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Happy New Year! I am honored to serve as SELA President for the 2019-2020 biennium and I look forward to working with you all as we seek to fulfill Article II of the SELA Constitution (see http://www.selaonline.org/sela//contacts/SELA_Handbook.pdf): “The objectives of this Association shall be to promote and foster library and information services in the southeastern region of the United States through cooperation, research, and the encouragement of staff development.” We need your participation. There are many committees, round tables, and sections and they all need volunteers. Be sure to indicate when you fill out your membership registration form your areas of interest for service. Serving on a SELA unit is also an excellent way to get started for those seeking leadership positions. As one who is moving into the senior ranks of librarianship (I started Library School in 1979) I can attest that having newer and younger colleagues in the leadership pipeline is highly desirable both for the wellbeing of SELA and the wellbeing of the broader library profession.

While I don’t intend for this to be such a self-referential column in the future, let me briefly introduce myself so you have some idea from where I am coming. I’ve been a Reference Librarian (recently renamed Research and Instruction Librarian) at Auburn University since 1992, first, working in the Government Documents Department and, more recently, serving as Subject Specialist for History and Political Science. Previous tours of duty include working for the University of New Hampshire at the beginning and then at the end of the 1980’s serving as Special Collections Librarian and Archivist sandwiching my tour of duty at Barry University (Miami Shores, Fla.) where I served as Serials and Reference Librarian.

I’ve been a member of SELA since 1992 but only belatedly became an active member starting in 1999. I’ve enjoyed serving in several capacities prior to my current office, chairing the Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Membership and Mentoring Committee; the Government Documents Roundtable; the University and College Libraries Section; serving as Alabama State Representative; and finally, serving as President-Elect for the 2017-2018 biennium. While not serving as chair, I also was active on the Legislative Committee about 10 years ago or so sending out monthly state and federal library-related legislative updates. I’ve also had the honor of serving as a manuscript reviewer for The Southeastern Librarian since 2001 and have also enjoyed submitting the occasional book review as well. Hats off to longtime SELn Editor, Perry Bratcher, for a job well-done!

As I complete making and confirming appointments to SELA committees, etc., I hope to accomplish a few basic goals over the next two years. My hope is to increase the size of SELA’s membership. Please be sure to promote SELA to new colleagues and to encourage any lapsed members you know at your institutions to rejoin! I also hope to keep SELA visible and at the forefront of professional activity in the Southeastern region. Among other things, this means working with individual state library associations as we continue to host joint conferences. Please consider attending and, even better, submitting a program proposal form for the following joint conferences that will be coming up: Arkansas Library Association in Hot Springs September 28-29, 2019 and Georgia Library Association in Macon Fall 2020 (note: 2020 will be SELA’s Centennial!).

Finally, I am hoping we might be able to come up with some new or improved strategies for engaging in library advocacy. As we all know, libraries continue to be under pressure as funding remains level or is actually sometimes cut. The Internet is an amazing resource and is beneficial in all sorts of ways but there is no denying it has also greatly eroded the public’s perception as to the usefulness or even the need for libraries. It is no longer self-evident that libraries are, if anything, more useful and relevant than ever. My hope is that SELA can do something to keep the public informed and to convince funding authorities that all types of libraries (and the people who work in them) are valuable and very cost-effective resources. Most of my career as a librarian has been spent in adapting to vast changes and training and retraining as resources and services have changed in response to the rise of computers, the Internet, full-text databases, etc. Libraries and librarians are very adaptable to these ongoing changes but it looks as if we are going to have to “toot our own horn” as the twenty-first century moves on. I believe SELA can serve as an advocate on behalf of libraries and library employees.

Tim Dodge
SELA President, 2019-2020
SELA/GENERAL NEWS:

SELA/SCLA Joint Conference

The South Carolina Library Association and the Southeastern Library Association Joint Conference was held October 31 – November 2, 2018 in Greenville, South Carolina.

SELA Members were well represented at the conference as program speakers and attendees.

Future SELA joint conferences were announced at the SELA Board meeting on October 31. We will be meeting with the Arkansas Library Association in 2019, the Georgia Library Association in 2020 and the North Carolina Library Association in 2021. More information, dates and locations to follow.

