

NEW NORTH CAROLINA BOOKS

by

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POCAHONTAS WIGHT EDMUNDS. *Tar Heels Track the Century*. Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Company, 1966. 355pp. Illus. \$8.95.

Ten Tar Heels of national importance since the Civil War are discussed in very readable biographical sketches: Andrew Johnson, Zebulon B. Vance, Matt W. Ransom, C. B. Aycock, O. Henry, James B. Duke, Walter Hines Page, F. M. Simmons, Josephus Daniels, and Thomas Wolfe. Mrs. Edmunds understands North Carolinians of the present as well as of the past, and she writes with sympathy and confidence. Each sketch is adequately documented, and the full bibliography under each entry will prove useful to librarians in their efforts to provide additional material for students writing term papers on these interesting North Carolinians.

SUZANNA CAMERON LINDER. *William Louis Poteat, Prophet of Progress*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1966. 217pp. Illus. \$5.00.

The author maintains that William Louis Poteat, President of Wake Forest College from 1906 until 1927, together with Charles B. Aycock, did more to modernize North Carolina than all her industrial magnates. They upheld the cause of truth and freedom and in doing so advanced the cause of education. Poteat helped defeat anti-evolution legislation in the state, and on the liquor question of the 1930's he was an active dry leader. Mrs. Linder provides us with a scholarly and informative account of these years during which the foundations were being laid for much of North Carolina's greatness today.

EDWARD L. PINNEY, ed. *Comparative Politics and Political Theory*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1966. 215pp. \$6.00.

The nine essays in this volume were written to honor Prof. C. B. Robson of the political science faculty of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. They are designed "to reveal the diffuseness of comparative and theoretical political study and to political science faculty of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. They are journalism as well as a trained historian, give us a full factual account which is at the present the major dimensions of comparative politics: normative, conceptual, institutional, behavioral, and methodological." Each of the authors of the nine essays is indebted to Professor Robson as teacher and colleague. Several of them are North Carolinians. Perhaps the essay most related to the state is "Negro Political Participation in the South: An Overview" by Donald R. Matthews and James W. Prothro.

STURGES F. CARY. *Arrow Book of Presidents*. New York: The Four Winds Press, 1966. 103pp. Illus. \$2.95.

Written for the 9 to 13-year-old reader, this worthwhile book begins by introducing the office of President. A concise statement on the origins of the office, its requirements,

the selection of candidates, elections, inaugurations, duties, and so on, introduces the text, which deals with each president from Washington to the present. The sketches are not fully biographical; instead, they relate to the problems which each man faced, what was going on in the country at the time, and interesting and important information about what they did. North Carolina's three presidents — Jackson, Polk, and Johnson — are included, of course, as is Tar Heel-born Dolly Madison.

JOSEPH L. MORRISON. *Josephus Daniels, The Small-d Democrat*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1966. 316pp. Illus. \$7.50.

Much has been written about Josephus Daniels, but this is the first full-length biography of him. Daniels' influence in the state as editor of *The News and Observer* from 1894 until 1948 (with time out for other duties) and his service at the national level in the administration of every Democratic president from the Civil War until World War II make him a man of much interest to North Carolinians. Dr. Morrison, a professor of journalism as well as a trained historian, gives us a full factual account which is at the same time very readable.

A Time for Poetry, An Anthology of The North Carolina Poetry Society, 1966. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1966. 185pp. \$4.50.

Thirty-seven Tar Heel poets are represented by from one to eight poems in this anthology. Contributions were selected on a competitive basis, judged by an impartial panel. There is an interesting biographical sketch of each poet before his selections and an introduction to the book which explains the aims of the North Carolina Poetry Society as well as how the competition was conducted. Interesting ideas, unusual feeling, and even something of a story will be found in many of the poems. The work is good, and the Poetry Society is to be commended for the encouragement it is giving to such worthwhile work.

RICHARD WALSER. *The Black Poet*. New York: Philosophical Library, 1966. 120pp. Drawings by Claude Howell. \$3.50.

George Moses Horton was a slave who lived near Pittsboro who was permitted to sell vegetables in Chapel Hill. University students discovered that he was also a poet, and they paid him for poems to send their sweethearts. Horton's field of interest broadened, and four volumes of his poems were published between 1829 and 1865. Drawing largely on an unpublished autobiography, Professor Walser has prepared a biography of one of the few Negro poets of the early nineteenth century. This is, of course, a book which should be in every library in the state.

ERNST and JOHANNA LEHNER. *How They Saw the New World*. New York: Tudor Publishing Company, 1966. 160pp. Illus., maps. \$7.95.

