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Book Notes

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BOOK NOTES

Shipwrecks in Florida Waters (Scott Publishing Company, Eau Gallie) was written by Robert F. Marx, director of research for the Real Eight Company of Satellite Beach. The purpose, according to the author, is "to help both the amateur and professional underwater archeologists." One of the difficult things after an historic shipwreck has been located, he points out, is to identify it properly. This he sets out to do in this monograph and in a larger work recently published. He lists references to 281 losses of vessels in Florida waters covering the period from 1525 to 1856, and another seventy-two "possible" wrecks. Mr. Marx's belief as to the value of the amateur archeologist in terms of salvaging artifacts from underwater Historical Period shipwreck sites is somewhat at variance with those held by professional archeologists who work underwater. The scientifically trained archeologists warn us repeatedly that historically valuable underwater sites, are rapidly being destroyed by sport and treasure divers. Mr. Marx's monograph contains a number of illustrations. It sells for \$2.50.

On September 1, 1867, John Muir, naturalist, botanist, and explorer, began his famous walking expedition to Florida. He set forth from Indianapolis and travelled by train to Jeffersonville on the banks of the Ohio River, where he began his trek. He walked across Kentucky and Tennessee to Savannah, then journeyed by boat to Fernandina, where he continued his walk to Cedar Key. Along the route, he kept a journal, noting in it the plants, the places, and the people that he saw and encountered. Because the state was "so watery and vine-tied that pathless wanderings are not easily possible in any direction," he followed the right-of-way of the Florida Railway Company. Stricken by fever, he remained at Cedar Key for almost three months before taking passage on a ship bound for Cuba. Houghton Mifflin Company published Mr. Muir's journal, *A Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf*, in 1916 in a limited edition. It has now been reprinted by Norman S. Berg, "Sellanraa," Dunwoody, Georgia 30338. The reprint includes all of the original illustrations and the introduction by William Frederic Bade.

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The library edition lists for \$11.90; trade edition, \$12.50; and uncut edition, \$15.00.

Louis and Vernon Lamme have written and published a pamphlet entitled *Stephen Foster: A Florida Minstrel*. There is a short biographical sketch of Foster and a brief history of several of his songs. These include not only the most familiar, "Old Folks at Home" (Florida's state song), "Oh, Susanna," "Old Uncle Ned," "Camptown Racers," "Ring, Ring De Banjo," "My Old Kentucky Home" and "Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair," but ones which are not quite so well known. All are part of the history of American music. The illustrations are by Bob Lamme. The monograph sells for \$1.25; it may be ordered by writing Box 1106, Boynton Beach, Florida.

America's first lighthouse, the Boston Light on Little Brewster Island was put into service September 14, 1716. Since then lighthouses have been erected all over the United States, from Key West to Alaska and Hawaii. *Keepers of the Lights: A History of American Lighthouses* by Robert Carse is published by Charles Scribner's Sons of New York, and it sells for \$3.95. It recounts the story of these lighthouses, including three in Florida: Cape Florida, Dry Tortugas, and St. John's. Keeper John W. Thompson's harrowing experiences at the Cape Florida Light in July 1836, when he and an assistant were attacked by Seminoles, and when the lighthouse was set afire is described in Carse's book. Excellent photographs of the Florida lights are included.

The late Frank J. Roos, Jr., published the first edition of *Writings on Early American Architecture* in 1943. Now a revised and updated version of his bibliography has been published by the University of Illinois Press of Urbana. The construction termination date of 1860 has been retained for the listings as was true of the original edition. The bibliography is divided geographically, limiting itself to the eastern and central United States, which of course, includes Florida. Most of the Florida references are to St. Augustine, but the Gregory House in Torreya State Park, the Addison Blockhouse, Fort Gadsden, and the *Grove* (Governor Call's home), and *Goodwood* of Tallahassee are also included. There are no references to any Florida

literature which has appeared since 1948, and as a result articles describing historical structures in Pensacola, Key West, St. Augustine, Palm Beach, and other communities are not listed. The book sells for \$12.50.

Louis D. Rubin, Jr., is editor of the *Bibliographical Guide to the Study of Southern Literature*, published by the Louisiana State University Press in its *Southern Literary Studies Series*. The bibliography is divided into "general topics" and "individual writers." All of the important literary periods from the colonial to the present are examined. A timely essay is "The Negro in Southern Literature" by Professor Seymour L. Gross. The Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Collection at the University of Florida is noted in "Manuscript Collections and Holdings," and Mrs. Rawlings and James Weldon Johnson are two of the Florida authors included. The book sells for \$10.00; \$3.95 paperback.

Ralph Waldo Emerson: A Profile, edited by Carl Bode, is a paperback edition of a volume in the *American Profile Series*, and it is published by Hill and Wang of New York. In the essay, "Emerson and the South" by Jay B. Hubbell, Emerson's visit to Charleston and St. Augustine during the winter of 1826-1827 is described. Emerson was a friend of Achille Murat, and the latter accompanied him on the journey to Charleston. The book sells for \$1.75.

Storm Over Savannah: The Story of Count d'Estaing and the Siege of the Town in 1779 is by Alexander A. Lawrence. Published originally in 1951, the University of Georgia Press has reprinted this valuable study of the valiant but vain effort of the French and Americans to take Savannah during the Revolution. Charles-Henri, Comte d'Estaing, commanded the French land and naval force, some 4,000 troops, which had come up from the West Indies. The proximity of Savannah to East Florida and particularly St. Augustine, a British stronghold during the Revolution, adds to the interest of this book for Floridians. The book lists for \$6.00.

