



NEW CAROLINA BOOKS

*American Heritage*. June 1959 (Volume X, Number 4). American Heritage Publishing Company, 551 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. \$2.95, single copy.

Of especial interest to North Carolinians in this issue of *American Heritage*, "The Magazine of History," is the second part of Professor A. L. Rowse's series of articles on "The Elizabethans and America." In this Part II, entitled "Of Raleigh and the First Plantation," we have a fast-moving over-all view of Sir Walter Raleigh and the Roanoke colonies. Many handsome colored illustrations, among them a few of the John White drawings, illustrate this article. *American Heritage* is a magazine in hard covers and can stand alone on the library shelf.

AGNEW H. BAHNSON, JR. *The Stars Are Too High*. New York: Random House, 1959. 250 pp. \$3.95.

A note on the back of the titlepage tells us that "since the events described in this novel take place in the future, all of the characters are imaginary and have no relationship to any person, living or dead." Winston-Salem author Bahnson writes convincingly of a space ship able to move thousands of miles above the earth. The inventors of the ship are determined to use it to halt the power struggle between the United States and Russia. Writing privately of his philosophy, the author has noted that he believes "the time is rapidly coming when mankind must face up to the more difficult alternative of destruction, namely, some hog-tying of human nature that will result in international co-operation instead of the juvenile game of power politics. To me this isn't idealistic, it's merely recognizing the hard facts that if man doesn't choose to elect an alternative the pressure of circumstances will do it for him."

HAMILTON BASSO. *The Light Infantry Ball*. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday & Company, 1959. 476 pp. \$4.50.

This novel of a Low Country Carolina plantation during the Civil War is climbing higher and higher on the national fiction best seller lists. It undoubtedly will be a popular title for fall bookclub reading in North Carolina. The author concerns himself with the daily lives of typical planters, first at home and then in Richmond, as they try to determine what is best for the South and at the same time solve plantation problems. In this story of the year of crisis and struggle which led to the fall of the plantation South, Basso is looking in the past for the seeds of the present.

MOLLY BERNHEIM. *A Sky of My Own*. New York: Rinehart & Company, Inc., 1959. 252 pp. \$3.95.

Mrs. Bernheim, who has lived in Durham since the opening of Duke University where she and her husband teach, is an English-born descendant of the brother of Fletcher

Christian, the *Bounty* mutineer. This is her straight-forward account of how the Bernheims took up flying after World War II, and of their many experiences in the air and on the ground during the twelve years since. It is a readable story, filled with interesting accounts and facts about flying.

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PAT STRAWBRIDGE CARSON. *Prelude to Forever*. New York: Greenwich Book Publishers, 1958. 240 pp. \$3.50.

In a Cape Hatteras fishing village setting, Mrs. Carson tells the story of six sophisticated New Yorkers vacationing in a hotel operated by a local family. An old way of life as represented by the Gaylord family, is contrasted with a new as typified by the outsiders. The personal relations of the people in this remote setting form the basis of the story. A hurricane draws them together. The book is over-written, certain words are overdone, and the style soon grows monotonous.

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JOHN ANTHONY CARUSO. *The Appalachian Frontier*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1959. 408 pp. \$5.75.

Every library in North Carolina should have a copy of this scholarly study of the Appalachian frontier. It deals with the period from about 1650, when Virginians first began to move out in organized bands to explore the country around their settlements, and ends in 1796 with the admission of Tennessee into the Union. Between we read, among other things, of the exploits of Daniel Boone, John Sevier, and Richard Henderson. The Regulators of North Carolina, the founding of the Watauga, Transylvania, Franklin, and Cumberland settlements, the Battle of King's Mountain, and the settlement of Tennessee are all ably discussed. Interesting maps throughout the text, and notes arranged by chapters at the end of the book make it all the more useful. An adequate index gives value to the book as a reference source.

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HAROLD R. MANAKEE. *Indians of Early Maryland*. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1959. 47 pp. \$1.80.

The value of this attractive little book on a North Carolina bookshelf may not be evident at first glance. But in the preface the author notes that "No pictures of Maryland Indians have come down to us. However, over 350 years ago, an Englishman named John White visited several Indian tribes in nearby Virginia and North Carolina. He made many pictures of them which still exist. The drawings in this book are based on John White's pictures because we know that the Indians he visited were much like those in Maryland." Here, then, we have the Indian drawings of John White made on and around Roanoke Island in the 1580's. The clothing, houses, equipment, food, activities and other aspects of life of the Indians, as depicted by him, are explained. The book is attractively printed and bound.

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JERAMIE PRICE. *Blackbeard's Bride*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1959. 253 pp. \$3.50.

"Historical events are expertly blended with spine-tingling adventure" in this novel, the dust jacket tells us. And so far as we are able to determine that statement is true. The notorious pirate, Blackbeard, who operated off the coast of North Carolina and somehow had the protection of Governor Eden, captures Anne Blythe who eventually becomes his bride. True to fact, the pirate meets his death at the hands of Lt. Robert Maynard at Ocracoke. This is an exciting story and a readable one which should find a great many Tar Heel readers.

A. L. ROWSE. *Sir Richard Grenville's Place in English History*. London: Oxford University Press, [1958]. [17] pp. .70¢. Paper.

Professor Rowse, in a very entertaining little essay which was delivered as the Raleigh Lecture on History before the British Academy in 1957, gives us some new facts concerning Grenville which have come to light since his *Sir Richard Grenville of the Revenge* was published in 1937. A large part of the essay is devoted to an account of Grenville's connections with the Roanoke voyages of the sixteenth century.

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ELSWYTH THANE. *The Family Quarrel*. New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1959. 308 pp. \$4.75.

This is a delightful and unusual history of the American Revolution as it was fought south of the Potomac. Miss Thane uses Benson J. Lossing's *Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution* (which he published after a tour of the Revolutionary sites with notebook and sketch pad, in 1848) as a basis for her book. Lossing's statements and observations are interspersed with Miss Thane's comments on the Revolutionary events as they were during the war and the sites as they are now. Many of Lossing's interesting sketches illustrate this book. His journey through North Carolina took him to Oxford, Hillsboro, Guilford Court House, Salisbury, and to King's Mountain; returning, he visited Wilmington. The title comes from the fact that the Revolution was a civil war or family quarrel, with participants on both sides being English though from different continents.

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MANLY WADE WELLMAN. *They Took Their Stand*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1959. 258 pp. \$4.50.

Chapel Hill author Wellman, widely admired by the younger generation of North Carolina for his books for young people, has here turned to a subject with wide appeal for a great many people in all age groups. Writing at an adult level he tells of the intense sectional struggle which preceded the Civil War. Beginning with the hanging of John Brown on December 2, 1859, he writes of the events which occurred up to the Battle of Manassas on July 21, 1861.

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LOUIS B. WRIGHT. *New Interpretations of American Colonial History*. Washington: Service Center for Teachers of History, 1959. 22 pp. .50¢. Paper.

While this pamphlet was prepared primarily for teachers of American history, it should be of equal or greater interest to librarians. Carolina-born and U.N.C.-educated Louis B. Wright, director of the Folger Shakespeare Library, has given us a bibliographical essay on a great many recent books on various aspects of early American history. Librarians would do well to check their holdings against this list and order needed titles while they are still in print.