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REVIEW: The Untold Story of Shiloh: The Battle and the Battlefield

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makes the point that Faulkner, before international recognition brought about by his receipt of the Nobel Prize for Literature, was not just a Southern writer, indeed “merely a regional writer of some interest,” as Dr. Marius describes the view of Faulkner held at the time, but was also very much a member of the Lost Generation of American writers, with all their hallmarks: a deep spiritual wounding brought on by the horrors of World War I, a recognition of the worthlessness of the values held by previous generations, i.e., chivalry. While Dr. Marius never quite comes out clearly with the word “existentialism,” he does mention the effect that T.S. Eliot’s *The Waste Land* had on Faulkner and that Faulkner thought Hemingway’s style lacked “courage,” although he did admire his fellow American’s work. A serious reader of Faulkner will find much to like about *Reading Faulkner: the First Thirteen Novels*, and the book would be put to good use in most academic libraries, but public libraries, especially those outside of the South, might find that they already have something on the shelf by Harold Bloom that can do what this book does, and possibly do it better.

— Reviewed by **John McConnell**
Hall County Library System

Birds of Georgia by Dr. John W. Parrish, Jr., Giff Beaton, and Gregory Kennedy, with contributions from Chris Fisher and Andy Bezener (Lone Pine Publishing, 2006; ISBN 10-976-8200-05-7; \$21.95).

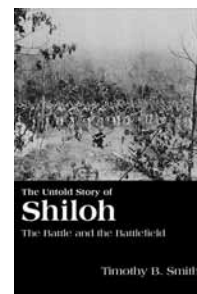


The striking cover of this 383-page trade paperback encourages the curious amateur or experienced professional birdwatcher to investigate further. Once inside, the contents offer the reader many more surprises. The beautifully detailed color illustrations on glossy pages often show the bird species at rest or in flight, as well as visual differences (such as color and size) between the male and female birds. The color coding on many levels and the cross-references within the Reference Guide, the Top Birding Sites, and the Species Accounts are a definite help to the novice birdwatcher like myself. The introduction, interesting and quite readable, provides key information for effectively using the information within and provides an overview of birding as a hobby. The introduction also highlights the Top 50 Birding Sites in Georgia, with a state map and an expanded write-up for 15 of the sites. A typical Species Account includes the common and scientific name of each bird, large bold illustrations, an overview of the species, identification characteristics, size, status, habitat, nesting, feeding, voice, similar species and best sites for viewing. I have found the voice information to be particularly helpful to

me during my backyard adventures. The authors have impressive credentials and share their extensive knowledge with obvious enthusiasm. They encourage the reader to participate in birding activities such as joining organizations and clubs, landscaping for conservation and to attract wildlife, and setting up bird feeders and nesting houses to invite birds to visit and stay. Helpful websites are listed. This comprehensive publication engages the reader on many levels and is a worthwhile addition to the two other popular birding books in our public library’s collection (*Georgia Bird Watching*, Thompson, 2004 and *Birds of Georgia Field Guide*, Tekiela, 2002). Easy to follow and a delightful reference, this book is a terrific mid-priced gift for a nature lover and a “must have” for any academic or public library collection.

— Reviewed by **Ruth Hayden**
Smyrna Public Library

The Untold Story of Shiloh: The Battle and the Battlefield by Timothy B. Smith (University of Tennessee Press, 2006; ISBN 1-57233-466-5, \$34.00).



On April 6-7, 1862, Shiloh, Tennessee, was the site of the largest and bloodiest Civil War battle up to then. More than 65,000 Union troops under General Ulysses S. Grant fought it out against 45,000 Confederate soldiers under General Albert Sidney Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard. At the battle’s end, 24,000 were dead, wounded, captured or missing. Smith is a staff member at the Shiloh National Military Park; this is his second book on Shiloh and it is not about the battle. In an introduction and 10 short chapters, Smith views aspects and issues that emerged from the two-day clash. It is about memory, the force of personality, reconciliation and changing views of historians. Chapter 1 sets the stage with a concise overview of changing historiography of the battle. The second chapter attempts to demolish the 10 “greatest myths of Shiloh,” starting with the one that the Union forces were surprised by the Confederate army (they weren’t). One of the myths—that the Union Navy played only a minor role in the battle—is also dealt with in a separate chapter. Smith shows how Navy gunboats on the Tennessee River protected the arrival of Union troops in a hundred transports and brought fire to bear on Rebel positions at critical moments. Chapter 7 reviews the period of reconciliation in the late 19th-early 20th centuries when a forest of commemorative statuary rose on the restored battlefield, and contrasts it with the rekindled “Lost Cause” mentality of our time. The book reads well, helped by appropriate historic photos, but badly needs a good map

or two. I have walked the Shiloh battlefield, remembering an ancestor who was wounded while serving there with the 72nd Ohio. My understanding of the hardship and valor of those days is broader, deeper, and less settled after reading this book. This volume deserves a place on the shelves of a serious Civil War collection seeking to challenge our understanding of that terrible conflict.