Thanks to SELA South Carolina State Representative Faith Line, SELA Conference Co-Chair, Tim Dodge, and SCLA leaders and members for a great conference!

During the conference, the following 2019-2020 SELA officers were installed:

- Tim Dodge – SELA President
- Melissa Dennis – SELA President-Elect
- Beverly James – Treasurer
- Crystal Gates – Secretary

Congratulations and best wishes for a successful 2019-2020 biennium.

SELA Handbook Changes

The changes to the SELA Handbook as communicated to the membership were approved at the SELA Board Meeting on October 31, 2018. These changes allowed for the already created Archivist position to be a non-voting, ex officio member of the SELA Executive Committee.

SELA Past President Camille McCutcheon was appointed to the position of SELA Archivist for a three year term.

SELA Awards

The following biennial Southeastern Library Association Awards were presented at the joint South Carolina Library Association and SELA Conference last week in Greenville, South Carolina:

Outstanding Southern Author (Non-Fiction)
"In Their Own Words: Augusta and Aiken Area Veterans Remember World War II" by three co-editors each of whom received a plaque: Hubert Van Tuyl, Douglas Higbee, and James Garvey
Outstanding Southern Author (Fiction)  
"The Road to Bittersweet" by Donna Everhart

Outstanding Southeastern Library Program Award  
"The Cubano-American Community Project" by the Jane Bancroft Cook Library, New College of Florida

SELA Hal Mendelsohn Award  
Beverly James, Greenville County Library System, Greenville, South Carolina

Southern Books Competition Awards
- Overall Excellence - "Seeking Eden: a Collection of Georgia's Historic Gardens" by Staci L. Caton and Mary Ann Eaddy
- Award of Excellence: Hard Cover - "The Southern Foodways Alliance Guide to Cocktails" by Sara Camp Milam
- Award of Excellence: Photography - "A High Low Tide: the Revival of the Southern Oyster" by Andre' Joseph Gallant and John Griswold

Thanks to all of the awards committee chairs, members and judges for your great work! – Linda S. Harris

SELA University & College Library Section News

After a very (VERY!) close race, the incoming SELA UCLS secretary will be Paula Webb. Congratulations, Paula!

LIBRARY NEWS

North Carolina

NCSU Libraries

A Garden of Food and Campus Housing Insecurity

“They have fought so hard against a struggle that was not of their own doing,” artist Lucas Swick says of the NC State student cohort he’s been working with at the Libraries. “From extreme poverty to unsafe living conditions to deceased parents, these students are absolutely remarkable. They will change the world.”

Swick is one of three resident artists creating spectacular visualizations on the Hunt Library video walls through the NCSU Libraries’ Immersive Scholars program this fall. Swick has created an interactive, immersive exhibition for the Hunt Library’s iPearl Immersion Theater, transforming data about the food and housing insecurity of NC State students into spectacular images inspired by community gardens.

For the Libraries, the Immersive Scholar program offers a way to move large-scale visualization forward as a still-emerging research field. For the resident artists, it’s a unique opportunity to tell the stories hidden in big data.

Swick, a generative artist based in Portland, Oregon, didn’t arrive for this residency with this specific idea. Librarians connected him to psychology professor Mary Haskett’s Food and Housing Insecurity Report at NC State. It was the urgency of that story, and the hard data that came with it, that Swick was looking for.

“The goal of the project is to use data and art to create empathy and understanding around food and housing insecurity within the student population,” he says. “When the team connected me to the research Dr. Haskett has been doing around food and housing insecurity, I was surprised to learn how much of an issue houselessness is within the student population. If I can help people understand that 9.6% of students experienced homelessness within the past year, we can have more meaningful dialogue about solutions.”

Swick has worked closely with librarians including Karen Ciccone, who has researched plants local to the region, as well as core Immersive Scholar team of Erica Hayes, Shelby Hallman, and Markus Wust. Swick also credits Jasmine Lang, a graphic design student, with some of the visual polish of the imagery.

The NCSU Libraries’ Immersive Scholars program is part of a $414,000 project grant awarded to NC State by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation last year. The grant project, entitled “Visualizing Digital Scholarship in Libraries and Learning Spaces,” continues the Libraries’ pioneering work with large-scale, research visualization technologies and supports the advancement of tools and techniques for developing and sharing such visual content for research.

