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REVIEW: Blood & Irony: Southern White Women's Narratives of the Civil War, 1861-1927

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thereafter, he established himself as a writer, winning the National Book Award for his first published novel, *The Moviegoer*, in 1961. Using an oral history technique, author David Harwell provides a glimpse into the parts of Percy's character not otherwise covered in previous biographies. Through his extensive interviews with 13 individuals who knew Walker Percy, including Percy's brothers, his housekeeper, former teachers, community members and his lifelong friend author Shelby Foote, rich tapestry is woven. We learn of his involvement in civil rights, his role in his community, his conversion to Catholicism, his spirituality, his struggles with depression and his unwavering quest for meaning in life. He was a quiet, private person, not seeking the limelight, who was often surprised when his literary accomplishments were acknowledged publicly. Because Harwell allowed the narrators to talk about themselves as well as their relationship with Percy, some interviews tend to wander from the focus of the subject; however, the final result is a collection of remembrances that serve as an important complement to the longer, more comprehensive biographies of Walker Percy. The book is recommended for academic libraries and especially for Percy fans. »»

— Reviewed by **Pat Borck**
Macon State College Library

Blood & Irony: Southern White Women's Narratives of the Civil War, 1861-1927 by Sarah E. Gardner (University of North Carolina Press, 2004; ISBN 978-0-8078-5767-0, \$19.95).

Historical perspectives on the Civil War and its aftermath were reflected in and shaped by the writings of Southern white women. Sarah E. Gardner traces the progression of women's themes from journals and letters written during the war through postwar histories and biographies. She covers the efforts of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to influence women's writing and shows how idealistic "Lost Cause" accounts gave way over time to less romantic views. Gardner examines in detail Margaret Mitchell's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Gone With the Wind* (1936) as a landmark work with national appeal and Caroline Gordon's *None Shall Look Back* (1937) as an early attempt at a Civil War epic. Gardner places women's writings in the context of national cultural and political movements as well as in seminal works by male authors and brings to life the personalities of the women who helped fashion postwar Southern culture. Scholarly in depth, *Blood & Irony* is also engaging, good-humored and highly readable. Includes bibliography and illustrations. Highly recommended for



academic libraries and collections focusing on the Civil War, Southern history or Southern women. »»

— Reviewed by **Maureen Puffer-Rothenberg**
Valdosta State University

Community Journalism: Relentlessly Local, 3rd ed. by Jock Lauterer (University of North Carolina Press, 2006; ISBN 978-0-5629-1, \$29.95).

Lost in the world of megamedia emphasizing "the culture" and international events is the fact that most of us still have a need for local news. Lauterer's book is a combination of passionate hymn and textbook on that subject. He is a former small-town publisher in North Carolina, now teaching at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Journalism. Twenty-four chapters divide the territory into smaller segments: news, sports, graphics, ethics, "speed bumps and troubleshooting" among them. Lauterer defines "community journalism" as those publications under 50,000 circulation within a definable area. These dominate the American landscape: 9,104 out of 9,321 newspapers fit that definition. Smaller newspapers are more likely to be locally owned, and there are many more small newspapers than large ones in every state. Most offer their news and ads on a Web site. The dynamics of facing and serving those you cover is at the heart of all this. Lauterer is in love with editors who cover things that the metro dailies don't have time for: Little League, Boy Scouts, biggest pumpkin in the county, fundraisers and government. There is a special tension, sometimes positive, sometimes negative, between readers and editors at that level. This is primarily a textbook, though anyone will find it useful and enlightening. His chattiness and informal writing style were exasperating at times, and the photos make every small town look like the set of "Mayberry RFD." But it is heartening to know that there are still many devoted to serving the news needs of smaller communities where many of us live. »»

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

Georgia Quilts: Piecing Together a History edited by Anita Zaleski Weinraub (University of Georgia Press, 2006; ISBN 0-8203-2850-2, \$34.95).

In 1990, the Georgia Quilt Project (GQP) set out to create a written and photographic history of Georgia quilts. Over the span

