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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

Florida: A Short History. By Michael Gannon. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1993. xiii, 170 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, illustrations, photographs, index. \$24.95.)

As Michael Gannon notes in the introduction to *Florida: A Short History*, he has heeded the advice of an editor of a university press who once said of compact works such as this: "The idea here is to persuade a scholar who would write a thousand pages to write the same thing, more or less, in a hundred pages. We have a responsibility to other scholars, but we also have a responsibility to those who simply want to know."

Gannon, who is distinguished service professor of history at the University of Florida, has succeeded admirably in this quest with a superb overview of the rich, variegated history of one of the nation's premier states. Gannon's achievement takes on added importance when one notes that the sunshine state has suffered from a dearth of general histories and from the attendant ignorance over its importance in the historical development of the United States. *Florida: A Short History* represents a significant step in addressing these problems since this historical survey of the state will capture a large audience.

A Florida native, Gannon is a lifelong student of the history of his state, an acclaimed teacher, masterful and tireless raconteur, and superb stylist. *Florida: A Short History* showcases each of these strengths and talents and contains the latest archaeological and historical scholarship. For example, the author notes that Juan Ponce de Leon's landfall for his voyage of "discovery" in 1513 is now believed to have been south of Cape Canaveral at or near Melbourne.

Gannon has also included an impressive amount of social history, especially in lengthy captions accompanying a liberal number of photographs. The author employs a photograph of "bathing beauties" strutting their stuff on Miami Beach in 1923 to make the point that the employment of "cheesecake" in "the age well before *Sports Illustrated*" received wide play in the country's newspaper and "helped in attracting thousands to Miami Beach."

Humorous quotes and insights provide refreshing levity and effectively underline key points. Professor Gannon exhibits his impatience with the popular view that England was the initial colonizer of an area that later comprised the United States, noting that "by the time the Pilgrims came ashore at Plymouth, St. Augustine was up for urban renewal." Of fraudulent real estate sales in boom-time Florida (1920s), Gannon borrows a line from Groucho Marx: "You can get stucco. Oh, how you can get stucco!"

The book not only traces the story of Florida's development from the era when native populations dominated the peninsular state, but it also devotes brief sections to racism and violence in the early twentieth century, industry and agriculture before and after that period, politics in post-World War II Florida, and the cultural scene in the same period. Gannon offers a select list of fifty books on Florida history in the bibliographic section in the back of this work.

Florida: A Short History is especially insightful regarding Florida's new economic directions following the Civil War. In this period Florida lessened its dependency on cotton and turned its attention and efforts increasingly toward lumbering, cattle raising, the cultivation of citrus crops and winter vegetables, and tourism. Not surprisingly, Gannon's treatment of the era of World War II is also impressive, since his previous book, the widely acclaimed, best-selling *Operation Drumbeat*, told in elaborate detail the story of Nazi U-Boat attacks along the Atlantic coast of the United States.

Highly informative and sparkling in its presentation, Michael Gannon's *Florida: A Short History* will serve as standard fare for those interested in the history of the state for years to come.

Miami Dade Community College
Wolfson Campus

PAUL S. GEORGE

Atlas of Florida Edited by Edward A. Fernald and Elizabeth Purdum. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1992. 280 pp. Atlas staff, contributors, acknowledgments, preface, introduction, origin of place names, statistics, photo credits, sources, index. \$39.95.)

If your only contact with an atlas consists of the AAA Road Atlas or a World Atlas by Rand-McNally, you may be happily surprised to find that this atlas of Florida is really a comprehensive reference work. Geographers have learned that some information about places is best conveyed by words, some by pictures, some by tables, some by graphs, and some by maps. This atlas utilizes all of these symbol systems to provide an encyclopedic picture of Florida past, present, and future. Indeed, fully one-fourth of the page space is occupied by text. Only a few pages are full-page maps, yet nearly every map is suitably large and easily read.

This atlas is designed to assist those who need specialized information about Florida for business or for planning or to satisfy a deep curiosity about Florida's geology, climate, hydrology, biology, agricultural production, and infrastructure. However, the atlas is also constructed so that the more casual reader can spend happy hours getting to know the state. Because the state has many new residents, this may be the best use of this book.

In an atlas such as this, the coordinated efforts of editors, authors, and cartographers are needed to shape the message. The scholars who produced this work are mostly associated with the Florida State University geography department, although specialists from other disciplines have also been contributors. Many of us are particularly aware of the long and distinguished attention to Florida provided by the senior editor, Edward A. Fernald, and also by one of the major contributors, Morton D. Winsberg. Although this atlas is a product of FSU geographers, it has broad connections outside Tallahassee; both Dr. Winsberg and the cartographer, James R. Anderson, Jr., have geography degrees from the University of Florida. The other contributors also have outstanding credentials for a work such as this.

This atlas is the most recent of a number of atlases, which began with the *Atlas of Florida* produced almost single-handedly at the University of Florida by Erwin Raisz in 1964. Although

having only about fifty pages, it set the pattern of combining words, pictures, maps, and graphs to portray Florida. This 1992 atlas is much larger and more encyclopedic and grew out of a similar atlas produced by Dr. Fernald in 1981. Yet this atlas is not a revision of the 1981 effort. Rather, it is new in almost every way. The 1992 artistic and cartographic decisions resulted in graphics which do a much better job of helping the reader know Florida. The organization— use of separate authors for each section, more authority and citations, tables, indexing, and choice of colors— contributes to a more pleasant, and therefore more readable, presentation of information. The atlas is even printed on better paper stock than the 1981 publication.

The atlas has six sections: Natural Environment, History and Culture, Population, Economy, Recreation and Tourism, Infrastructure and Planning. The section on history includes the 1847 Mitchell Map and several other even older maps. It shows pre-Contact, Contact, and colonial times. It maps the Seminole War, early settlements, the Civil War in Florida, and growth of population with maps for each decade beginning with the 1840 census. It displays the evolution of county lines, the history of Florida's economy, maps of presidential elections, pictures of the governors of the state, and so on.

In other words, here is the place where those interested in the history of Florida can find the expression of history in the landscape and the effect of the landscape on the state's history. It is a book for both the past and for the future, and, gentle reader, it is a work of art. You should have it in your library.

University of Florida

JOHN R. DUNKLE

Hernando de Soto and the Indians of Florida By Jerald T. Milanich and Charles Hudson. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1993. 292 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, maps, photographs, illustrations, afterword, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95.)

Jerald T. Milanich and Charles Hudson offer us in this book a superb reconstruction of the route Hernando de Soto followed through Florida and a detailed picture of the social geography of the Indians who inhabited the area during the sixteenth cen-

ture and beyond. Based on all available sources, such as the three known contemporary narratives of the expedition; numerous French and Spanish documents, cartographic, and geographic interpretations; and the archaeological investigations done to date, Milanich creates a hypothesized reconstruction of the route de Soto took from the landing site in Tampa Bay to Apalachee that “best fits” the information contained in those sources.

Using this reconstruction—detailed in chapters III, IV, VI, and VIII—as a central theme, Milanich pinpoints with greater accuracy than ever before the original geographical location of the Florida Indian towns and provinces mentioned in the narratives related to de Soto, including those recorded in Garcilaso de la Vega’s secondhand account. Milanich goes one step further: in chapter V he identifies and locates all the native peoples of southern and central Florida, and in chapter VII, all those who inhabited northern Florida. In addition, the authors explore two subjects: the impact of de Soto’s expedition on several of these native peoples and the further efforts the Spanish crown carried on during the following two centuries to establish permanent settlements and missions in Florida. Given the scope of this work, the reader should not expect to find much on the prehistory, religion, social organization, languages, external relations, or traditional culture of the Florida Indians even though the authors do touch on these subjects at times.

As have earlier scholars who studied de Soto’s route, Milanich relies heavily on the evidence found in historical sources to create a hypothetical itinerary. Definitive proof, however, should perhaps rest on further incontrovertible archaeological findings rather than on historical documents. One such example is the recent identification in Tallahassee of de Soto’s wintering camp in Apalachee. Nevertheless, in the absence of additional evidence, it is highly unlikely that anyone will ever develop a better hypothesis than the one Milanich has formulated in this book. Even if the narratives of the clerics Alvaro de la Torre and Fray Sebastián de Cañete are ever found, they are not likely to contribute the kind of data necessary to establish a definitive route, though they may provide additional information on the Florida Indians and details about the expedition in general.

No known sixteenth-century Spanish narrative was intended to allow the reader to retrace the steps of the narrator. Not even

Pedro de Castañeda's narrative of Francisco Vázquez de Coronado's expedition from the Río Grande to Quivira, which took place about the same time as de Soto's, did so, even though Castañeda had a unique advantage when it came to making his narrative more precise about its route. Coronado, interested in measuring the distance traveled, assigned to one of his companions the tedious task of counting the steps in each day's march. Yet, those who have studied Coronado's expedition, including Herbert E. Bolton, are still far from reconstructing the definitive route. Some of the information contained in early sixteenth-century Spanish historical documents regarding distances, for instance, are not of great help. While Bolton seemed to have equated the land league to about 2.5 miles (5,000 varas), Milanich set the equivalence at 3.46 miles. Both authors may be correct; at that time the league had varied lengths, and one of its popular definitions was the *legua andar*, which was the distance a person could usually walk in an hour. Milanich is so keenly aware of this drawback that, in spite of his efforts at precision, he uses both the land and the nautical league with reasoned flexibility.