Libraries announces Tom Regan Visiting Research Fellowship

The Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) at the NC State University Libraries is excited to offer the first annual Tom Regan Visiting Research Fellowship. The fellowship has been established through the generosity of the Culture & Animals Foundation (CAF) in memory of Tom Regan to promote scholarly research in animal rights.

The fellowship will support the use of the SCRC’s Animal Rights Archive—the largest scholarly archive of animal rights collections in the country. The SCRC builds collections of rare and unique materials to support the research and teaching needs of the university, emphasizing established and emerging areas at the university and corresponding to strengths within the Libraries’ overall collection. These rich collections serve as a foundation for generations of scholarship in animal protection, impacting and supporting scholars from across the nation.

The fellowship provides a $4,000 stipend awarded to a qualified applicant for research completed in residence at the SCRC for a term of no less than four weeks to begin on or after July 1.
Details regarding the fellowship and application procedures can be found at [https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/tom-regan-visiting-research-fellowship](https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/tom-regan-visiting-research-fellowship). Applications are due annually by April 30. Awardees will be notified by June 1 for support to begin on July 1 and to be completed by August 15.

**PERSONNEL NEWS:**

**North Carolina**

**NCSU Libraries**

*Greg Raschke*, interim vice provost and director of the NC State University Libraries, has been named senior vice provost and director of the Libraries. Raschke replaces Susan K. Nutter, who retired from the position last October after 30 years of service to NC State.

Raschke came to the Libraries in 2002 as associate head of collection management. He also served for more than a decade as associate director for collections and scholarly communication. In that position, Raschke spearheaded programs to build, manage, and preserve the Libraries’ extensive general and special collections. He has led efforts to support faculty and graduate students with emerging tools, programs, and services across the research lifecycle.

He also led the Libraries’ partnerships in developing sustainable channels for scholarly communication and enhancing digitally enabled research and scholarship. Raschke served on the leadership team that envisioned, planned and implemented the award-winning James B. Hunt Jr. Library, and he has significant experience managing fundraising, annual giving and naming opportunity campaigns.

Raschke is looked to as a leader in the library world and is frequently invited to speak at national conferences, most recently Designing Libraries for the 21st Century and the Coalition for Networked Information.

Raschke previously held positions at the University of Kansas and the Georgia Institute of Technology. His received his Bachelor of Arts in history and political science, along with his Master of Science in library and information science, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**UNC Chapel Hill**

The University Libraries is pleased to announce the appointment of *Sharon Luong* as library software applications developer. In this position, Sharon will design, implement, test and support software projects; evaluate new technologies and services; and support technology and infrastructure for University Libraries services and collections. Sharon will also work with a grant-funded project team in the Wilson Special Collections Library on an application for describing historic audiovisual recordings and their associated preservation files. Prior to this appointment, Sharon was team lead and web developer for Spoonflower in Durham, North Carolina.

Sharon holds a master of environmental management from Duke University and a bachelor of science in biology with a minor in English from the University of California, Davis.

**UNC Greensboro**

*Deborah Yun Caldwell* has been appointed as the 2018-2020 Diversity Resident for UNC Greensboro’s University Libraries. Caldwell comes to UNC Greensboro from Denton, Texas. She holds a bachelor of arts in Anthropology from the University of Colorado at Boulder and received her master of Information Science from the University of North Texas in August. While in the program, Caldwell worked as a student assistant in the Department of Information Science and a graduate library assistant in Willis Library and the Eagle Commons Library.

The two-year Post MLS Diversity Residency program was established to further increase the diversity of University Libraries’ professional staff while fostering the growth and development of a new librarian. As the 2018-2020 diversity resident librarian, Caldwell will be participating in the University’s diversity initiatives and collaborating with University Libraries and other divisions across campus in developing programs related to diversity.

*Jo Klein* has been hired as the geospatial and data visualization librarian and assistant professor at UNC Greensboro’s University Libraries, where she will provide consultation services and training to support the geospatial/GIS and data visualization needs of faculty, staff, and students. Klein will also serve as the library liaison to the Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability.
Previously, Klein worked as a contractor for Oak Ridge Associated Universities in the Epidemiology Branch of the US Environmental Protection Agency, supporting research through geospatial and data analysis, web-app development, and lab tests.

