

PEN NOTES: BOOK REVIEWS

In the opening chapters of *Ersatz in the Confederacy* (University of South Carolina Press. Columbia. 1952) Mary Elizabeth Massey gives a brief historical and political background for her study. She explains how the commercial dependence of the South on the northern states and Europe for many of the staples of her domestic and industrial life, the tardy realization among southern leaders of the need for industrialization, and the strangling effects of an early war-time blockade of her ports produced a situation in which an acute scarcity of both luxuries and necessities was inevitable. A natural corollary was the problem of combating shortages on the homefront.

This study is a record of the persistent efforts of the people behind the lines, beset by hoarders, speculators, inflation, "impressment" policies and "taxes-in-kind" to find substitutes for these shortages.

Miss Massey has dug deep into plantation records, old letters, newspaper files, official documents, diaries and other contemporary sources to measure the range of southern inventiveness. Out of an unwieldy mass of details, she has fashioned a coherent account of an unrelenting struggle to maintain a civilian life at an endurable level, and has added another chapter to an over-all interpretation of the story of the Confederacy.

—GEORGIA H. FAISON, *Reference*

Librarian

University of North Carolina Library

* * * * *

Roosevelt and Daniels; A Friendship in Politics

When Franklin D. Roosevelt was thirty and Josephus Daniels fifty, they met for the first time at the Democratic National Convention in Baltimore, where they helped to bring about the nomination of Woodrow Wilson. This meeting was the beginning of a friendship that was to endure until Roosevelt's death more than thirty years later; a friendship that flourished and grew in spite of the differences in age, background and temperament. The Southern editor, an economic radical who belonged to the left wing of the Democratic Party, and the handsome, aristocratic young New Yorker who had come into public life via Groton and Harvard, were an improbable combination even for politics. But their letters, edited with an Introduction by Carroll Kilpatrick (published by the University of North Carolina Press. Price \$3.50) furnish a lively record of the relationship between two remarkable men who learned to admire and respect each other and who served their country together for many years.

One of Daniel's first acts on being appointed Secretary of the Navy was to ask F.D.R., who had studied Naval History and who loved the sea, how he would like to be Assistant Secretary. "How would I like it," Roosevelt answered. "I'd like it bully well. It would please me better than anything in the world." During the first years of the relationship the correspondence reveals the younger man as daring, impetuous and often impatient with his slow-moving chief. But, to quote from a letter written to the editor by Mrs. Roosevelt, "As my husband grew older he was able to appreciate how really fine Mr. Daniels was and Mr. Daniels became mellow as he grew older and was a more liberal person than he had been in his youth."

Any reader interested in American history will find this a valuable and exceedingly readable book, with many sidelights on politics and policies at home and abroad during two world wars, depression and recovery.

—MARY CUTLER HOPKINS,

Public Affairs Librarian

University of North Carolina Library
Chapel Hill

PEN NOTES: BOOK REVIEWS

Literary Profiles of the Southern States

If the *North Carolina Authors Handbook*, published by the North Carolina Library Extension Department came as an answer to prayer for many a harassed school or public librarian, *Literary Profiles of the Southern States; a Manual for Schools and Clubs* by David James Harkness, issued in January of this year by the Division of University Extension of the University of Tennessee, comes as additional manna. Innumerable reference questions from students, teachers, book club members, and the general public as well, can be answered from the pages of this useful little book.

In his introduction to this "Books Tour" of the fifteen Southern states (Maryland, Missouri and West Virginia are included) the author points out that "more and more people are making literary pilgrimages these days to the birthplaces and homes of authors and to the place settings of their books." And he expresses the hope that the "profiles to follow will suggest visits to literary shrines of the Southern states, outline profitable and enjoyable studies in Southern life and literature, and provide a better perspective concerning these landmarks of regional writing and their relation to the whole field of American letters."

Mr. Harkness discusses very briefly the more important and the more popular authors of each state, and includes all sorts of odds and ends of information on regional history, interesting houses, and historical events and landmarks connected with books and writers. Books of the past as well as of the present are here, and children's books and their authors are well represented.

"The Southern states abound in history, legend, romance and tradition which give the literature of this section a special flavor of its own." *Literary Profiles* is not only a useful reference work; it gives to the reader "an appreciation of our literary heritage and a knowledge of the contributions made to American literature by the truly outstanding writers which the South has produced."

—MARY CUTLER HOPKINS

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Folks:

Everywhere people are hearing that librarians are more and more being recognized as true servants of the people of our state, and if this is being heard, someone who has been benefitted and someone who has appreciated your service and your experience and your willingness to help, must be doing the talking. Such truth is not new to you, but with the problems each of us are having to face every day, perhaps you would like to be reminded of this fact.

Libraries are being built and dedicated; corner stones are being laid; budgets are being increased, and more and more discussion groups are being formed and sponsored: it is well. Librarians face responsibilities never so real before since our profession is being continually rediscovered.

With activity on every front the Association and your special representatives keep mails, wires, and paths in constant use. Great is our pride in Paul Ballance's beautiful new library in Winston-Salem; deep is our grief over the tragedy which followed so pleasant an occasion. High are our hopes for the new High Point Public Library whose corner stone was laid on April 27th.