Some archaeological evidence required to locate some of the places de Soto visited may have been lost forever. Milanich cautions the reader about the destruction of several sites, including those along the Little Manatee River, which flows into Tampa Bay just south of the probable location of the camp de Soto set up after landing. Still, Milanich has extracted from the available sources the pertinent information to produce a book that should not be missed by anyone interested in the colonial history of this state, its native inhabitants, or the archaeological investigations carried on in Florida to the present.

University of New Mexico

IGNACIO AVELLANEDA

Missions to the Calusa. Edited and translated by John H. Hann. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1991, xix, 460 pp. Acknowledgments, preface, introduction, references, index. \$49.95.)

By compiling in one volume numerous translated documents about the unsuccessful Spanish attempts to Christianize the

staunch Calusa Indians of south Florida, John Hann has produced another valuable research tool for students of Florida history. Spanning some 200 years, these documents vividly portray three brief abortive efforts to bring the Calusa under the sway of the Spanish Church. Though purported to have initiated their own conversion, the Calusa withstood zealous evangelical attempts by soldiers and Jesuit missionaries late in the sixteenth century, by Franciscans late in the seventeenth century, and again by Jesuits in the early eighteenth century. Missionary activities barely achieved fleeting Indian "lip-service" to Christianity, and that only when promoted by Spanish gifts. The padres paid a high price for their meager "gains" – humiliation, suffering, even martyrdom.

The Zubillaga bibliography and wealth of references enhance the value of the work. Also contributing to its worth is the fact that some of the documents are published here for the first time; many appear for the first time in English. This unique compilation makes the Calusa mission the best documented one in Florida. Eyewitness priests and laymen, soldiers, governors, bishops, bureaucrats, and the king illuminate the religious, political, economic, and strategic factors in Spain's response to the challenge posed by the enigmatic Calusa.

Hann's book confirms and augments the considerable knowledge of Calusan culture previously available and discloses their reaction to the missionary activity. Uniquely, the south Florida missions were based in Cuba where the Calusa preferred to maintain their Spanish contacts. Normally, people who had achieved such a complex, powerful society were agriculturalists who grew staple subsistence crops. The Calusa, however, despite their societal development, raised no crops.

The volume's use is facilitated and its interest enhanced by the Acknowledgments, discussing its conception and development, and by a general introduction by William H. Marquardt, Hann's "archaeological collaborator" on the project. Hann's lengthy introduction to Part I, covering the late seventeenth century, and his introductions to Parts II and III, dealing with the late sixteenth and early eighteenth centuries, add interest and comprehension and place the missions within the Spanish colonial system. His commentaries on the documents put them in context. Some redundancy results from liberally quoting extracts from the documents in his text.

Though Hann has pruned much of the repetition inherent in official correspondence passing through the Spanish bureaucracy, much remains. Possibly less-literal translations of some documents could have enhanced readability without sacrificing substance. Numerous tentative translations of very difficult passages do not detract from the utility of the book. The useful map begs for enlargement to include western Cuba, the rest of Florida, and more detail of the Keys to match the book's flow of events.

Hann's rationalization of the sixteenth-century Jesuit failure throughout Florida does not bear up when their sterile five-year effort is contrasted with the thirty-two-year perseverance of the Franciscans against the same odds. The Franciscans achieved a stable beachhead in north Florida.

Perceived errors in the text do not diminish its value: "Guale fell in 1702." Actually, Spain lost Guale to English-Indian raids in 1680-1686. "Until then [1704] those missions had been a barrier to incursions deep into Florida by natives allied with the English." As the English did not begin serious encroachment on Spanish Florida until late in the seventeenth century, no such prior threat existed on the frontier. When the English moved in the period 1680-1704, the missions provided little or no opposition.

To smooth the book's abrupt 1760 documental finale and to satisfy reader curiosity, the author should have disclosed the Spanish bureaucracy's 1760 reaction to the 1743 Jesuit recommendations to settle the Keys and to use force to establish the "true religion" there.

Seattle, Washington

ROBERT A. MATTER

Culture and Environment in the Domain of the Calusa. Edited by William H. Marquardt. (Gainesville: Institute of Archaeology and Paleoenvironmental Studies, 1992. vii, 440 pp. Illustrations, maps, photographs, tables, figures, index. \$25.00, paper.)

Anthropologists long have wrestled with the enigma of the Calusa Indians of Florida's southwest coast, whose complex chiefdom-level society, contrary to most chiefdoms worldwide, was founded not on agricultural surplus but on a highly successful maritime adaptation. When first encountered by Europeans

in the sixteenth century, the mound-building Calusa were organized into a stratified society governed by the absolute authority of a god-like paramount chief who controlled a network of tribute and exchange extending across much of south Florida. How did the interaction between culture and environment stimulate the evolution of the Calusa? How can the Calusa phenomenon be studied from an archaeological perspective? These questions are pursued by Marquardt and his colleagues in this excellent account of the archaeological investigations of the Southwest Florida Project in the Charlotte Harbor vicinity (the domain of the Calusa) between 1984 and 1988.

Marquardt identifies four archaeological needs around which the research was organized. These are the need for (1) a more refined chronology, (2) a detailed study and analysis of artifacts from the Calusa area, (3) an environmental and paleoenvironmental study, and (4) a basic understanding of archaeological sites in the area.

Marquardt addresses the archaeological sequence by presenting a generalized chronology for the area based on a battery of radiocarbon dates from shell middens, shell mounds, and burial sites. The ceramic studies of Ann Cordell are used also to divide the sequence into culture periods. The periods from Paleo-Indian (beginning ca. 11,500 B.C.) to Caloosahatchee V (from A.D. 1500-1750) are discussed with respect to the development of maritime adaptation. Evidence supports the idea that this adaptation was in place by 5,000 B.C. if not earlier.

Technology is again examined by Marquardt in his detailed inventory and synthesis of shell artifacts, by Karen Jo Walker in a similar study of bone tools, and by Cordell in her thorough study of pottery variability in the area. From these studies we learn that the prehistoric Calusa were accomplished net fishers whose material culture reflected their dependence on maritime resources.

The interaction between culture and nature in the Calusa domain is discussed in chapters by Karen Jo Walker (on zooarchaeology), C. Margaret Scarry and Lee A. Newsom (on archaeobotany), and Samuel Upchurch and associates (on geological processes). Walker, in a major piece of research, argues that the maritime adaptation rests on the exploitation of the mangrove fringe and inshore seagrass meadow habitats, among the most productive biological systems in the world. She points out

that Charlotte Harbor is not a uniform environment but varies according to a salinity gradient. Archaeological sites likewise are not uniform but vary in their content and function according to their location in the salinity gradient. Brief chapters by Dale Hutchinson and Michael Hansinger report conclusions about prehistoric diet and health based on the limited study of skeletal remains from the area.

Archaeological site formation and the nature of archaeological deposits in the vicinity are the topics of chapters by Quitmyer and Jones (on using clams as indicators of seasonal occupation) and Wing and Quitmyer (reporting on the results of an ingenious modern midden experiment).

This book is distinguished by its superb visual presentation, which includes ample stratigraphic profiles and plan views of archaeological sites, photographs of sites and work in progress, and clean maps showing site locations in the Charlotte Harbor area. The prose style is crisp and straightforward throughout. The text is data-rich but not numbing. Overall, the study appears to have resulted from a well-planned research design, although, particularly in the early years of the project, the actual fieldwork was sporadic and somewhat piecemeal. To Bill Marquardt and his associates in the Southwest Florida Project, well done!

Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research BRENT R. WEISMAN

Columbus Was Last: From 200,000 B.C. to 1492, A Heretical History of Who Was First. By Patrick Huyghe. (New York: Hyperion, 1992. ix, 262 pp. Prologue, acknowledgments, bibliography, index. \$22.95.)

It is my opinion that scholars will not like this book while the general public will. The author is a free-lance writer who has published in mass media journals and done television productions. His expertise as a thorough historian is not apparent. There is no doubt that this book was published when debunking Columbus was fashionable. The sensationalism of the title and the advertising state that "the author presents the most substantial evidence to date that Columbus reached the New World perhaps as much as 200,000 years after his predecessors." Yes, it reads 200,000 years. Nowhere is there presented any "substan-

tial evidence" of any of the pre-Columbus, prehistoric arrivals. We all know that the first settlers came around 15,000 years ago or later.

The merit of the book is a clear presentation of the various credible and noncredible claims of human arrivals on the American continent before 1492. It is for the reader who has only an average knowledge of world and American history. The seventeen chapters have catchy titles like "American Graffiti," "The Great Regatta," and "Trinity Sunday."

While Huyghe underplays contacts that are now considered quite possible, he dwells on the more exotic claims. Such is the case of a Chinese expedition around A. D. 499 which called the discovered land Fu-Sang. While this legend certainly exists and makes fascinating reading, few believe that this was an actual event. Huyghe does not say the evidence is sufficient to assure a Chinese presence at that early time, but he gives it much prominence.