Klein holds a bachelor of science in biology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and earned her master of library and information studies degree from UNCG in December 2018. While in the graduate program she completed a practicum with Elon University’s Archives and Special Collections, where she created an interactive online timeline of Elon’s presidents for the presidential inauguration pop-up exhibit.

Megan Carlton has joined University Libraries as the science liaison librarian and assistant professor in the Department of Research, Outreach, and Instruction. Carlton was previously employed by the University of Alabama where she was a research and instruction librarian and liaison to the Department of Biological Sciences and the College of Engineering. She holds a bachelor of science in animal science from Middle Tennessee State University and a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Tennessee.

In her new role, Carlton will be the liaison to UNC Greensboro’s Biology, Chemistry, Computer science, Mathematics, Nanoscience, Physics, and Astronomy Departments. She will be available to faculty and students for research consultations and library instruction.

**BOOK REVIEWS**


Through fascinating research, Zachary Lechner takes us on a journey into the turbulent years of the 60s, 70s and 80s in America. He credits Richard Goodwin as giving us a framework through which we see dramatic differences in American culture between the urbanized, industrialized, crowded and hectic North and the rural South with land/home/family/ traditions. He tells us that small towns and rural life “represented a refuge from modern ills.

From John Egerton, we read that “the 60s through the 80s was an uncertain America, where its people were confused, searching for misplaced values, and desperate for relief. This led an urban movement in which people longed for southern traditional values of working the land, respecting family ties and prizing slow and predictable life challenges” (p.2).

Lechner credits writers and musicians, film makers, journalists, politicians, artists and educators with leading the empathy of “white Southernness”. They emphasized the values of southern lifestyles and southern behaviors. His theories are supported by his interesting research into the professional lives of “The Band, the Allman Brothers Band, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and the “healing southernness of Jimmy Carter”. Lechner revealed their promotion of many aspects of an attractive southern life. Yet, he goes on to show that
some aspects of the influence of these individuals and their work turned dark as time passed.

Credits go to Lechner for his deep research into an often overlooked “south of the mind” phenomenon that occurred during the 60s, 70s, and 80s, in contrast to the overly researched times before, during and following the Civil War.

Recommended for public libraries, music libraries, and academic libraries. Includes an Appendix in which Lechner reveals his Survey Instrument that generated opinions and facts on his research topic, “Southern Rock in the 1970s” (p.171).

Carol Walker Jordan
Librarian and Consultant

Our Prince of Scribes: Writers Remember Pat Conroy.

If there is a book that belongs in your library, this is it! A book that is a collection of the stories and memories of times spent with Pat Conroy over the years of his literary and personal life. One may say it is a reflective collection on his life and his time on our earth by those who loved him.

Barbra Streisand’s Forward sets the tone for this collection when she writes, “Pat Conroy was a force for good in our world. With courage and grace, he brought the gifts of the devastating beauty of his writing and his transcendent vision of the human heart to the lives of the readers he touched and the writers he inspired.” (p.ix) Like other contributors to this book, Barbra began her words by emphasizing Pat’s gifts of literary fame and ending with the human heart focus she saw in him: “Your natural language is poetry. You write sentences that are like an incantation. You observe every nuance of human behavior and dig deep down to the truth, presenting it in all its glorious and stubborn complexity.” (p.ix)

Nicole Seitz’s Preface helps us to understand how the contributions are organized to give us the flow of Pat’s life as a teacher, author, friend, and family member. Nicole says Pat’s life began as “a fellow student to some, a teacher or mentor to others and he became family or friend to many. She says “they connected with Pat through the love of words or food or through the shared sufferings of childhood or existential questioning”(p. xiii)

The chapters are titled under these headings, “I. Headwaters: The Early Years as Student and Teacher, II. Flow and Floodplains: Becoming the Best Selling Author, III. Tributaries and Delta: Sustained and Sustaining Friendships, Lasting Legacies”. The final piece is “Shared Blessings, Shared Sorrows by Cassandra King Conroy.

As I read the contributions I found myself pausing between each one to fully appreciate each writer and his or her relationship with Pat. I recommend enjoying the fullness of the literary beauty of the words that are recorded as written or spoken by each contributor and take time to see the personal beauty of the friendships and shared times with Pat.

