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## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Frontier Eden.: The Literary Career of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.*  
By Gordon E. Bigelow. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1966. vii, 162 pp. Preface, illustrations, select bibliography, index. \$6.50.)

The life of a literary artist can never be separated from his work; true creative flow stems from the deepest levels of the unconscious where experiences and impressions are stored almost from the moment of conception. A really sensitive literary biography is therefore a rarity and it is more than fitting that one of the most perceptive works of this kind to appear in recent years should deal with Florida's own Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. In *Frontier Eden*, Professor Gordon E. Bigelow of the University of Florida has managed to so integrate the life of a literary artist with the ebb and flow of her creative talent that the result becomes engrossing both as a portrayal of the creative mind at work and the sources from which spring the creative flow.

1928 was hardly an optimum time to move to Florida; in fact, the migration pattern in the immediate post-boom days was more likely to be northward than southward. In March of that year a thirty-two year old newspaperwoman and her husband, also a writer, first saw Florida from a Clyde Line steamer entering the mouth of the St. Johns River near Jacksonville. "Let's sell everything and move South. How we could write!" cried Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. And move they did, in November, to a citrus grove at Cross Creek, on the northern edge of the vast natural jungle, the Ocala Scrub. Her reaction at the first sight of the grove and the old farmhouse that went with it, Marjorie later described as being "such as one feels in the first recognition of human love, for the joining of person to place, as of person to person, is a commitment to shared sorrow, even as to shared joy."

For two city-bred writers, sorrows vastly outnumbered tangible joys during those first years at Cross Creek. But though her marriage ended in divorce five years later, Florida sand was already firmly ground into Marjorie's shoes. Far more important, her eagerly receptive unconscious mind had been storing away

millions of impressions, pleasures and pains, charging with power the wellspring from which surges the creative flow, as impossible to stem, once it begins, as it sometimes is to free.

No little of her literary difficulties during those early years came from the fact that, as a newspaperwoman, she had been trained to produce words with a purpose—in this case money badly needed to finance the operation of the grove. Like many another writer, she soon discovered that urgency of need can in itself hamper creative effort. But flow it did, nevertheless, first with a short story called “Cracker Chidlings” and later the delightful *Jacob’s Ladder*, bringing her to the attention of Maxwell Perkins, chief editor at Scribner’s and mentor of Thomas Wolfe and F. Scott Fitzgerald, among others.

Rarely has the intensely personal relationship between writer and a great editor been portrayed as understandingly as in *Frontier Eden*. In Max Perkins Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings found the courage she needed to free her literary soul from the needs of the physical body — as much as any writer is ever able to do. Much of this book, and its finest part, tells how this was done, and the agony of seeking for the right characters, the right theme—the right background was ever on her doorstep in the Ocala Scrub. Nowhere, either, is the evolution of a major literary work recounted more clearly than in the story of *The Yearling*.

First suggested by Maxwell Perkins in 1933, while Marjorie was in travail with perhaps her poorest book, *Golden Apples*, what later became *The Yearling* was initially planned as a childrens’ story. While evolving into its finished form as a gem of literary art over the next five years, it was cut, shaped, and polished again and again in the writing with the invaluable help of probably the greatest editor America has ever produced, Maxwell Perkins.

Although she was already an established literary figure, *The Yearling* zoomed its author into the rarefied atmosphere of financial best-sellerdom, a land where few real literary artists ever set foot. As so often happens, however, success brought little real happiness, beyond the satisfaction of having created a near-masterpiece. It is in the portrayal of these latter years that Professor Bigelow exhibits to the highest degree his rare talent as a literary biographer. Artist and person were by then inextricably interwoven, and he wisely makes no attempt to separate them.

Rather he shows them as facets of the same individual, an exceedingly difficult accomplishment, as anyone who has written biography can attest.

*Frontier Eden* is indeed a fine book, a perceptive and understanding book about an exceedingly complex individual. Painted with two brushes, one for the artist and one for the art, it nevertheless creates a portrait of the subject in which the reader can see both clearly without being able to tell exactly where one begins and the other leaves off—perhaps the ultimate test of a fine biography.

FRANK G. SLAUGHTER

*Jacksonville, Florida*

*The Battle of Pensacola, March 9 to May 8, 1781; Spain's Final Triumph Over Great Britain in the Gulf of Mexico.* By N. Orwin Rush. (Tallahassee: Florida State University, 1966. xii, 158 pp. Preface, maps, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$7.00.)