Frederick J. Pohl in 1961 gave us a much more serious book called *Atlantic Crossings before Columbus* (W. W. Norton & Co.). Pohl had previously written four books dealing with pre-1492 American continent contacts. He is more conservative in his examples.

Huyghe's book has a respectable bibliography for each chapter, all from secondary sources. While I would not recommend the book for university-level assignments, it makes good reading and shows the renewed interest in the mysteries of pre-columbian contacts with America.

University of South Florida

CHARLES W. ARNADE

Indians, Settlers, and Slaves in a Frontier Exchange Economy: The Lower Mississippi Valley Before 1783. By Daniel H. Usner, Jr. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1992. xvii, 294 pp. Acknowledgments, abbreviations, introduction, illustrations, tables, conclusion, index. \$32.50, cloth; \$12.95, paper.)

Following his suppression of the 1768 Louisiana revolt against Spain, General Alejandro O'Reilly dispatched two emissaries on a tour of inspection up the Red River to the colony's

furthermost outpost, Natchitoches. The official report submitted by the pair noted that half the men on that frontier were “merchants” and that the mainstay of the economy was clearly illegal trade with the Indians. This trade and its importance is one of the major themes of Usner’s work.

The author divides the study into two overviews— the first chronological, the second topical. His geographical limits are confined to Lower Louisiana (or the Lower Mississippi Valley), since Upper Louisiana (Missouri or the “Illinois Country”) was economically tied more closely with the Great Lakes region. The author’s thematic focus is the economic interaction of the people in this region and the extent to which this social and economic commerce lay the foundation of antebellum society in the area.

Usner presents a colonial economy far more complicated than the stereotypical fur trade between Europeans and Native Americans. He treats the importance of slaves in hunting and trade as well as in the production of foodstuffs. He illuminates the oft-neglected role of herding in colonial Louisiana, and he clarifies the manner in which the frontier exchange economy— developed because the colonial population was left to its own designs— was choked out by changing times. Governmental regulations, combined with a growing colonial population, the expansion of a plantation agriculture, and increasing commercialization of the trade with Indians, forced Louisianians of the late eighteenth century into an export, market-oriented economy. This conversion led to other conflicts, as previously designed social roles were changed. Slaves were confined more to plantation work, small-scale landowners suffered from competition with an emerging planter class, and Indians were shunted into service roles in order to survive. The frontier exchange economy did survive into the nineteenth century but only as a minor stratum beneath the whole.

The Gulf South is a diverse and intriguing subregion within a land that is arguably the most interesting region of the United States— the South. No period of the Gulf’s history surpasses the colonial era in tweaking and holding the curiosity of those who peek into its past. Yet, as Usner shows, preconceived notions and mythical patterns must be discarded by the historian who attempts to understand “the Borderlands.” Building upon his superb research and perceptive analysis, the author helps others comprehend the complexities of colonial Louisiana and makes

a significant contribution to the explanation of its history. But it is a shame that an otherwise well-presented work should lack a convenient bibliography and offer such an inadequate index.

University of Alabama

GARY B. MILLS

To Foster the Spirit of Professionalism: Southern Scientists and State Academies of Science. By Nancy Smith Midgette. (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1991. viii, 238 pp. Acknowledgments, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

Although readers of the *Quarterly* will find little about Florida in this volume, Midgette's study of state academies of science in the South does illustrate how necessary it is to include the developing role of science and its institutions in any study of culture, be it national or regional. In order to be regarded as "modern" in this country and elsewhere, it has inevitably been necessary that a region actively support and cultivate scientific research. But, apart from state academies of science, an aggressive and organized promotion of science was not part of the American southern heritage. One way of chronicling the modernization of the South, then, is to follow the historical development of southern science, especially through its institutions. That is the task Nancy Smith Midgette has set for herself.

Midgette does not treat the southern gentlemen scientists of the colonial or antebellum eras; her study commences only after the Civil War. One of her major concerns is to record the unique problems that confronted those who attempted to create institutions of science in the southern states. Southern universities did not have sufficient resources to support natural science to any substantial degree; consequently, scientists worked in relative isolation from each other and, just as importantly, from major centers of professional activity. In response to these circumstances it was natural for southern scientists to seek mutual support from each other.

One has the impression that the ultimate success of the southern states' academies of science has been due to the gradual recognition that one must not confuse regional or state institutions with nationally organized scientific societies. By learning not to compete in an arena where they would surely

lose, southern states' academies persisted and eventually prospered. They were able, for example, to realize that they would not provide a forum in which the best scientists would present their research results; rather, they have realized they serve a valuable function by making available a platform from which young scientists can begin the public presentation of their work. The author demonstrates persuasively that this has clearly been the secret of the continued growth of the academies in the period since World War II.

From the beginning there was a tension between those who wanted to bring scientists together for purely disciplinary reasons and those who wished to organize out of a more practical economic incentive. What is remarkable is that in the years since 1940 both motives produced successful, albeit mutually exclusive, organizations of scientifically trained people. This development marks in its own way the emergence of southern culture to technical competence. Midgette's study is thorough and well organized and should be consulted by anyone interested in American science and American higher education.

University of Florida

FREDERICK GREGORY

The News from Brownsville: Helen Chapman's Letters from the Texas Military Frontier, 1848-1852. Edited by Caleb Coker. (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1992. xxvi, 410 pp. Foreword, acknowledgments, introduction, photographs, illustrations, maps, appendices, bibliography, index. \$39.95.)

William Chapman was a career army officer who participated in the Second Seminole War, serving briefly as post commander at Fort Foster in the spring of 1838. Chapman's Florida adventures were recounted in several letters he wrote to his fiancée, Helen Blair, which were published in the April 1990 issue of this journal.

The Florida letters are but a fragment of a collection of family papers inherited by Caleb Coker, an attorney who lives in Jacksonville. In the book under review Coker has published another portion of the collection, mainly letters written by his great-great-grandmother, Helen Blair Chapman, while she was

living in or near Brownsville in 1848-1852. Helen found herself in South Texas because her quartermaster husband had been given the responsibility of supplying Fort Brown, an American border post situated across the Rio Grande from Matamoros. Helen Chapman had a fine eye for social detail and the quirks of individual personalities, high and low. Her letters describe Zachary Taylor and border desperadoes, feckless preachers and trembling drunks. Nothing escaped her attention, and, as the wife of a quartermaster, she was in a good position to meet people and collect news and gossip. Of much that she learned she disapproved—Helen Chapman was nothing if not a Victorian— but there is also a streak of independence that makes her letters unusually interesting, perhaps unique among southwestern women correspondents of this era.

A major's wife living in a rapidly developing town in a fertile valley, Helen Chapman enjoyed rare advantages over most frontier women. She had servants, money, security, plenty of food, fresh vegetables, comfortable furniture, and time to read, write, and study the Spanish language. She endured her share of dangers, notably cholera, pregnancy, and bandits, but what set her apart was her leisure time to reflect upon events and to describe them in long, thoughtful letters, written mainly to her family in Massachusetts. A bilingual observer, she was also able to describe Mexican customs which she observed during stays in Matamoros in 1848 and Mexico City in 1851. Although prejudiced against Catholicism, Helen Chapman was sympathetic to the Mexican people, whom she regarded as backward but undeserving of the abuse heaped upon them by Texans.

Coker has done a first-rate job of editing. He has transposed or deleted some material to enhance the narrative flow and created topically unified chapters, making *The News from Brownsville* read more like a book than a collection of letters. Coker has also provided photographs, maps, footnotes, biographical sketches, and an appendix featuring contemporaneous newspaper accounts of the events described in the correspondence. One wishes that every collection of frontier letters were as carefully documented and as handsomely designed.

The Chapmans played no role in Florida history after William left the territory in 1838. Helen Chapman had much to say about slavery, race, and racism— topics of concern for southern

historians generally. The book's greatest value, however, will be for those who are interested in the Texas frontier or the history of nineteenth-century American women.

University of North Florida

DAVID T. COURTWRIGHT

William Howard Russell's Civil War: Private Diary and Letters, 1861-1862. Edited by Martin Crawford. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1992. xvi, 252 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, introduction, photographs, illustrations, index. \$40.00.)

Historians of the Civil War are familiar with William Howard Russell's *My Diary North and South*, originally published in London in 1863. While not dismissing the value of that two-volume work (866 pages), Martin Crawford points out that it is not actually a diary but a narrative constructed upon the contents of the renowned war correspondent's notebooks and reports to the London *Times*. Crawford's volume, however, is based upon Russell's previously unpublished diary and selected private correspondence, the contents of which, the author claims, are less flattering but more accurately reflect Russell's observations of the United States in 1861 and 1862, thereby justifying this new volume.

With the establishment of the Confederacy by the seceded southern states in early February 1861, the management of the *Times* decided they needed a permanent correspondent in the United States to provide their readers with up-to-date reports on this transatlantic crisis. Russell, who had gained international fame as a war correspondent through his vivid dispatches to the *Times* during the Crimean War and the Sepoy Mutiny in the 1850s, was selected for this important assignment.

The forty-year-old Russell arrived in the United States in mid March 1861. After a stay of approximately a month in Washington, where he received a congenial reception and had easy access to the most prominent people, he began a tour of the South just as Fort Sumter fell. Russell also received a warm welcome by the upper strata of southern society. He returned to Washington on July 3, 1861.