A delightful collection of photographs appear in a collection beginning on page 129. Recommended for public libraries, academic libraries and home libraries.

Carol Walker Jordan
Librarian and Consultant

Ellen Shipman and the American Garden.

The Southeastern Librarian

Border, 8. A Grander Scope, 9. Wild Gardens, 10. The Great Depression and the Lure of Europe, 11. Public and Institutional Projects, 12. Last Years, Epilogue, Appendix 1. Client List, Appendix 2. Gardens to Visit, Archives and Resources, Notes, Bibliography, Author’s Acknowledgments, and Index. The writing style is animated and easy to read. Appendix 1 Client List shows more than six hundred clients at thirty-six places. Appendix 2 Gardens to Visit makes known nineteen gardens to go to see along with their street addresses and websites. Archives and Resources encompasses eight Main Repositories, twelve Other Repositories, and three Other Resources. The excellent two hundred and one notes are divided by the twelve chapter titles and the epilogue. Two hundred and forty-one references comprise the bibliography.

The fabulous work has a connection to the south due to Ellen Shipman’s creation of Long Vue House & Gardens in New Orleans for Edgar Stern, head and leading owner of Sears, Roebuck Company and his wife Edith Stern in 1936. Other gardens developed by Ellen Shipman connected to the south are Chatham Manor Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in Fredericksburg, Virginia and Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens Italian Garden in Jacksonville, Florida. Others are the Sarah P. Duke Gardens and Terrace Gardens at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina and Edison and Ford Winter Estates Mina Edison’s Moonlight Garden in Fort Myers, Florida. Another garden established by Ellen Shipman connected to the south is Southeast Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The magnificent monograph has connection to the south because of patrons of Ellen Shipman: three from Florida, two from West Virginia, six from South Carolina, three from Tennessee, twelve from Virginia, twenty-three from North Carolina, six from Georgia, four from Kentucky, and nine from Louisiana.

Famous customers include Clara and Henry Ford, Ford Motor Company originator and their estate Fair Lane in Dearborn, Michigan, Mina and Thomas Edison and Moonlight Garden in Fort Myers, Florida, and Eugene DuPont Junior, son of Eugene DuPont creator of contemporary DuPont Chemical Company presently DowDuPont Chemical Company and his estate’s Owl’s Nest in Greenville, Delaware. Anna Thompson Dodge the spouse of Horace Elgin Dodge Senior inventor of Dodge Automobiles and her estate Rose Terrace in Grosse Pointe, Michigan is another one of Ellen Shipman’s patrons.

Some of the flowers used by Ellen Shipman in her patrons’ settings are roses, peonies, irises, foxgloves, chrysanthemums, primroses, asters, anemones, tulips, gladiolus, larkspur, astilbes, violets, hydrangeas, wisteria, monkshood, Cora bells, poppies, gardenias, Queen’s wreath, and narcissuses. Ellen Shipman brought into play reflecting pools, stone bridges, terraces, dovecotes, teahouses, boxwood, waterfalls, Chippendale Gate, Statue of Mercury, Statue of Dianna, Piping Pan Fountain, pergolas, walking and horse riding routes, and Corinthian columns. Further decorations seen in Shipman’s venues are sundials, pavilions, nymphs, borders, stone benches, a roof garden, bronze figures, fish gardens, loggia, lotus fountains, parterres, and arches. Thirty-two color photographs give readers an idea about the impressiveness and beauty of Ellen Shipman’s sites. Approximately one hundred forty-nine black and white pictures disclose the opulence of Shipman’s work of landscaping brilliance. The monograph divulges around thirty-nine pictures of a few of Shipman’s outlines. Ellen Shipman developed sceneries for railroad headquarters, organization headquarters, government buildings, libraries, graveyards, houses of worship, and places of learning. Judith B. Tankard composed additional wonderful books including The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman, Beatrix Farrand: Private Gardens, Public Landscapes, A Legacy in Bloom: Celebrating a Century of Gardens, Gertrude Jekyll and the Country House Garden: From the Archives of Country Life, and The Artists and Gardens of the Cornish Colony.

The recommended audience is anyone interested in gardens of the United States, Ellen Shipman, and/or landscaping. The masterpiece is an invaluable vital addition to public and academic libraries. It is a stunning success and a fantastic treasure bringing to light lovely United States gardens developed by Ellen Shipman.