The Geography of Life by Wilfred T. Neill is published by

the Columbia University Press and it sells for \$12.95. Professor Neill, formerly a biologist for Ross Allen's Reptile Institute at Silver Springs and associated with the University of Florida and Florida State Museum, has traveled extensively in the last two decades studying the relationship of plant and animal distribution to geography. At the Florida State Museum he wrote *A Historical Biogeography of Present-Day Florida*. His special interest has been Florida, particularly the Everglades. He discusses in his *Geography of Life* the flora and fauna of Florida and compares it with the Baja California peninsula. These two areas are not completely similar, Neill points out. Unlike California, Florida combines low elevation with high rainfall. There are few areas in South Florida that rise more than fifteen feet above sea level. Handsome photographs, some of them in color, are used to illustrate this volume.

Florida's Spanish River Area by Theodore Pratt is a short monograph published by Boca-Hi, Inc., 4720 South Ocean Boulevard, Highland Beach, Florida 33444. Mr. Pratt, one of Florida's most prolific writers, tells the story of Boca-Hi, which gets its name because half of it is in Boca Raton and half is in the town of Highland Beach.

Florida continues to be utilized as an ever popular setting for adult novels and children and teenager books. Included in the latter category is a narrative by Mel Ellis. *Ironhead* is published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston of New York, and it sells for \$3.95. It is a tale of a young boy's effort to capture a rattlesnake in the Florida Everglades.

With two widely acclaimed novels to his credit, Harry Crews, member of the English faculty at the University of Florida, is being included by many critics in the prestigious Southern Gothic School, which includes such writers as Truman Capote, Eudora Welty, and Carson McCullers. Mr. Crews' first novel was *The Gospel Singer*. His latest is *Naked In Garden Hills*, published by William Morrow and Company of New York. The phosphate mining area of Polk and Hillsborough counties is the locale for the town of Garden Hills, the scene of the story, where once flourished the worlds largest phosphate mine. Mr. Crews' sus-

penseful story moves swiftly and with assurance. It is one of the better novels utilizing the Florida scene to appear in the last few years. The book sells for \$5.95.

The Day of the Dolphin by Robert Merle, published by Simon and Schuster of New York, is a fictional account of efforts by scientists to establish human communication with dolphins. The government-sponsored laboratory in this book is located in Florida. There is an involved plot having to do with the United States being saved from nuclear war, at least in part by the dolphins. This book lists for \$5.95.

The Promised Land, by Carol K. Rothrock Bleser, is the history of the South Carolina Land Commission. It covers the period from 1869 when the South Carolina legislature established the commission, until 1890 when the program was abandoned. The idealistic concept was to sell land tracts at purchase price to blacks and whites on a long-term payment plan. Fraud and corruption helped destroy the program. A few farmers retained their holdings and their descendants still own the properties today. The "Promises Land" near Greenwood, South Carolina, is the most successful and enduring example of what the Land Commission had hoped to achieve. Published by the University of South Carolina Press, the book sells for \$6.95. This is the first volume of the South Carolina Tricentennial Studies that will commemorate the founding of South Carolina in 1670.

The War in the South, by Donald Barr Chidsey, is described as an informal history of the Carolinas and Georgia in the American Revolution. Published by Crown Publishers of New York, the book sells for \$3.95.

James R. Morrill's *The Practice and Politics of Fiat Finance* is a study of the financial and political considerations that shaped North Carolina's financial policies during the Confederation Period after the American Revolution. The economic difficulties which confronted North Carolina during the 1780s were the economic difficulties facing all the southern states. There was the mountainous problem of the Revolutionary debt, the impossibility of coping with the paper currency issued during

the war, and the ever increasing complexities of developing a working relationship between the states and the United States. This is a University of North Carolina Press publication, and it sells for \$7.50.

Among the recently issued paperbacks is *Slavery in the Cities: The South, 1820-1860* by Richard C. Wade. It was reviewed in the *Florida Historical Quarterly* in April 1966. The paperback edition is published by the Oxford University Press, and it sells for \$1.95.

Under the general editorship of August Meier, Athenum Press of New York has republished three important titles in its *Studies in American Negro Life Series*. Of particular importance to Floridians is *Black Manhattan* by James Weldon Johnson, who was born in Jacksonville and who received his early education in that community. This is not a history book in the traditional sense, but is rather an impressionistic evocation of Harlem as Mr. Johnson viewed it during the 1920s. The Athenum edition carries an introduction by Allan H. Spear which includes a brief biographical sketch of Johnson. The book sells for \$3.75. *Sea Island to City: A Study of St. Helena Islanders In Harlem and other Urban Centers* by Clyde Vernon Kiser is a sociological study of the migration of Negroes from St. Helena, South Carolina, to the North during the first three decades of the twentieth century. Seeking a "promised land" which always seemed to elude them, these blacks found themselves caught up in the American process of ghetto-building. This book lists for \$3.45. *Negro Political Leadership in the South* by Everett Carl Ladd, Jr., was published in 1966. It is reprinted now with a short preface by Andrew Haaker. The thesis of this study is that southern Negroes, unlike their northern counterparts, have used the franchise in the last twenty years to develop party organization, leadership, and political spirit which is not subservient to the white establishment. The Julian Bonds and the Charles Evers of the South, it is argued, have given better service in terms of both ideology and ability to their followers, than do most of the black public officials of the North. This book sells for \$3.95.