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Book reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

North Carolina Historical Records Survey, *List of the "Papeles Procedentes de Cuba" (Cuban Papers) in the Archives of the North Carolina Historical Commission* (North Carolina Historical Records Survey, Raleigh, 1942), VI+78 pp., mimeographed; bibliography, index.

This calendar, prepared under the aegis of the North Carolina Historical Commission, will be welcomed by students of southeastern colonial history. The *List* covers the period 1777-1800, which was a time notable for frontier diplomacy, intrigue, and schemes of empire. Long-established Spanish colonials looked with distrust upon American aggressiveness and "duplicity", while hard-bitten American pioneers hungered for land and followed the streams of the South into Spanish territory; and Spain and our young nation, struggling for solution of their own peculiar frontier problems, found matters doubly complicated through the intervention of France and Britain. "Many questions of grave import to the future of America," reads the Introduction to the *List*, "clamored for decision during this quarter-century, but final adjustment was rendered impossible because of primitive methods of transportation, piracy, and misunderstanding These colonial papers make very real the difficulties encountered as well as the earnest endeavor put forth to overcome them [They] constitute primary source material on some of the burning questions of that day, including free navigation of the Mississippi River, boundary disputes between Spain and the United States, Indian policies and relations: immigration, the State of Franklyn, the founding of Kentucky, the South Carolina Yazoo Company, and Spanish and American intrigues involving citizens of both nations."

It should be clearly understood that the North Carolina photostats and transcripts comprise a selection from— not a complete duplication of— the voluminous *Papeles de Cuba* in the *Archivo General de Indias* at Seville. Nor is the collection complete, for this and other copying projects were halted in 1927 by royal Spanish order. Selections of documents were made, of course, on the basis of significance for North Carolina history, and it naturally follows that value to other states is limited. Nonetheless this collection may be cited as of definite importance to Florida historians, and the publication of this calendar of 474 items has made the material gratifyingly accessible.

There are approximately 100 items relating specifically to East Florida and about the same number for West Florida, though the coverage for the latter province is the more extensive. It should be pointed out that the collection at Raleigh is supplemented by other *Papeles* material in the Library of Congress, in the collection of the Florida State Historical Society, and, to a degree, by scattered *Papeles* copies elsewhere. The guides published by Carnegie Institution of Washington are helpful for determining the relative coverage of the North Carolina papers.

The calendaring was competently done by Ruth Kuykendall, the young translator well known for her work in Spanish and French materials (including the *Papeles*) in the Spanish Records of the North Carolina Historical Commission. A typical entry adequately reflects the hectic nature of the times:

1795, June 9. Bart [olo]me Morales, Temporary Governor Florida, Saint Augustine, Fla. To Luis de las Casas [Havana, Cuba]. No. 13. Encloses copies of letters which show the desperate condition of affairs on the frontier; many new people have come from the United States because of

crimes committed there; others to escape payment of debt; thinks province better uncultivated and deserted than to have "this gang of rogues"; still fears that General Clarke will attack Florida. Typed copy, letter, signed. 3 pp. Papeles de Cuba bundle 1438; no. 13.

ALBERT MANUCY

John Bartram: Diary of a Journey. Through the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida, 1765-66. Annotated by Francis Harper. Transactions of the American Philosophical Society XXXIII, part I., 1942. 120 p. \$2.

A part of John Bartram's diary is well-known through its publication with Stork's *Account of East Florida*, but the whole has never been published. Now that we have it all it is realized how large a portion of the observations of this eminent botanist during his ten months of travel has been denied us. This Quaker botanist to the king of England made his journey through the South Atlantic costal area presumably in a search for natural resources which might be developed by the home government, especially in the lately acquired sub-tropical Florida.

The Diary from December 18, 1765 to the following February 12, which appeared with Stork's work, related especially to Florida and this has become a standard reference to East Florida, St. Augustine, and the St. Johns river for the early years of the British occupation. But the hitherto unpublished part is of even greater interest to the Florida, historian; and information long desired in St. Augustine now becomes available, set forth in minute detail by the very careful Bartram.

Dr. Harper followed Bartram's route himself throughout, with identifications of places, plants, and animals; so these, with numerous other anno-

tations, add greatly to the value of the publication as well as interest to the reader. His introduction shows how wide the interest was in its preparation and how intensive his own study was in correlating its natural history with natural features and clarifying numerous moot questions of the past century and a half.

Dr. Harper is research director of the John Bartram Association of Philadelphia. He has edited also a report which William Bartram made to his London patron, Dr. John Fothergill. This publication will be to William Bartram's famous "Travels . . ." what the other is to his father's "Diary . . ." It will appear soon, when the two will be available in a single volume, or they may be had singly.

The Bartrams hold a noteworthy— even a unique place in the botanical and historical literature of Florida, and this is emphasized by tributes and brief sketches of their lives in Dr. Hume's paper in this number of the *Quarterly*.

KATHERINE S. LAWSON