his uncle and cousins in Bladen frequently, sometimes staying for long periods of time, and at one time he even operated a store there. Bartram's extensive travels in North Carolina and elsewhere in the southeast in search of botanic specimens are told here. Mrs. Sanger has subtitled her book "An Interpretative Biography," and interpretation intrudes frequently. Conversation has been imagined (but based on highly probable occurrences because of what the author has read in contemporary sources), and we suspect some of the minor characters, such as slaves in the Bladen Bartram family, are pure imagination. This is perhaps all legitimate activity for a biographer, but whether it is or not, it has resulted in a very informative book that the libraries of North Carolina can circulate with the assurance that it is both interesting and readable.

NANCY ROBERTS and BRUCE ROBERTS. *The Governor*. Charlotte: McNally and Loftin, Publishers, 1972. 143pp. Illus. \$5.95.

With attractive, professional photographs by Bruce Roberts and clear, informative text by Nancy Roberts, this book gives us a clear and sympathetic understanding of the scope of problems faced each day by the governor of a state. It so happens that Governor Bob Scott is the

subject of this account, but it might well apply to any of the other state governors. The great variety of important problems as well as the petty details which he must face are all clearly revealed and they range from concern about prisoners, problems of the budget, the dissatisfaction of a minor state employee, hurricanes and other natural disasters, too many luncheon invitations, and how to get the desired action out of the legislature. There's also another side — public dedications, some speeches, picnics, entertainments at the Mansion, and even a few unexpected minutes to spend with his family.

BOB CONWAY. *North Carolina Quiz Book.*
Waynesville: The Mountaineer Press,
1972. 64pp. Price not reported.

Hundreds of concise questions, none over three lines in length, with precise answers concerning various aspects of North Carolina are packed into this little paperback book. They are grouped into broad categories such as the land, government, towns, counties, notable people, statistics "vital and otherwise," education, and crafts, among others. Materials here probably will not aid a reference librarian in providing quick answers, but it all makes interesting reading and will give many people something to ponder over.

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We cannot recall having had occasion heretofore to consider a new North Carolina periodical in this place, but at last one of considerable interest has appeared.

Southern Antiques and Interiors, published quarterly by the Southern Antiques Society, Inc., P. O. Box 26, High Point, N. C., 27261, made its initial appearance in the spring of 1972. The first number had sixteen pages while the second, the summer issue, had thirty-two. Printed on a good quality paper, approximately 12 by 16 inches, with attractive layout and a large number of excellent pictures, it stresses North Carolina but not to the complete exclusion of other Southern states. Subscription: \$8.00 for one year; \$12.00 for two.

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