During his two-and-a-half-month absence from Washington, relations between Great Britain and the United States had de-

teriorated, largely as the result of Britain's neutrality proclamation of May 13, 1861. Russell's unflattering description of the Union's defeat at the Battle of Bull Run on July 21, which appeared in the *Times* on August 6 and was widely reprinted in American newspapers, added to the existing anti-British hostility. Thereafter, Russell's access to information from well-placed government and military officials dried up, and his request to accompany military units in the field was denied by the secretary of war. Consequently, his position as a *Times* correspondent became increasingly untenable, if not unsafe. These circumstances, coupled with anxiety over his wife's health, prompted Russell's decision to return home in the spring of 1862.

Crawford's volume is practically a day-by-day account of Russell's observations of the social and political scene in both the North and South during the first year of the Civil War. Some entries are brief and difficult to comprehend despite the author's informative introduction, intentionally limited editing, and explanatory notes that follow nearly each entry.

As Crawford contends, some of Russell's observations of such important people as Mary Lincoln, William H. Seward, and Jefferson Davis are less flattering than appear in *My Diary North and South*, yet they do not justify this volume. The author's assiduous research in providing notes for the diary entries and tracking down Russell's letters on both sides of the Atlantic do. Crawford's publication of Russell's diary, interspersed with supplementary, contemporary letters, provides a worthy companion to the Russell volumes. It clearly demonstrates that the diary itself neither reflects Russell's perceptiveness of American society nor his mastery of descriptive journalism—both of which make *My Diary North and South* indispensable Civil War volumes.

There is little in Crawford's volume that relates directly to Florida. But readers of this journal will appreciate Russell's brief commentaries on his visit to both Union and Confederate military installations in Pensacola and the fact that one of Russell's letters was found in the Henry Shelton Sanford Library and Museum.

University of West Florida

GEORGE F. PEARCE, emeritus

Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune: The Civil War Letters of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw. Edited by Russell Duncan. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1992. xxiii, 421 pp. Foreword, preface, editorial method, abbreviations in notes, appendix, selected bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

A collection of letters well annotated often recreates a life more fully than a biography. Russell Duncan's well-designed edition of Robert Gould Shaw's Union Army letters tells why that young man became an American legend, even in Hollywood. Duncan also has written a thorough biographical introduction, and he has documented these letters with sensitivity to their setting. His edition is now the major source to explain why that upper-class New England/New York white man assumed the task of training and commanding the first free black Union Army regiment. In his introduction and sequence of letters Duncan has shown the young colonel's growth from being antislavery but prejudiced against black people to grudging respect and pride in those black soldiers who fought and died with him. These martyred troops also prove, says the editor, that black men were willing to die for freedom, as if the suicidal assault on Battery Wagner off Charleston Harbor was needed as proof.

In addition to the letters on military affairs, Duncan has included Shaw's correspondence to the older generation of New England businessmen and to many of the young men who became this country's upper-class public leaders. A member of the Boston/New York merchant elite, Shaw's father retired from business at an early age to join his wife in many reform endeavors, including the antislavery movement. That older generation's children and their cousins, as well as their young neighbors, learned from its reform efforts and profited from its financial success. When young Shaw joined a number of his fellow aristocrats at Harvard in the late 1850s, the United States had created a new leadership class. Shaw and his peers, who inherited status and wealth, assumed the role of an establishment public service elite— a group that only recently has lost power in this country. Thus, these letters of Shaw to friends and family depict the lives of that upper class as it debated and discussed the merits of reform and service. The letters also reveal how that class perpetuated itself through marriage and business alliances. For example, Shaw's own marriage just be-

fore he died linked wealthy merchant families. Shaw's letters, then, should be studied carefully by all scholars who want to understand how his class gained influence and assumed responsibility in this country.

Shaw's letters also tell much about his military activities and those of his fellow Union officers. If his life at times appears overwhelmed by comparison with the Cabots, Holmeses, and Lowells, Shaw's choice to face his destiny shows through in the expert editing of Professor Duncan. Early on, a few letters are presented to demonstrate that Shaw had little talent for or interest in commerce and trade. He craved adventure, and he had excellent leadership qualities, which perhaps made him a natural soldier. For reasons of romance and nation he enlisted in the Union Army, where he found that he thoroughly enjoyed the tedium and the camaraderie of camp and thrived on the thrill of combat. His wartime letters also reveal the officers' class biases and the differences in military-camp living standards between them and the enlisted men. Shaw turned into a careful critic of his superiors' abilities and became a student of the many complexities of large-scale warfare. Comments about his fellow officers' views of Secretary of War Stanton, General McClellan, and other leaders provide additional insight into the conduct of the war. In addition, these letters assist the scholar in understanding the social and political connections that allowed the civilian elite to rise into positions of military command. But most of all it is Shaw's own life of service and commitment, as he came under the influence of upper-class antislavery sentiments, that shines through brilliantly in Duncan's edition of these letters. Those values led him to assume command of the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts and thus to claim his place as an authentic American hero.

Catholic University of America

JON L. WAKELYN

Stonewall: A Biography of General Thomas J. Jackson. By Byron Farwell. (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1992. xiii, 560 pp. Foreword, epilogue, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

This is the first major biography of Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson to appear in over thirty years. It is an interesting book

that makes some valuable contributions. But it will not be seen as a classic reevaluation of Jackson for at least two reasons. First, even though the bibliography lists recent works on strategy and the nature of modern war, the text is not truly illuminated by them. Farwell's ideas on the war sometimes appear outdated, even quaint. John Brown is depicted merely as an insane old man; there is no hint that he might have been a type of guerrilla leader. John Pope's 1862 regulations dealing with civilians caught aiding the enemy are denounced simply as morally outrageous. Thus Farwell is precluded from deeper analysis of men who advocated total war, including Jackson himself, who more than once proposed extermination of the opponent.

The second major flaw in the work, one which will concern all serious students of the war, is that the book has almost no reference notes. Most of those it does contain are on trivia, such as which family owned a particular house caught in a battle zone. This makes it difficult for the reader to trace in detail how Farwell differs from previous biographers. It also makes one reluctant to accept some of his assertions about Jackson, as the sources for claims about fact or opinion are not given.

Farwell's previous books have dealt with the British imperial experience, particularly the military. His 1981 volume, *Mr. Kipling's Army*, is considered a classic study of the characters who policed Britain's imperial domains. Farwell is at his best in dealing with personality, and that holds him in good stead here: he creates a convincing portrait of Jackson the man. Farwell's figure is a man of limited background and horizons, brought up by a litigious uncle. Jackson struggled to success in the profession of arms by single-minded devotion to success. He never allowed himself the luxury of broad intellectual pursuits, so he remained in many ways narrow and bigoted, lacking in developed powers of introspection. Jackson was vindictive and litigious. For example, when on duty in central Florida in the early 1850s, he hounded his commanding officer with charges stemming from imagined slights and petty peccadilloes.

As a military leader Jackson gets full marks for the genius of his 1862 Valley campaign, though Farwell points out that the general was unusually lucky in the poor quality of his opponents. As a commanding officer Jackson had some serious faults. He put subordinates under arrest for trivial offenses, hurting morale and the efficiency of the service. He was secre-

tive, refusing to share his orders or plans with subordinates. This hurt the army on more than one occasion, and Farwell is probably right in arguing that the trait cost the Confederacy an even greater victory than it obtained at Chancellorsville in May 1863. After Jackson was put out of action, nobody knew his precise intentions.

Perhaps the most original and persuasive contribution of the book is the argument that when Jackson performed poorly, as he did in much of the Seven Days' Campaign against George B. McClellan in June 1862, he was suffering from lack of sleep. Farwell argues convincingly that Jackson needed more rest than most people.

I also like the book's conclusion, though many will not. This is that Jackson was fortunate to die at the height of his fame and before he attained greater responsibility. For he did not have the personality to be successful at a higher command level and would almost certainly have failed.

Northern Kentucky University

MICHAEL C. C. ADAMS

Confederate Mobile. By Arthur W. Bergeron, Jr. (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1991. xii, 271 pp. Introduction, maps, photographs, epilogue, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.50.)

In most standard texts on the Civil War, Mobile appears only in reference to the famous Battle of Mobile Bay. It is thus refreshing to find a work that illuminates the complete war years of this major southern city. After the fall of New Orleans in 1862 Mobile became the largest and most important Confederate port on the Gulf. Even after its outlet to the sea was sealed in 1864, Mobile remained independent until its surrender on April 12, 1865, three days after Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

The strategic importance of Mobile was not lost on Confederate authorities. As a port city it was second only to New Orleans, and its rail connections proved to be a vital link for the Confederacy as the war progressed. To defend the city Confederate officials implemented a standard coastal defense policy comprised of fortifications protected by land and naval forces. Through the duration of the war, military commanders worked

feverishly to prepare the port city for imminent Union attack. The forts at the mouth of the bay were reinforced, barriers and torpedoes were placed in the channel, and earthworks were constructed around the city proper as well as across the bay on the eastern shore.