N. Orwin Rush has produced a book which will delight those readers who are interested in the history of the American Revolution. He has portrayed the opposing generals, Bernardo de Galvez and John Campbell, and he has included and edited not only Galvez's diary of the battle but also three reports Campbell made of the battle for Sir Henry Clinton.

The last chapter is a valuable section of the book. It contains twenty-six reproductions of maps, plans, and drawings which tell the story of the siege and fall of Pensacola. The first seven portray the action which took place during the sixty-one-day siege. They were drawn by Alego Berlinguero de la Marca (1753-1810), a teacher of mathematics and drawing and a first-class pilot. He was with Galvez both at Mobile and Pensacola. The originals of the de la Marca drawings are in the Museo Naval in Madrid. The next five sketches are from the British Headquarters Papers (Clinton Papers) in the University of Michigan Library; they were drawn by Henry Heldring, a German who was Campbell's engineer. Following these are two more maps from the Michigan Library (Crown Collection), four from Biblioteca Central Militar

in Madrid, and eight additional Spanish and English maps (three are in the Archivo General de Indias; three in the Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid; one is in the William Clements Library, University of Michigan; and one is in the British Museum).

The author says in his preface: "This volume is being published as a chapter in the heretofore untold story of a very important battle of the American Revolution; a battle which may have been the turning point in the war. . . ." He concludes the statement with a clause which disturbs the reviewer. It cannot be overlooked because it is emphasized on the cover and is repeated in a slightly different form on page sixteen. It states: . . . a battle which was fought entirely by soldiers and sailors none of whom wore an American uniform."

What does the statement mean? Does it imply that everyone who had a part in the battle wore a uniform and that no Americans were involved? The Indian allies of both sides, Louisianians who came with Galvez, the 2,200 recruits from New Orleans and Mobile who arrived on March 22 and 23, and residents of Pensacola who helped man the defenses probably did not wear uniforms. All these were Americans, as were the Venezuelan Francisco de Miranda and others like him who came from south of the Tropic of Cancer. What uniforms would represent these Americans in 1781?

The author lets his provincialism show in another statement repeated on the cover and found on page two: "After 1763 there were only two great empires in the New World—the British and the Spanish." The Portuguese had a considerable empire in Brazil.

JANE DE GRUMMOND

*Louisiana State University*

*Eternal Spring: Man's 10,000 Years of History at Florida's Silver Springs.* By Richard A. Martin. (St. Petersburg, Florida: Great Outdoors Publishing Company, 1966. 264 pp. Foreword, introduction, illustrations, appendix, bibliography. \$4.95, paperback \$1.95.)

As its title would suggest, this volume tells the story of one of Florida's great tourist attractions. For convenience it may be

divided into three sections. First, the author places the Springs in their geological and historical settings; second, the story of the Springs as a tourist mecca is told; and finally, a guide for visiting the Springs and their related attractions is given along with chapters on the land and aquatic plants and the more than thirty species of fish to be found there. Originally entitled *A Teacher's Guide to Silver Springs*, this book was part of an educational kit distributed to classroom teachers. The author has revised the guide to appeal to a more general audience, though the original footnotes and work sections are retained in an appendix.

The geological information and the Indian history can be found in many works and, unfortunately, many of the events which the author mentions in the early history of the state have only a tenuous and sketchy relationship to the Springs, but the section of the book which deals with tourism is most valuable and interesting for the historian.

Perhaps Silver Springs' first visitor of note was Lady Amelia Murray, a lady-in-waiting to Queen Victoria, who arrived in 1855. Lady Amelia found <sup>1</sup> the Springs beautiful, but she left "in a huff . . . shocked at the primitive accommodations." In fact, the seventy mile overland carriage ride from Palatka made all the early visitors determined tourists. It was not until after the Civil War that Hubbard L. Hart's steamboat line down the Ocklawaha and Silver rivers opened the Springs to great numbers of visitors. Harriet Beecher Stowe, William Cullen Bryant, Sidney Lanier, President Grant, and other poets, authors, and world-travelers found their way to the Springs, but with the passing of the steamboat era, the fame of the Springs dwindled. The disastrous freeze of the winter of 1894-95 wrecked havoc with Florida's citrus crops and also her reputation as "Summerland in Wintertime." To add to the problem, the hotel which had been constructed at the Springs burned shortly after the freeze. As a major tourist attraction Silver Springs seemed doomed.

