

## THE EDITOR'S BOOK NOTES

*Governor Tryon and His Palace*, by Alonzo Thomas Dill. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1955. 304 pp. \$5.00

The title of this book is somewhat misleading. The book is a well documented and very readable history of eastern North Carolina in the colonial and revolutionary periods. New Bern and events therein are most fully described, but the action takes the reader from the Virginia line to Charleston and west to Orange, Rowan and Mecklenburg counties. The author is most skillful in the use of quotations, giving the reader an impression of reading eye-witness accounts without the disadvantage of colonial type (or script) in faded ink on yellowed pages.

"Documentary Notes" for each chapter identify the principal sources of information, frequently describe the contents of manuscript sources, and refer the student to additional material. An excellent bibliography lists unpublished material under the institutions owning it and locates newspapers and periodicals of the period. The index is very detailed.

Every library in North Carolina will find this book a used addition to its history collection.

*Greensboro, North Carolina, The County Seat of Guilford*, by Ethel Stephens Arnett; written under the direction of Walter Clinton Jackson. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1955. 492 pp. \$6.00

A great deal of research has preceded the writing of this history of Greensboro and Guilford County. The bits and pieces of North Carolina history which can in any way be related to this geographic section are presented in topical chapters. The most popular chapter will probably be "In Times of War." Here Mrs. Arnett has succeeded in obtaining a narrative quality absent from other chapters. Of some interest to librarians is the chapter captioned "The Press and Creative Writers." The first portion includes brief histories of early Greensboro newspapers evidently based on both examination of existing files and evaluations by other historians. The rest of the chapter is devoted to the mention of authors having any connection with Greensboro whether birth or a few years residence, listing titles, but no dates, and quoting an occasional sentence of evaluation from a literary critic.

Local history writing is a difficult task. Mrs. Arnett's competence in this field has been recognized by the award of the Smithwick Cup for state and local history for 1955. One of the pitfalls of a local historian is the free use of "firsts" and "one of the bests." Unless such statements are made in the reviewer's field, errors are not readily noted. Mrs. Arnett erred in stating that the Greensboro Public Library had "the first bookmobile south of Maryland." Guilford county's first bookmobile, as she states, was purchased in October 1926 (with receipts from the dog tax). Durham County had the first bookmobile in North Carolina. It was called "Miss Kiwanis, after the club which donated it, and was put in operation in October of 1923.

There are no footnotes and the text does not always make clear the source of information. There is a bibliography of sources including other histories, unpublished manuscripts, newspapers and periodicals. The appendix lists postmasters, mayors and city council members, ministers and presidents of the Chamber of Commerce. It also includes statistical tables and information about banks and other businesses omitted in the main body of the book, special celebrations, natural calamities and distinguished visitors.

The UNC Press has produced a very handsome volume, with a well-constructed binding and good print on ecru paper. Only the end-papers strike a discordant note.

## NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

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*A Check List of Legislative Journals Issued Since 1937 by the States of the United States of America*, by William R. Pullen. Chicago: American Library Association 1955. 68 pp. \$2.00

This chronological listing of state legislative journals is a needed supplement to Macdonald's *Checklist* published in 1938. The entries are chronologically arranged under each state's legislature and contain the dates of the session, name of the session, pages and volumes in printed journals, and the name of the issuing house.

Legislative journals are an important source of political history and frequently include documents not published as separates. Dr. Pullen's *Check List* is a welcome and valuable tool for all libraries which have state legislative documents. As head of the documents department of the University of North Carolina Library, the author was well aware of the need for this checklist. He has done an excellent job of it.