Union priorities spared Mobile in the early course of the war. But by 1864 David G. Farragut's victory over Confederate forces at the mouth of Mobile Bay effectively sealed off the city as a port for blockade runners. And finally in the spring of 1865 General Edward R. S. Canby attacked Mobile by land, Mobile being his first objective in an anticipated drive up the Alabama River to Selma and Montgomery. But by the time the Confederates were defeated at Spanish Fort/Blakely—ensuring the surrender of Mobile—the war was virtually over.

Bergeron does an admirable job of exploring the Confederate command at Mobile and its preoccupation with an adequate defense. Despite bureaucratic inefficiency, constant changes in officials, serious supply shortages, and inadequate military forces, the defenses of Mobile were surprisingly substantial, though in the end would prove ineffective against the superior Federal forces. The author is best when describing the home-front and blockade running at Mobile. His analysis of Mobile within the overall strategy of the Union and Confederacy is also thorough, but Florida historians will be disappointed at the few discussions of the Federal presence at Pensacola. Federal forces in West Florida caused great concern for Mobile commanders, and Confederate pickets and cavalry forays within the Florida panhandle were not so much a defense of south Alabama as they were a means to pin down union forces from launching a land attack on Mobile.

The author's masterful command of the numerous primary sources makes this the most concise and accurate account of Mobile in the war. Unfortunately, the narrative is a bit wooden at times. The account of the Battle of Mobile Bay is quite thorough but lacks the vividness and verve of the numerous firsthand accounts (Farragut does not even "Damn the torpedoes!"). It is also disappointing that the publishers could not enhance this volume with a wider variety of photographs and illustrations, such as those found in Caldwell Delaney's 1971 pictorial book *Confederate Mobile*. (The press's lackluster dust jacket also detracts from the book's appearance.)

Nevertheless, Bergeron's *Confederate Mobile* is an indispensable and thoroughly researched volume on Mobile's role in the Confederacy. This work complements Harriet E. Amos's earlier study on antebellum Mobile and will prove an invaluable guide to anyone wishing to understand wartime Mobile and the military maneuvers involved in defending the important southern port.

Pensacola Community College

BRIAN R. RUCKER

An African-American Exodus: The Segregation of the Southern Churches. By Katherine L. Dvorak. (Brooklyn: Carlson Publishing, 1991. xviii, 252 pp. Introduction, preface, foreword, notes, bibliography, index. \$50.00.)

This volume is the most recent publication in a long list of works tracing the rise of black religion from what Albert J. Raboteau has so aptly termed the plantation's "invisible institution" to the unparalleled force it has become in the black community today. It is a worthy addition to this literature, especially the author's careful development of the thesis that the black "exodus" from white churches during and after the Civil War occurred spontaneously, swiftly, and dramatically. Though well researched and convincing in its argument, this book will probably stimulate the careful reader not for the number of issues it settles but rather for the number of issues it raises.

By extensively mining black and white church archival materials and interpreting the relevant secondary literature, Dvorak attacks the notion that black ecclesiastical segregation occurred as a "natural" process of post-Civil War Jim Crowism. The decisive factor in this exodus (as opposed to expulsion) rested on a number of factors indigenous to black concerns and culture, not the least of which proved to be their deep religious experience and the charismatic nature of black church leadership. By tracing the purported cause and nature of this exodus, the author deftly demonstrates that blacks in the 1860s almost instinctively fomented their own separatist interpretations and practices of Christianity. This is significant because it lends credence to the notion that blacks during and after the Civil War adopted new cultural and religious practices rooted deep in their own Afri-

can-American heritage— they were not simply passive objects caught up in the events of the era.

In general, the years covered in this book reflect an important chapter in black history; namely, how and why blacks withdrew from white ecclesiastical institutions in favor of all-black organizations during and directly after the Civil War. The exodus from the Methodist Episcopal Church South (MECS), used as Dvorak's case study, perhaps best reflected this phenomenon as the church experienced a prewar black membership decline from roughly 240,000 to 78,742 in 1866 and finally a drop to 19,686 in 1869. As blacks took the initiative in exiting the MECS and other ecclesiastical institutions, a predictable surge occurred in the membership of northern-based black churches. For instance, the African Methodist Episcopal Church acquired roughly 321,000 members from 1860 to 1871, and the American Methodist Episcopal Zion Church counted 122,000 new members between 1860 and 1868. As a result of this shift the black church became the soul of the black community North and South at a time when approximately 90 percent of all black Americans lived south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

Like many scholars of the history of religion, Dvorak is writing from the perspective of someone who has watched history unfold primarily along theological divisions. And while she does incorporate a modicum of sociological theory into her work, there remains the tendency to define the issues in a series of rigid theological dichotomies. For example, she insists that blacks undertook the exodus based primarily on their own religious initiatives. Thus, the reader concerned about the larger issues of black and southern history will almost certainly begin to ask such questions as what was the role of black nationalism in Dvorak's exodus. Moreover, did the theological truly preempt the sociopolitical determination of blacks to escape a deep history of white tyranny in *all* aspects of their lives during this era? Or did blacks simply determine to take advantage of the war and postwar confusion to sever all physical, psychological, and theological ties with the myriad oppressions of slavery and racism? These and related questions are almost certainly going to crop up in the reader's mind, especially those versed in the breadth and scope of the African-American experience. Even so, Dvorak's skillfully presented narrative will be appreciated by

a wide audience as an engaging picture of a religious experience that resulted in the separate character of today's black Christian Church.

Edison Community College

IRVIN D. SOLOMON

Meadows of Memory: Images of Time and Tradition in American Art and Culture. By Michael Kammen. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1992. xxv, 192 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, photographs, illustrations, index. \$39.95.)

The title of the new work by Michael Kammen, Cornell University's Pulitzer Prize-winning cultural historian, probably won't strike any mystic chords of your memory. *Meadows of Memory* is the title of an undated, mysterious landscape by Arthur Bowen Davis (1862-1929). In this painting, a woman, who is perhaps in early middle age, moves rather briskly across a meadow while an older woman proceeds more deliberately in the middle distance. Kammen argues that Arthur Davis, like many American artists, uses space to symbolize the movement of American culture through time.

In two previous books, *Mystic Chords of Memory: The Transformation of Tradition in American Culture* and *A Sense of Youth*, Kammen gave us an almost encyclopedic study of the American historical novel. In the present work his artifacts are paintings and sculptures dating from the Renaissance to Georgia O'Keeffe to Salvador Dali. But to Kammen, "aesthetic inferiority does not connote or correlate with cultural inconsequence." He dismisses the ability to draw a line between high and popular art in America, which leads him to examine a wide range of art. In art history classes students are introduced to artists who influenced subsequent artists; with Kammen the reader spends as much time with Daniel Chester French as with Arthur Davis. Kammen believes that works of art are especially close to the hearts of their creators and were intended a statements about the "determinative significance of a meaningful or problematic past." Kammen draws many parallels between literary and artistic endeavors; the reader will find many references to American writers and artists.

This book is based on the Tandy Lectures given at the Amon Carter Museum in 1989. In the introduction Kammen gracefully explains that rather than give his audience a sample of his past research, he has chosen to present the incomplete results of his current efforts. Each essay presents one of the three objectives of his current analysis of American art: 1. to illuminate the issue of American exceptionalism. How unique is American civilization? Kammen traces the old-world images of Chronos and Clio as they were transported across the ocean and transformed in their new cultural context into Father Time and the Maiden; 2. to identify American iconography that is uniquely ours. Pertaining to themes of time and tradition, he calls "homes" and "elms" uniquely American subjects. He notes our artistic tradition of preserving history as a pattern of "timeless moments" achieved by symbols; 3. to broaden the customary connotation of historical art. Kammen argues that all sorts of paintings (in particular landscapes), not ordinarily designated as historical, were *meant* to offer messages about trends, events, time, and memory in the culture of the United States.

Michael Kammen is said to be the custodian of American self-consciousness. He is certainly not the first cultural historian to examine art as artifact and not for aesthetic value, but he is the first to argue for the intentional incorporation of historical content into art. No doubt another encyclopedic effort will follow this slim volume, a work which may give Kammen the space to completely argue his case.

This volume asks again what is American about America. He has given us two leads— the transformation of European symbols into American art and the "new" symbols of "home" and "elms" which will give us plenty to ponder until a more thorough examination arrives.

Florida Humanities Council

ANN L. HENDERSON

American Indian Water Rights and the Limits of Law. By Lloyd Burton. (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1991. ix, 174 pp. Preface, tables, notes, index. \$22.50.)

It is the premise of this work that the last two centuries can be characterized as a period during which state governments

and some federally elected officials generally did what they could to divest indigenous peoples of their natural resource heritage, while federal judges generally did what they could to preserve that heritage for the tribe's use and enjoyment. It is the story of a doctrine fashioned and enforced by the federal courts for the preservation of American Indian water resources, set against state water laws under which most of the waters of the West have already been allocated to non-Indian interests.

Although the policy fashioned by the judiciary— known as the reserved rights doctrine— has proved the salvation of the American Indian water resource heritage, we may be approaching the limits of what the law is able to do on the tribes' behalf in the pursuit of just and durable dispute resolution. The author proposes a uniform negotiation process to address the problems of fairness besetting negotiations between tribes and the states.