In 1909 C. (Ed) Carmichael purchased eighty acres around the Springs and made improvements, but for some reason the tourists did not respond. In 1924 W. M. Davidson and W. C. Ray, Sr. leased the Springs and began the large scale promotion that was to make them world renowned. When they acquired the property 11,000 visitors were arriving each year; in 1950 the

number had climbed to 800,000. During their years of management new facilities were constructed; new attractions, such as Ross Allen's Reptile Institute, were added; and increased fame was gained as a result of the many motion pictures made there. In 1962 the American Broadcasting Company acquired the management of the Springs. This company took the lead in promoting Florida tourism and established a new educational division which set as its goal acquainting "Florida children with their natural and historical heritage."

As would be expected, the author's presentation of Silver Springs' development as a tourist attraction is not the detached and critical treatment an historian would like, but considering the purpose of the volume as promotional literature and as a guidebook, it must be said that he has done an excellent job. It is unfortunate that the section on tourism is so brief. Certainly this book points up the need for a serious history of Florida's leading industry.

DONALD W. CURL

*Florida Atlantic University*

*The Wonderful Life of Angelo Massari: An Autobiography.*  
Translated by Arthur D. Massolo. (New York: Exposition Press, 1965. 317 pp. Introduction, illustrations, epilogue. \$5.00.)

Lurking in the back of everyone's mind is the thought that some day he shall write an autobiography. Angelo Massari, unschooled Sicilian immigrant youth, cigar maker, importer, and finally banker is by his own description a positivist. Putting this thought into action upon his retirement, he explains that it was: in order to keep my mind busy and to kill the time." What emerges is an enlightening and unusual saga. It begins in 1902 with a peasant lad in Italy and shows by vignettes his progress to prominence and wealth in Tampa, Florida. An individualist and a "loner," Massari made a success as a cigar maker within the first year after his arrival in Ybor City. This was no mean feat. Moreover, he took advantage of his associations with the factory workers to learn Spanish, and he improved his education

by listening to the readers provided to entertain the cigar makers while they rolled cigars.

Although making good money in the factory, Massari was not satisfied. He tried his hand at building small houses and then as a retail merchant, but it was when he entered the wholesale grocery field that his business talents came to the fore. He conceived the profitable idea of importing directly from Italy the spaghetti and tomato sauce so popular among his compatriots. This led him into other ventures, such as shipping.

In 1911 Massari bought his first automobile at a time when there were "no more than a dozen automobiles in Tampa." His purchase was typical of his life. While the car was practical in his business, it also set him apart from his friends and competitors. This ability to stay apart, to be his own man, seemed to be characteristic and stood him in good stead throughout his life.

As a banker Massari deserves respect. He formed his International Bank of Tampa with little or no assistance, if not the actual antipathy of the other bankers. His bank withstood financial panic, the Wall Street crash, and the Roosevelt bank moratorium when others went under. In addition, Massari was smart enough to avoid the entanglements of the Florida real estate boom.

Massari's comments throughout the book constitute a treasure house of homely philosophy. This product of successful living and wide reading is worth heeding by one and all. Truly the life of Angelo Massari was a wonderful one.

O. Z. TYLER

*Jacksonville, Florida*

*Spain in America.* By Charles Gibson. (New York: Harper and Row, 1966. xiv, 239 pp. Introduction, preface, epilogue, bibliography, index, maps, illustrations. \$6.95, paperback \$1.95.)

When E. G. Bourne's *Spain in America* was published in 1904 in the first American Nation Series, the study of Latin American history in this country was in its infancy. Much progress has been made in the past half-century, as Charles Gibson's present work makes evident.

The approach is topical, beginning with a discussion of the Columbus voyages, the Vespucci enigma, the division of the unknown world into Spanish and Portuguese spheres, and the gradual development of geographical knowledge of the New World over the next three centuries. Other chapters are on the Conquest, the Encomienda, the Church, the State, the Established Colony, Spaniards and Indians, Imperial Readjustments, and the Borderlands. The book is a synthesis of scholarly research on these aspects of the colonial era by one of the most distinguished colonialists of this generation.

