

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Books, Libraries, Librarians; Contributions to Library Literature.* Selected by John David Marshall, Wayne Shirley, Louis Shores. Hamden, Connecticut: The Shoe String Press, 1955. \$6.00.

This book has been reviewed favorably by William H. Jesse in the *Southern Observer* and criticized by J. Periam Danton in *College and Research Libraries*; and noted with approval from varying points of view elsewhere. In any case, the first printing is exhausted and a second is under way. So far as I can learn, no one has denied that the compilers' idea is a good one—to bring together in an anthology a collection of good and readable writings on books, libraries and librarians. Our professional literature is extensive and rather well indexed. Yet many of the pieces to which we practitioners have occasion to refer for "recreation, instruction and perhaps even inspiration" are widely scattered, were originally published outside of our own professional literature, or appeared before librarianship was (in this country at least) considered much of a profession. Already I, as an owner of a copy of *Books, Libraries, Librarians*, have been repaid in convenience for my modest investment. I find myself reaching across my desk for this anthology, to see if what I seek is there, before trudging to locate a set of *Library Literature*. In a good many instances I find what I want no farther away than I can stretch an arm and the inadequacy of my own professional library is somewhat compensated.

The compilers must have known, even as they contemplated their task, that hardly anyone would be a hundred per cent satisfied with their selection. Dean Danton has already given them some suggestions for a second volume, *More Books, Libraries, Librarians*. When that one is found still lacking, they must turn themselves to a third volume, *Still More Books, Libraries, Librarians*. In due time, if they are not discouraged in the process, our anthologists may give us a small shelf of books which will serve as our own shelf of little classics in librarianship.

ANDREW H. HORN

*North Carolina Drama.* Edited with an Introduction by Richard Walser. Richmond: Garrett & Massie, 1956. 229 pp. \$4.00.

The Introduction to this collection of ten one-act plays provides an interesting summary of the drama in North Carolina. If the author's intention was to arouse the interest of the reader in further inquiry into dramatic activity in the state, he has succeeded admirably.

The influence of "Proff" Frederick H. Koch in promoting playwriting is underscored by the ten plays collected. All ten are "folkplays" of the Koch era. His emphasis on the one-act play resulted in a product which lends itself to inclusion in an anthology. Mr. Walser has made a good selection. Other good plays are omitted but it would be hard to decide to substitute them for plays here presented. We can only wish it had been a larger volume.

Five of the ten plays were published in Koch's Carolina Folk-Plays now out-of-print. Four others have appeared previously. Only Charles Edward Eaton's "Sea Psalm" is printed for the first time. Two of Paul Green's short plays are included: "Quare Medicine" and "The no 'Count Boy." Thomas Wolfe is represented by "The Return of Buck Gavin." Frances Gray Patton's "The Beaded Buckle" written when Mrs. Patton was a student in Chapel Hill is a drama preview of the social satire she has more recently published in story form. Also included are "The Scufftown Outlaws," by William Norman Cox; "Sleep On, Lemuel," by John W. Parker; "In Dixon's Kitchen," by Wilbur Stout; "Ca'line," by Bernice Kelly Harris, and "Wash Carver's Mouse Trap," by Fred Koch, Jr. They are all good reading plays, and most North Carolina College players have cut their dramatic teeth on one or more of them.

Longer Plays by North Carolinians are listed in the Introduction with some information about the playwrights including Paul Green, Lula Vollmer, Hatcher Hughes, Hubert Hayes, Edward Peyton Harris and Howard Richardson.

This is a useful addition to collections of North Carolina literature.

ELAINE VON OESSEN

*Tar Heel Writers I Know*, by Bernadette Hoyle. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair 1956  
215 pp. \$4.00.

Here is a book for which every public and high school library will have special demand and other libraries will find useful. Mrs. Hoyle has presented sketches of thirty-five North Carolina writers with informal photographs of all but one. (Mrs. Brockman's picture is a studio photograph.) Although the basic biographic data is included it is subordinated to the personalities of the writers who are copiously quoted throughout. Mrs. Hoyle has made the reader feel he knows these authors; and, "to understand why the author writes, and why he, the reader, reads his works."

The author considers "Tar Heel Writers" some who were born in the state and many who live in the state. The interviews with Sam Byrd, William T. Polk and James Street took place shortly before their deaths. Other writers included are: LeGette Blythe, Zoe Kincaid Brockman, Marion Brown, Mebane Holoman Burgwyn, Ruth and Latrobe Carroll, Jonathan Daniels, Burke Davis, Lambert Davis, Wilma Dykeman, Inglis Fletcher, Charlotte Hilton Green, Paul Green, Frank Borden Hanes, John Harden, Bernice Kelly Harris, Lodwick Hartley, Noel Houston, Kermit Hunter, Hugh T. Lefler, Dave Morrah, Frances Gray Patton, James Larkin Pearson, Ovid Williams Pierce, Fred Ross, Phillips Russell, Frank G. Slaughter, Walter Spearman, Thad Stem, Jr., David Stick, Richard Walser, Manly Wade Wellman, and Tom Wicker.

The sketches are arranged in alphabetical order by surname so that the "Contents" provides an index. Each sketch is captioned with a quotation from the subject. The sketches originally appeared in Sunday editions of the *Raleigh News and Observer* which many librarians have doubtless clipped for their files. They will be grateful for this attractive and more permanent format.

ELAINE VON OESSEN