The legal struggle over water rights has been centered in the West where there is an insufficient water supply to satisfy the demands of all potential users, including Indian tribes. Western states developed, therefore, a policy of "prior appropriation" which established a hierarchy of rights based on chronological order in which users began to use water resources; this often denied tribes the use of waters running through their lands. The effort to address this inequity began in January 1908 when the U.S. Supreme Court issued its seminal decision in *Winters v. United States*, the first case in which the federal courts explicitly affirmed the water rights of Indian reservations. The so-called "Winters doctrine" reserved to Indian reservations an adequate water supply to carry out the purposes for which reservations were established.

Over the intervening eighty-five years there were numerous attempts to vitiate these rights. In recent decades, though, a number of comprehensive settlements have been negotiated in which tribes abandoned their claims to substantial amounts of water in return for governmentally funded and guaranteed delivery of a smaller quantity of water to reservations. One case examined by Burton is the landmark Water Compact between the Seminole Tribe and the state of Florida which received congressional ratification in 1988. This was unique because it was the only negotiated settlement involving the riparian rights of an Indian tribe. The Seminoles relinquished some land-title claims and entered into a cooperative agreement for local man-

agement of riparian water rights in return for money compensation and a limited recognition of its water-rights claims.

This well-written but narrowly focused work is intended primarily for specialists in resource management and Indian affairs. Although Florida is mentioned but briefly in a book largely devoted to western issues, it is noteworthy that the Seminole Water Rights Compact is recognized as one of the significant events in the history of negotiated settlements. It is predictable that other Florida cases will fill a similar niche in Indian law.

Florida Atlantic University

HARRY A. KERSEY, JR.

Gender, Class, Race, and Reform in the Progressive Era. Edited by Noralee Frankel and Nancy S. Dye. (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1991. vi, 202 pp. Preface, introduction, contributors, index. \$24.00.)

Gender, Class, Race, and Reform in the Progressive Era edited by Noralee Frankel and Nancy S. Dye is an impressive collection of articles which illuminate how beliefs about gender, race, class, and ethnicity shaped women's reform activities during the progressive era and how black, immigrant, middle- and working-class women both contributed to the progressive movement and were affected by it. Thus the book moves beyond "contribution" history and challenges us to revise our interpretations of progressivism itself.

Early studies of the progressive movement largely ignored women's contributions and did not explore the connections between the suffrage movement and progressivism. The articles in this book present a sophisticated analysis of diverse groups of women reformers who shared beliefs about gender differences, but because of racial, class, and ethnic differences chose different paths to reform. In the introduction Nancy S. Dye states that the essays address the questions: "How did women reformers envision American society and women's roles within it? What beliefs about gender, race, class, and ethnicity informed women's political culture and their reform agenda? How did black, immigrant, and working-class women contribute to and experience progressive reform? What was the relationship be-

tween progressivism and feminism? What legacy did progressivism leave for succeeding generations of American women?"

Nancy S. Hewitt's article, "Politicizing Domesticity: Anglo, Black, and Latin Women in Tampa's Progressive Movement," is of the greatest interest for Florida history. In this superb article Hewitt presents a nuanced analysis of how gender, race, and class were interconnected in the reform activities of elite Anglos and Latins and working-class Latins and African American women. She demonstrates how Tampa's female progressives worked to infuse their domestic values into the public sphere. Since their class allegiances transcended any possible gender alliances, they used their political power to restrict participation by minority communities. Hewitt shows how working-class Latin and African American women founded unions, mutual aid societies, clubs, and social welfare institutions. Using woman-controlled and home-based resources, they were often involved in labor struggles in the city's cigar industry and came to define politics in more militant, socialist ways.

Three authors address African American women reformers' activities during the progressive era. Jacqueline Rouse explores the fight of African American women against segregation in Atlanta. Sharon Harley contributes to our understanding of gender-based exclusionary practices and policies of progressive era trade union organizations and women's ambivalent feelings about their status as wage earners. In her discussion of African American women's struggle against lynching, segregation, and disfranchisement, Rosalyn Terborg-Penn argues that black women's definition of civic improvement and social justice centered on racial consciousness.

Other authors analyze the experiences of working-class women during the progressive era. Ardis Cameron explores how immigrant women in Lawrence, Massachusetts, developed collaborative networks in order to withstand the harsh conditions of industrial life. Alice Kessler-Harris, author of the splendid book *Out to Work*, points out that women reformers' efforts to protect women through measures such as the minimum wage ultimately reinforced societal beliefs about gender differences and disadvantaged women workers. In a similar vein, Barbara Sicherman argues that the gender consciousness of progressive reformers empowered women to enter daring political battles, but it also marked out the limits beyond which they would not

go and the limits of women's authority. Similarly, Eileen Boris argues that women reformers relied on an alternative set of values derived from women's sphere to reconstruct public life in accord with their ideals of womanhood. Consequently, they reinforced women's dependent status in the economy and state by grounding their discourse in terms of nurturance, altruism, piety, and domesticity. Thus, Kessler-Harris, Sicherman, and Boris believe that their belief in intrinsic gender differences ultimately limited their access to economic and political power and reinforced beliefs about women's weaknesses and inferiority.

Molly Ladd-Taylor presents a fascinating portrait of the collaborative as well as adversarial relationship between women reformers, working-class and rural mothers, and the state. Ellen Carol DuBois also addresses class relations among women during the progressive era through a provocative discussion of Harriot Stanton Blatch. Susan Tank Lesser provides a valuable historiographical essay on the diverse literature in women's history generally and the progressive era specifically, with attention to African American, minority, working-class, and immigrant women.

Taken as a whole the book provides suggestive answers to the questions posed in the introduction and achieves unity through its focus on those values shared by women reformers across class, racial, and ethnic lines about gender differences. The articles, however, reflect the diverse paths that women reformers took depending on the primacy of race and class issues in their lives and the ways in which they experienced domesticity. As well as providing a new paradigm for analysis of the progressive era, the book is also an invitation to additional research to determine the interconnections of gender, race, and class in other periods. The book might have been strengthened by a different organization of the articles, grouped according to like subjects with an analytical introduction to each section, or by the inclusion of a more extensive introductory essay. This minor point aside, this book deserves a wide audience because of the quality of the writing and research and the originality of interpretation of a neglected area of scholarship.

Eckerd College

CAROLYN JOHNSTON

Pretty Bubbles in the Air: America in 1919. By William D. Miller. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1991. xv, 232 pp. Preface, introduction, prologue, index. \$29.95.)

William D. Miller, in his *Pretty Bubbles in the Air: America in 1919*, again has demonstrated his command of recent U.S. history. As was the case with John Dos Passos's *1919*, this book is a sensitive analysis of a single, fascinating, yet tragic, year.

For Miller this book represented an important year of his life, for his earliest memories evolved around the U.S. and the end of World War I. He began to write a social history, but, impressed by the conflicts and paradoxes accompanying the mood of victory, he moved to narrative history based on what some chose to term the interpretive principle of intellectual history. Miller views 1919 as providing a national emotional high following an emotional victory but at the same time indicating oncoming problems.

In the prologue Miller sets the stage for 1919 with a brief but jam-packed summary of the U.S. at war, 1917-1919. The role of President Woodrow Wilson in leading the nation to war and in verbalizing goals for peace is crucial to the prologue and the narrative. Wilson's belief that total Allied victory could be the only outcome came to dominate his thinking and his politics. He never denounced the bigotry and hysteria that the patriotic war machine demanded. The programing of a nation to hate merely fueled the march to a God-sanctioned victory.

Miller covers the 1918-1919 peace negotiations well, fitting the actions of Congress and the president against a backdrop of economic crisis and national chauvinism. The partial paralysis of the president helped wreck his dream of a powerful League of Nations. Miller believes Wilson's failure on the League was due more to the ineptitude of the ethnocentric U.S. Senate led by little people than to his leadership.

America in 1919 for Miller provides a bridge year between an old era, much of which was dying, and a new era just beginning to provide a glimpse of a world aborning. The book title comes from a song in *The Passing Show of 1918*, one that remained popular for several years. Miller writes that the song spoke "of a world of blue-laundered, perfumed innocence, one from which in the end all of the passion, turmoil and grand designs of men would pass." While that tune glorified an imaginary

world, perhaps the future was characterized by one of the popular tunes of 1919, "The World is Waiting For the Sunrise."

The range of topics covered in this brief volume is immense— the return of troops, nationalistic hysteria, rise of the automotive industry, flappers, popular music, political and economic reaction to Wilsonian domestic policies. The list could be continued. Miller's mastery of events of that year and of that period is readily evident. He has carefully studied and researched the twentieth century. His vignettes of people, often accompanied by forward and backward interpretive remarks, serve to illuminate 1919 for any interested person. The brevity of the volume does not indicate the completeness of its contents.

Miller deserves much praise for including so much fact and interpretation in so little space. Writing this volume must have been real fun for Miller. The style is crisp, and the chapters, while covering separate topics, are well hinged. Miller skillfully works into the text references to most of his sources. This makes most of the bibliography, while suggestive, general in nature. There can be no question that Miller is a keen researcher and a masterful organizer. Few histories known to this reviewer are so well written. The book should command a wide audience.

This is a fine job of bookmaking and a credit to the University of Illinois Press. The illustrations were well chosen, add much to the text, and the index is accurate. These qualities add to the ease of reading *Pretty Bubbles*.