The conquest, Gibson writes, "reveals more graphically than any other activity of Spain in America those peculiar Hispanic traits that fascinate and puzzle the outside world. In conquest Spaniards demonstrated an almost superhuman determination to overcome obstacles and a supreme indifference to difficulties. Spanish fatalism, the obsession with death, and the mockery of life recur under ever-changing patterns. Combinations of lust and sentimentality, of honorable and base conduct, of altruism and selfishness occur and reoccur. The Spaniard appears as a man of epic qualities who descends to the depths of inhumanity. Valiant, cruel, indefatigable, ferocious, courageous, and villainous -Spanish character alternates among extremes and displays that 'coexistence of contrary tendencies' for which it is so celebrated."

With regard to the encomienda system, in which Indians were "commended" to the care of individual Spaniards, the laws were specific. What was lacking was a means of enforcement. Probably no other imperial power debated and agonized as much as the Spaniards over the justness of their conquest and of the treatment of the conquered. The rapid decline of native populations was puzzling and frustrating. Father Las Casas blamed it on the economienda and sought in vain to have it abolished. The continued decline in the number of Indians eventually accomplished what Las Casas failed to achieve.

The role of the church is discussed, beginning with the zealous missionary activity of the early sixteenth century and including the competition between the secular clergy and the regular orders. Its increasing wealth enabled the church to become the principal money-lender and the foremost landholding body, a situation which led to bitter criticism. "With respect to the wealth

of the church, everyone recognizes that a spiritual institution must have a practical economic base: but the extent of this base in colonial Spanish America raises questions of limit, and again the problem is one of the reasonable role of a religious institution in society."

On interpretations of Spanish-Indian relations, Gibson writes: "The Black Legend states that Spaniards slaughtered thousands of Indians and subjected the remainder to exploitive forced labor. The White Legend states that Spaniards brought Christianity to the Indians, eliminated human sacrifice and cannibalism from their society, and offered them draft animals, plows, and other material benefits. Thus both legends are accurate. But neither gives the whole truth." He points out that the most durable method for inducing the Indians to work was debt peonage, which became important in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as haciendas replaced *ecomiendas* as the symbol of wealth, and as the number of available Indians declined.

The final chapter is on the borderlands, the area of cultural interaction as well as international rivalry. It was also where missionary activity continued and where the presidio or frontier garrison was a prominent feature. Together the mission and the presidio defended the far-flung frontiers at little expense to Spain. The men who held on to these isolated, comfortless outposts were largely responsible for the fact that in three centuries Spain lost little territory to her European rivals.

DONALD E. WORCESTER

*Texas Christian University*

*The French in the Mississippi Valley.* Edited by John Francis McDermott. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1965. xii, 247 pp. Foreword, maps, illustrations, index. \$6.75.)

Since discovery and colonization, the Mississippi River Valley has become a lucrative commercial area. In the colonial period it ultimately provided a focal point for the tri-state struggle of England, France, and Spain. Spanish *conquistadores* appeared in America and the Mississippi Valley a century before the other European nations competed for colonies in the New World.

Spain, however, could not hope to control all of the unconquered Americas. Inevitably, France and Great Britain invaded the vast northern lands which lay on the periphery of Meso-America away from the magnificent Aztec civilization and the mines of silver. Thereafter, the Spanish empire in the Indies solidified and centralized colonial power below the borders of the Gulf of Mexico.

The Spanish position on the Gulf Coast and in the Mississippi Valley was only protected by military outposts and mission-village settlements. French colonists therefore moved into these regions without significant opposition. The French colonization of Louisiana and the Mississippi Valley commenced in the late seventeenth century and continued in the eighteenth century until the Seven Years War. After the Treaty of 1763, France reluctantly surrendered Illinois and Louisiana by international cession and sale. One hundred years of French influence, however, profoundly affected the Mississippi Valley and such colonial settlements as Mobile and New Orleans. Although a number of antiquated and current histories have eulogized the French contribution to American colonization, this new anthology certainly offers adequate testimony to support Francophile chauvinism.