— Reviewed by **Wallace B. Eberhard**
University of Georgia (Emeritus)

Villa Clare: The Purposeful Life and Timeless Art Collection of J.J. Haverty

by William Rawson Smith
(Mercer University Press, 2006; ISBN 978-0-86554-922-0, \$35.00).

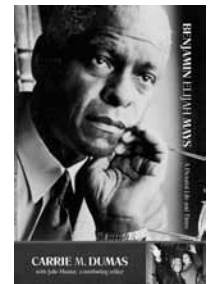


The life of J.J. Haverty, who died as a millionaire father of 10 children, is almost a classic tale of “rags to riches” during the industrial age and its aftermath. Haverty was able to see trends ahead of time and move on them; this ability served him well in his art collection. His main interest in collecting was American artists, and he collected many that were not well known at the time but are important now. Unfortunately the High Museum did not have the same vision he did, and many of the pieces were either returned to his family or have disappeared. After the Civil War, the middle class began to appear all over the United States. In Atlanta, J.J. Haverty, the son of an Irish laborer, was perfectly suited to his time and place. He began working as a clerk in a department store and founded a chain of furniture stores with A.G. Rhodes. The stores were known as Rhodes-Haverty until they split in 1908 and became two separate chains of furniture stores; Haverty’s Furniture stores are still in business. This slim volume, written by Haverty’s great-grandson, tells how he became a millionaire businessman who developed an interest in art, especially American art. J.J. Haverty began collecting art after he built Villa Clare (named for his wife, Clara, and County Clare in Ireland). Widowed in 1918, he turned his energy and money to serious art collecting in the 1920s and 1930s. Haverty was instrumental in building Christ the King Cathedral and the Stone Mountain Monument and in beginning the High Museum of Art. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, he opened his home to art lovers on Sunday afternoons. Upon his death and the death of his daughter, nearly all of his collection was donated to the High Museum of Art. It was the first major collection to be given to the museum. J.J. Haverty also gave the High his collection of art books, the funds for a library, and an endowment to help purchase other art. His collection helped the High Museum transition from a nearly moribund museum to the vibrant home of art it is today. This book tells how he became an

art collector and relates his life to the life of Atlanta. He was a small boy when Sherman’s soldiers burned his home, and his family had to start over with nothing. His life makes a very interesting story and is well told in this volume, which is also illustrated with more than 30 plates of paintings from his collection and short biographies of his favorite artists. A worthwhile book on art in Georgia that should be interesting to many readers.

— Reviewed by **Judith Gollihar**
South Georgia Regional Library

Benjamin Elijah Mays: A Pictorial Life and Times by Carrie M. Dumas; Julie Hunter, contributing editor
(Mercer University Press, 2006; ISBN 0-88146-016-8, \$45.00).



Benjamin Elijah Mays’ impressive life, positive and far-reaching influence, integrity, strength, and intelligence are a beacon of promise to all who encounter his legacy. Anyone acquainted with Mays and his work, either through study of his most famed students or discovery of the man himself, cannot help admiring his effectively nuanced instructional sermonizing and leadership-by-example lifestyle. During his 27-year presidency of Morehouse College, from 1940 to 1967, Mays touched the lives of thousands of men, including Martin Luther King Jr.; this volume adds to a burgeoning scholarship on Mays that will hopefully touch and motivate thousands more. Author Carrie Dumas and editor Julie Hunter recount Mays’ life and work through imagery and compiled reminiscence. Despite fascinating characters and thorough research methodology, evidenced in the variety of archival institutions and personal collections referenced, the execution of the work detracts from its cohesion. The subject-based arrangement does comprise an organizational scheme, but this reviewer would have significantly preferred a straight chronological narrative. For example, seeing a circa 1981 image in a chapter titled “Early Years” is illogical. Further, many notable figures (JFK, Hank Aaron, and Jimmy Carter, to name a few) languish in the “Additional Photographs” section when a chronological arrangement would have effectively juxtaposed Mays’ celebrity encounters with his academic honors. To some degree this volume bolsters examination of larger issues, 20th century African-American education and community leadership. However, captions are inconsistent, and the volume lacks an index. The book is nonetheless a valuable and enjoyable addition to any library collection as it offers a fresh and visual perspective on Benjamin Mays and his important work.

— Reviewed by **Jewell Anderson**
Armstrong Atlantic State University, Lane Library