University of Georgia

BENNETT H. WALL, retired

Anxious Decades: America in Prosperity and Depression, 1920-1941.

By Michael E. Parrish (New York: W. W. Norton Company, 1992. xiv, 529 pp. Introduction, acknowledgments, photographs, illustrations, epilogue, suggestions for additional reading, notes on sources, credits, index. \$29.95.)

Time unfolds (or unravels, as some may prefer), and Louis Hacker's and Benjamin Kendrick's old *The United States Since 1865*, which had no social or intellectual history and which finished its story with the Great Depression, has long since seen its day. For that matter, so have a number of other United States history texts that have been published since World War II. So

ongoing time spews its trail of facts, and it is the task of historians to assess which ones are important and then put them into some form or order—presumably toward the end of making life more human. Periodically then, a historian, in conjunction with a publishing house, will address the problem of “keeping current” by releasing a new text. *Anxious Decades* works at being current.

Generally, in the field of political history there are few significant revisionist positions that might alter or enrich the standard reading of national political history between 1920 and 1940. The old John D. Hicks texts did well with the facts of politics, and, as far as I can tell, so does Mr. Parrish.

The distinguishing character of the Parrish work, however, is its inclusion of a significant amount of what is termed social and intellectual history, and it is here that the book warrants comment.

The social history deals with the traditional themes of the twenties and thirties: heroes, demagogues, religious fundamentalists, cult leaders, and, of course, the heroes of sports. The intellectual history is mostly a digest of the critics, thinkers, and novelists of these decades, much of which is standard fare. From my standpoint, the author's failure to mention Thomas Wolfe, the gargantuan literary lyricist of the period through whose works throb the spirit of the twenties and early thirties, is a regrettable omission.

In keeping with contemporary concerns, *Anxious Decades* gives more than the usual attention to the subjects of women and blacks in the way of detailing their contributions to life and thought as well as the social and economic inequities and injustices to which they were subject. The “sexual revolution” is, of course, addressed—principally by citing survey reports on the decline of virginity among college coeds and by pointing out the democratization of sex “experimentation” as it “spread from the bohemia of intellectuals . . . to the middle class and beyond.” To sum up the new disposition, there is virtually one entire page (418) given over to Mae West. To provide the “objective” note to the West segment, the author includes several of her heavy-breathing quips—like when she asks her leading man, “Is that a gun in your pocket big boy, or are you just glad to see me?”

So goes the flow, even in textbooks, and ever has it been that the watchword of a sound academic performance requires that one work at "keeping up." But the question is, even for a textbook, keeping up with what? Dorothy Day is one of the great social revolutionaries of the late twentieth century, yet the four lines she gets have nothing to do with her personalist ideas but with her helping to feed striking seamen in 1937. For more on Day, suggests Parrish, read Robert Coles.

Writing *Anxious Decades* was a task of much labor, but the material it uses to give it the substance of modernity is at particular points superficial and uneven. Generally, the book gives the impression of having been written with an eye that was more on sales appeal than on depth.

Lloyd, Florida

WILLIAM D. MILLER

Simple Decency & Common Sense: The Southern Conference Movement, 1938-1963. By Linda Reed. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991. xxvii, 257 pp. Chronology, preface, acknowledgments, introduction, photographs, conclusion, bibliographical essay, appendix, notes; index. \$29.95.)

One of the strongest manifestations of southern liberalism in the twentieth century grew out of the New Deal. Coinciding with the National Emergency Council's 1938 *Report on Economic Conditions in the South*, a small group of Southerners organized the Southern Conference on Human Welfare (SCHW). Its ranks included a virtual who's who of southern liberals: Frank Porter Graham, Clark Foreman, James A. Dombrowski, Lucy Randolph Mason, Virginia Durr, Myles Horton, Lillian Smith, and H. L. Mitchell. In the decade between 1938 and 1948 it pursued a broad agenda that included economic development, improved public schools, penal reform, better housing, public health, and expanded suffrage. But what set it apart from other southern liberal organizations of that time was its commitment to civil rights for African Americans. From the outset blacks and whites participated in the Southern Conference, which worked to end discrimination and promote racial integration. World War II boosted this cause by presenting the opportunity to compare oppression abroad with the plight of African Americans at

home. Through its publication, the *Southern Patriot*, and radio programs that it sponsored across the region, the Southern Conference worked to convert the mass of southern whites. In campaigns to eliminate the poll tax and the white primary, it cooperated closely with the NAACP.

Just as its commitment to civil rights set the Southern Conference apart from other regional organizations, that stand also made it difficult for some white liberals to stay on board. Those who could not subscribe to the goal of a fully integrated society eventually dropped out. Those who remained had to contend with charges that equated racial integration with communism. White supremacist spokesmen, like Mississippi senators Theodore G. Bilbo and James O. Eastland, singled out the Southern Conference for attacks. With the emergence of the Cold War in the late 1940s red-baiting became more intense and contributed to the organization's demise.

In 1946 the SCHW formed the Southern Conference Education Fund, which concentrated on the goal of racial equality, while the parent organization became more politically active. After the SCHW disbanded in 1948 the SCEF continued working for a racially integrated South. During the 1950s and 1960s it became an important ally of the predominantly black civil rights organizations and provided a link between the New Deal and the Civil Rights Movement. Although the Southern Conference Movement had helped to perpetuate liberalism in the South for a quarter century, it failed to achieve its goals of persuading white Southerners to end segregation and to accept black suffrage. When these changes came in the 1960s, they resulted largely from the activist campaigns conducted by organizations like SCLC and SNCC.

Linda Reed has produced the most thorough study to date of the Southern Conference Movement—her work surpassing Thomas Krueger's 1967 book that focused solely on the SCHW. Extensive research in a variety of rich primary sources represents one of the book's strongest features. In addition to using SCHW and SCEF records, the author examined the papers of many people involved in the movement. She organized her book topically, devoting chapters to the poll tax campaign, red-baiting, and other relevant subjects. Unfortunately, this format contributed to the book's major weakness. In presenting the material topically, the author covered much of the same ground re-

peatedly, resulting in repetition and occasional confusion. A chronological organization taking the movement from its origins in 1938 to the 1960s could have conveyed more effectively a sense of the broad Southern Conference Movement. This criticism does not offset the fact that Reed has made an important contribution to southern history by advancing an understanding of the region's major liberal organization of the twentieth century.

University of Georgia

WILLIAM F. HOLMES

Landscapes of Power: From Detroit to Disney World. By Sharon Zukin. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991. xii, 326 pp. List of illustrations, acknowledgments, introduction, illustrations, photographs, tables, conclusion, notes, index. \$24.95.)

This substantial sociological study attempts to analyze and explain the momentous structural and cultural changes that have occurred in the United States during the past several decades. These changes include an economy that has shifted from manufacturing to service, from central cities to the suburbs and the Sunbelt, from industrial production to "cultural production," and from mass production to mass consumption. Deindustrialization, regional and global economic transformations, massive job losses, and consequent community decline have confronted many older industrial communities tied to mass production industries. At the same time, newer suburban or sunbelt communities have benefited from the vast, postwar shift to a service and consumption economy. Meanwhile, big cities formerly reliant on production have sought to recreate themselves with new skyscraper architecture, inner-city gentrification, and festival marketplaces and other new landscapes of cultural consumption.

The heart of the book consists of five case studies— "five twentieth-century landscapes"— that explore "the spectrum of change between deindustrialization and the shift to a postindustrial or service economy." Two detailed chapters focus on the declining steel industry in Weirton, West Virginia, and Detroit. In each case, various strategies were developed to prevent steel plant closings and to salvage industrial jobs, but at the cost of

local autonomy, as new financial interests came to control these older industrial landscapes. A third chapter on Westchester County, New York, documents the process by which a sleepy and exclusive suburban landscape near New York City became a postindustrial “edge city” in the new service/consumption economy. A fourth chapter portrays gentrification in New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia as a result of the new consumption society, as cultural providers such as artists and writers appropriated inner-city space and as real estate developers profited from upgraded land values. The final case study offers Los Angeles, Miami, and Disney World as new fantasy landscapes, new cultural forms that reflect changing patterns of economic authority. Each of these case studies emphasizes the shaping influence of the postwar shift from a mass production economy to a mass consumption economy. These are, the author contends, new American landscapes of economic power at the end of the twentieth century.

Readers of this journal may find the chapter on Miami and Disney World of special interest but hardly persuasive in its presentation. The “bicoastal extremities of the Sunbelt”—Miami and Los Angeles—according to Zukin, offer a new kind of “post-modern urbanity.” These cities, or at least the widely held images of them, have been “socially constructed” and “self-consciously produced”; they have been “built on the power of dreamscape, collective fantasy, and facade.” These baldly stated assertions are based on only a few examples, such as the visually stunning Miami architecture shown on the television series *Miami Vice*. That popular but relatively short-lived show, Zukin writes, “was distinctive because it mapped quintessentially visual motifs on a society organized by global economic power.” Disney World, although hundreds of miles distant from Miami gets linked in the analysis in a few pages of “dreamscape” writing as well. Historians of twentieth-century Florida may find themselves increasingly uncomfortable with this sort of postmodernist, cultural sociobabble as they venture into this chapter of the book. Miami has had its image makers over the years, to be sure, but Zukin has skimmed quickly over the real Miami in her analysis, rather than provided a sustained treatment of Miami in all its diversity and ordinariness. South Florida dreamed up and abstracted from reality in this way is not a south Florida that Floridians will recognize. It is not a convincing part of the book.