*The French in the Mississippi Valley* is an interdisciplinary study of potpourri dimensions. But its ingredients seem to be scholarly and substantial as well as delectable. A total of fourteen articles and papers by many well-known scholars in Mississippi Valley studies is included in this interesting collection. Typically, these articles present truly perceptive and provocative analyses of the French milieu along the Mississippi. Several of the papers are of special interest. John Francis McDermott's study of the founding of St. Louis and Jack D. L. Holmes' biographic account of French engineers in Spanish Louisiana are especially worthy of mention as colonial works. Similarly, Pierre H. Boulle has written a soundly researched study of French reactions to the Louisiana Revolution of 1768. "The Houses of French St. Louis" by Charles E. Peterson also appears as an assessment of the architectural characteristics of the old river-city. Mr. Peterson's paper is replete with superb pictures and diagrams. Finally, Joseph Ewan's "French Naturalists in the Mississippi Valley" offers a memorable frontier portrait of the natural scientists in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Only two articles seem to be inappropriate selections in *The French in the Missis-*

*sippi Valley*. One is a useless story of early St. Louis families from the French West Indies prepared in the typical pseudo-historical mode of the fashionable genealogist. The other article of dubious value presents a pedestrian biographical history of an eighteenth-century priest, Pierre Gibault, in the Illinois Country. McDermott's Mississippi Valley anthology therefore suggests the advantages and obvious virtues of interdisciplinary research and writing.

ROBERT L. GOLD

*Southern Illinois University*

*The Indian Boundary in the Southern Colonies, 1763-1775*. By Louis De Vorsey, Jr. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1966. xii, 267 pp. Introduction, maps, bibliography, index. \$7.50.)

This is a study in historical geography done originally at the University of London. It is certainly the most complete study on its topic which has been done to date, more geographically oriented than historically.

The book opens with a brief survey of southern Indian economy and concepts of land ownership and use. The origin of the idea of an Indian boundary line is more fully treated, and it is shown that the Board of Trade had suggested a boundary before Pontiac's Rebellion made its expediency obvious. It is emphasized that the Proclamation Line was never set nor static. It did not go to the headwaters of streams falling into the Atlantic if the land had not been ceded by Indians this far west. It was constantly being altered through negotiations and survey.

Unfortunately for the historian, in this reviewer's viewpoint, the boundary discussion begins with the Virginia boundary and progresses south to the West Florida boundary. Often the boundary being discussed may depend upon a portion which is geographically to the south and which has not yet been discussed. This makes for confusion. For all sections of the boundary line, pre-1763 background is given. From Virginia to Georgia, the farther south the treatment comes, the farther back chronologically the background goes. For the Floridas, however, little Spanish background is given.

While the meat of the book is the tracing in considerable detail all the negotiations about the boundary line from 1763

through 1775, to do this in a review would be tedious and too lengthy. This is not to imply that a very thorough job has not been done by the author, but to say that the material does not lend itself to easy summarization.

Perhaps the most obvious point about these negotiations and surveys is that the colonials were continually trying to push the Indian boundary line as far west as possible. Colonials always tried to secure all lands upon which whites were settled, whether the settlements were legal or not. A point of surprise to this reviewer was the apparent ease with which the governors and superintendent were able to convince the Indians that the boundary line should be pushed further west. In every colony except the Floridas, the whites came nearer to getting what they wanted than the Indians or the officials at Whitehall. A point worthy of note is the time lag which elapsed between the issuance of the Proclamation of 1763 and the actual negotiation and survey of the boundary line. Five years lapse was common before a survey was completed.

Throughout the study, the inadequacy of previously published accounts and maps is pointed out. At the same time a goodly number of maps are included, eighteenth century and modern, to delineate the boundary line. It seems unfortunate that in his concern for geographical accuracy, the author has not constructed maps easier to understand. This refers especially to the strip maps which show the actual boundary line. The two final maps showing the entire Southern Indian Department and the Indian boundary do admirably what some of the more detailed earlier maps do not.

Finally a word about sources. This study was done in London and depends almost entirely upon the Public Record Office and the British Museum for manuscripts and manuscript maps. Historically, it would have been improved by researches in American archives of the southern states and such collections as the Draper Manuscripts at the Wisconsin Historical Society. Besides being the most complete study of the Indian boundary line and its movements, the book is an excellent bibliographic survey of maps in British Archives for the late colonial South. It should prove useful to historians interested in the area and period.

KENNETH COLEMAN

*University of Georgia*