No one is likely to deny that this is an interesting book to look at. It consists mainly of reproductions of woodcuts, maps, title pages, and other illustrative material concerning

America from 1436 to 1818. A brief introduction and captions explain the pictorial material and give its source. Among the categories covered are people, fauna, flora, and "the promoters." Sir Walter Raleigh, Thomas Hariot, deBry engravings of John White drawings, and some plants are among the bits of North Carolina interest. An explanatory caption, however, locates Roanoke Island in Virginia, and an easily identified woodcut of 1629 is described as being a "fanciful picture" of the passion flower which grows in the tropics. Almost any Tar Heel hiker would recognize this plant as one which grows along our roads and in the fields. Many of the reproductions are greatly reduced, others are poor copies, and many are so enlarged as to be unattractive. The idea for such a book was splendid, but it leaves much to be desired as it was produced.

REED SARRATT. *The Ordeal of Desegregation, The First Decade*. New York: Harper & Row, 1966. 374pp. \$7.50.

Reed Sarratt, Charlotte native and former newspaperman in the state, recently was executive director of the Southern Education Reporting Service in Nashville, Tenn. He has written an objective history of desegregation in the South from 1954 to 1964. The role of governors, legislators, schoolmen, lawyers, judges, editors, clergymen, businessmen, and others is discussed in separate chapters. The amount of detail from local situations throughout the South is impressive, and taken together these local situations are employed by the author to fill out the picture he paints. Although the author is careful not to "take sides," it is clear to the reader that too little integration has taken place to please the integrationists and too much has taken place to please the segregationists. From this factual history of a decade of turmoil, however, both sides will find reports of events to which they may point with satisfaction.

MARGARET CULKIN BANNING. *I Took My Love to the Country*. New York: Harper & Row, 1966. 250pp. \$4.95.

Dedicated "to my neighbors in North Carolina with great affection," Mrs. Banning's novel is set in part in "DeSoto, North Carolina," which is recognized by many as being Tryon, where the author spends a part of her time. The story deals with the effect of DeSoto on a New York couple when they occupy the family estate there. The setting is authentic and the people are real. The story for adults is interesting and entertaining.

Yankee Rebel, The Civil War Journal of Edmund DeWitt Patterson, edited with an introduction by John G. Barrett, and a biographical essay by Edmund Brooks Patterson. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1966. 207pp. \$6.00.

Although this journal contains a few references to North Carolina and to North Carolinians, its main North Carolina interest lies in the fact that John G. Barrett, a Tar Heel historian, has edited it. Edmund DeWitt Patterson, the "Yankee Rebel," was a native of Ohio who was teaching school in Alabama in 1861 when he joined the Confederate Army. His journal is a fascinating account of his experiences during the war. As a Union prisoner for a time he was held only a few miles from his family in Ohio, yet they ignored him even though he was on the point of starvation. Paterson's devotion to the South is very moving. His description of military action is unusually vivid. The

journal he left makes extremely interesting reading. Professor Barrett's introduction and notes explain much of the text. We wish that the author's grandson had written a fuller biographical essay and that the book had been indexed.

WILLIAM H. AMOS. *The Life of the Seashore*. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1966. 231pp. Illus. (many in color), diagrams, maps. \$4.95.

This book is only incidentally a North Carolina book, but inasmuch as the state has a lengthy shoreline and most Tar Heels sooner or later visit the seashore, it will be of interest to many residents of this state. Professor Henry J. Oosting of Duke University was one of the consultants who assisted in its preparation. The water and the land of the seashore, the plants and animals are clearly and accurately discussed and illustrated. While the text is scientifically accurate, it is by no means dull. It is written for young people as well as adults. A glossary, a bibliography, a section on seashore areas in the National Park System (including Cape Hatteras), and in index combine with the excellent text and handsome illustrations to make this a "must" for all school and public libraries.

CARRIE L. BROUGHTON. *Marriage and Death Notices from Raleigh Register and North Carolina State Gazette, 1799-1825*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1966. 178pp. \$15.00.

Since Miss Broughton first published this index in the Biennial Report of the State Library in 1944, it has become quite popular with historical and genealogical researchers. This is the third printing. Much useful and heretofore obscure information has been gained from Miss Broughton's work, and it is good to have it in print again. We hope, however, that this will be the last printing in this form. It only indexes those papers available in the State Library at the time it was compiled. More complete files of the newspapers are now available on microfilm, thanks to the State Department of Archives and History. All issues should now be indexed, and the index should be published in alphabetical order for all years and not just year-by-year as it was originally arranged.

WORTH S. RAY. *The Mecklenburg Signers and Their Neighbors*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1966. 245pp. \$7.50.

This is the third printing of a genealogical work which first appeared in 1946. Like the original, it is reproduced from typewritten copy, and although much of it is difficult to read because of blurring and smallness of type, it is as legible as the original. The author defends the so-called Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May 20, 1775, and his volume contains brief notes and compiled data on the presumed signers as well as on other citizens of the Mecklenburg County area in the late 1770's. Numerous tombstone inscriptions are included.

"When a book raises your spirit and inspires you with noble and courageous feelings, seek no other rule to judge the event by; it is good and made by a good workman."

—Jean de la Bruyere