Landscapes of Power is stimulating and imaginative in parts, but it is also difficult, often abstract, occasionally confusing, and ultimately unsatisfying. The hard data on deindustrialization, economic relocation, and urban change is only weakly related to the more speculative, interpretive themes about cultural, mental, moral, or symbolic landscapes,— themes that are easily asserted but hardly persuasive. The book is more of an exploration than an explanation of how the United States has changed in the past few decades.

Florida Atlantic University

RAYMOND A. MOHL

BOOK NOTES

Cora Cheney and Ben Partridge, *Florida's Family Album, A History for All Ages*, provide a brief overview of Florida history that is principally directed at younger audiences. Generously illustrated, the book is a blend of anecdotes, vignettes, and factual narrative. The volume introduces the major themes of the state's past, touching upon colonial settlement, the introduction of slavery, the Civil War, and more contemporary problems of growth and resource management, among many others. The volume costs \$14.95 and can be ordered by phoning toll free (800) 444-2524 or writing BookWorld Services, Inc., 1933 Whitfield Park Loop, Sarasota, FL 34243.

As the title suggests, *Florida at War*, edited by Lewis N. Wynne, explores the impact of World War II on the development of modern Florida. Composed of eight essays and an introduction by the editor, the volume ranges broadly across various topics. Tracy Revels examines tourism during the war, and Dawn Truax engages the fascinating subject of "victory girls" (prostitutes) in Tampa. James Schnur investigates the history of the war experiences of blacks in the state, and Robert Billinger provides a interesting glimpse into the fate of German POWs held at Camp Blanding. Nautical themes are covered in essays on shipbuilding in Tampa by co-authors Lewis Wynne and Carolyn Barnes and on submarines and sailors in Pensacola by Paul S. George. Finally, the experiences of Pensacola and Jacksonville during the war are explored in chapters by James R. McGovern and William D. Miller respectively. The volume can be ordered from St. Leo College Press, P. O. Box 2304, Saint Leo, FL 33574 for \$15.95.

In 1940 the W.P.A. Florida Writers' Project compiled an account of *The Spanish Missions of Florida*. The resulting volume presented a comprehensive outline of existing knowledge about the Florida mission system, beginning with Ponce de Leon's second voyage in 1521 when "Monks and priests accompanied him for divine service and mission work." This important early account is now available in a reprint edition and can be ordered from Luthers, 1009 North Dixie Freeway, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168-6221 for \$8.95.

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From Confederacy to Federation: A History of the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Community by Florence S. Sinclair presents the rich story of Jewish life in Sarasota and Manatee counties. There are a few references to the arrival of Jewish settlers in the late nineteenth century, but the bulk of the volume deals with events since the 1930s. The book can be ordered from the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation, Klingenstein Jewish Center, 580 South McIntosh Road, Sarasota, FL 34232-1959. It is available in both a hardback (\$25.00) and paperback (\$10.00) edition.

Charles Edgar Foster has presented the colorful life of Captain Peter Nelson, founder of the community of Alva, Florida, and one of the first Lee County commissioners, in his *The Benevolent Dane: Captain Peter Nelson*. Pieced together from scattered records, the story contains many interesting vignettes about both the central character and the community in which he resided. Perhaps the most intriguing of these stories concerns the suspension of Nelson from the Lee County Commission in October 1890 by Governor Francis Fleming for "the use of intoxicating liquors." Based on his research Foster is convinced that Nelson was wronged in these accusations. He approached Governor Lawton Chiles to have the commissioner reinstated 103 years after his dismissal. In May 1993 the current Lee County commissioners officially recognized Nelson's reinstatement, and Governor Chiles put into the record a letter stating that Nelson should have been allowed to return to his seat in 1890 since the state senate never ratified his dismissal. The volume can be obtained from the Southwest Florida Historical Society, P. O. Box 1381, Fort Myers, FL 33902 for \$6.60.

A translation of the primary surviving record of Columbus's first voyage to America has been published in paperback by the University of Oklahoma Press. *The Diario of Christopher Columbus's First Voyage to America, 1492-1493*, transcribed and translated by Oliver Dunn and James E. Kelley, Jr., is taken from an abstract of the original journal which constitutes the principal source of information about this historic voyage. Columbus kept a running journal of his voyage, and he presented the document to Ferdinand and Isabella on his return to Spain. A copy was made of the original, but both this version and the original eventually disappeared. The manuscript journal that survives is a partly quoted and partly summarized version of Columbus's copy made

by Bartolomé de las Casas in the 1530s. The Dunn-Kelly transcription of this journal presents accurate and extensive notes as well as current research and debates on unanswered questions concerning the voyage. It can be ordered from the University of Oklahoma Press, 1005 Asp Avenue, Norman, OK 73019 for \$24.95.

A paperback edition of the classic treatise, *In Defense of the Indians*, by Bartolomé de las Casas is also available. Translated from Latin by Rev. Stafford Poole, this important work championed the rights of the Indians of Mexico and Central America, disputing a widely held belief that Indians were "beasts" to be enslaved or brutally forced into accepting the Christian faith. Las Casas eloquently argued that the native inhabitants should be viewed as fellow human beings. The volume in question was written toward the end of his life when he already had earned a reputation as "protector of the Indians." To order, write Northern Illinois University Press, DeKalb, IL 60115-2854. The cost is \$18.00.

Robert Coles, *Flannery O'Connor's South*, offers a forceful analysis, both literary and philosophical, of Flannery O'Connor's life and literature. First published in 1980, this study is now available in a paperback edition. The work draws upon Robert Coles's personal experiences in the South during the civil rights movement of the late 1950s and early 1960s, his brief acquaintance with Flannery O'Connor, and his careful reading of her works. It is available from the University of Georgia Press, 330 Research Drive, Athens, GA 30602-4901 at a cost of \$12.95.

The American History Series of Harlan Davidson publishers has recently added two new titles to its list. Sally G. McMillen, *Southern Women: Black and White in the Old South*, and Howard N. Rabinowitz, *The First New South, 1865-1920*, cover significant aspects of the southern past. As with all volumes in this series, these books are synthetic treatments of broad subjects based on the most current secondary historical literature. Both are available at a cost of \$9.95 from Harlan Davidson, Inc., 3110 North Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004-1592.

A new paperback edition of Paul D. Escott, *After Secession: Jefferson Davis and the Failure of Confederate Nationalism*, has been published by Louisiana State University Press. It can be ordered from the press at P. O. Box 25053, Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5053 for \$10.95. Clement Eaton reviewed the work in the *Quarterly* 58 (July 1978), 103-05.

Tom Knotts of North Miami has privately published *Names Significant and Insignificant of Florida Seminole Indians and Negroes, 1750-1860*. The book is an Indian dictionary of Seminole names, with English translations and frequent biographical descriptions of important chiefs. It is easily the most comprehensive listing of its kind, and it can be obtained directly from the author at 13499 Biscayne Boulevard #1609, North Miami, FL 33181 for \$15.00.

Susan A. MacManus's *Reapportionment and Representation in Florida: A Historical Collection* is an anthology of thirty-four scholarly essays on the important public policy issues of reapportionment and representation. It is intended to provide scholars, public administrators, elected officials, and ordinary citizens with an understanding of the complex problems generated by the constitutional mandate to reapportion legislative districts every ten years. Most of the articles are historical in nature. The volume can be ordered from the USF Research Foundation, Office of Research FAO 126, 4202 West Fowler Avenue, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620-7900 for \$35.00.

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County announces that *Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida*, volume 1, is now available. The book lists twenty-four cemeteries east of the Yellow River and north of the Shoal River. There are over 5,000 graves noted in the publication. The softcover volume sells for \$12.00, plus \$2.50 postage, and can be obtained by writing to the Society at P. O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549.

David J. Garrow has edited a collection of essays entitled *St. Augustine, Florida, 1963-1964: Mass Protest and Racial Violence*. David R. Colburn supplies an insightful introduction to the volume and a fully developed essay on the St. Augustine business community. Edward Kallal, Jr., examines the Ku Klux Klan's

role in St. Augustine's racial crisis, and Robert W. Hartley provides an overview of the disorders of 1964. The volume also includes the "Racial and Civil Disorders in St. Augustine," the report of the Florida Legislative Investigation Committee. The book can be obtained from Carlson Publishing, Inc., P. O. Box 023350, Brooklyn, NY 11202-0067. The cost is \$25.00.

A new edition of David Zinman, *The Day Huey Long Was Shot*, has appeared. Demagogue, populist, governor, United States senator, Huey P. Long still continues to generate controversy. David Zinman has persisted in his investigations of the case since the book's first publication in 1963. He has interviewed Senator Long's bodyguards and members of the assassin's family to learn new information. Fresh evidence from forensic investigations are also added. The book is available from the University Press of Mississippi, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211 for \$35.00 (cloth) and \$14.95 (paper).