Melinda F. Matthews
University of Louisiana at Monroe


Bruce Stewart’s social and political themes run through his research of the battle over alcohol manufacture and sale in early Appalachia. He takes the reader on a winding journey from early saloons and mountain stills to state owned distilleries. He gives us fascinating passages relating the impressions and beliefs held by local citizens on
temperance and prohibition of the manufacture and use of alcohol.

Stewart helps the reader to understand how Appalachia was viewed by Americans outside its region with a quote from Dan Rather: “a place that seems like something out of another country. Appalachia often evokes images of drunken hillbillies, rednecks, feudists, and moonshiners…supposedly eccentric, illiterate, lazy and hard-drinking…a different breed of people” (p.3).

Stewart shows two points of view on manufacture and sale of alcohol. Those who lived in Appalachia, citizens involved in manufacture and sale of alcohol, and those across the nation who attached a righteous sense of the damage of the public good that comes from alcohol sale and use.

The controversy between the moonshiners and the prohibitionists rose to such heights that voters saw the passage of the 18th Amendment forbidding the manufacture and sale of alcohol in 1917. Yet, by 1933, the 21st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution struck down the 18th Amendment and returned power to regulate the manufacture and sell of alcohol to the States.

“Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution Constitutional Amendment

The Eighteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution established the prohibition of “intoxicating liquors” in the United States. The amendment was proposed by Congress on December 18, 1917, and was ratified by the requisite number of states on January 16, 1919. The Eighteenth Amendment was repealed by the Twenty-first Amendment on December 5, 1933.”

Through a series of black and white photographs throughout the research, opportunities are given to see the manufacture and production of “moonshine”. The focus on the historical rise and development of “the battle in Southern Appalachia” between the moonshiners and the prohibitionists is well documented by Stewart’s research.

Recommended for public and academic libraries, and for historical societies.

Carol Walker Jordan
Librarian and Consultant


This serious examination of the integration of southern public libraries “in the Jim Crow South” was based on extensive research by the Weigands. Serious examination revealed how local activists in the 1950s and 60s opened the doors to black patrons.

Unique to this activism was the participation of young black community members joining protests and peacefully demanding services due to them as community members. Showing us in some communities that library services were paid for with tax dollars, the young protesters claimed their right of access along with whites.

The Weigands focused their research on southern public libraries in Tennessee, Virginia, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

Searching newspapers, manuscript collections, public library annual reports, a collection of university masters theses, and federal legislation provided an exceptional historical account of the challenges for blacks to have free access to those southern public libraries. Some tragic incidents and some heartwarming ones are revealed through their extensive research.

Some mentions are made of the slow and minimal support from the American Library Association given to those who advocated providing equal public library services to black community citizens. (p. 185)

An interesting example of bias held toward black community members in 1952 by a Maryland Magistrate who helped found a public library in his community. Regarding the option of providing a bookmobile for black community members, he was quoted as saying: “a Negro will never set foot in that library so long as I have anything to do with it.” (p. 51)
Recommended for public and academic libraries, archival collections and societies serving related interests. Over 266 pages, black and white illustrations, a list of public library protestors, notes, notes on primary sources and an index.

_Carol Walker Jordan_
Librarian and Consultant


According to David Gleeson’s introduction, Canada had 1.2 million residents of English origin, based on the 1901 census; and the English were the largest immigrant group coming to the American colonies in the 17th century, constituting 80 percent of the British who came to the U.S. between 1820 and 1910. Yet many leading scholars assert that “English immigrants contributed nothing substantial to the varied palette of ethnicity in North America.” The established view has been that there existed an “Anglo cultural mainstream” into which the English just disappeared as “invisible immigrants.” Typically, the Irish, the Scots, the Germans, and other immigrants, have been recognized as distinct ethnic groups. However, this recognition has not been afforded the English which, we are reminded, is not synonymous with British. The essays compiled by Gleeson for _English Ethnicity and Culture in North America_, examine the English Diaspora and attempt to show the links between England, its people and its culture to various parts of North America – particularly the United States – in the 19th and 20th centuries and, as such, challenge this established view.

Looking simply at the cover and title, one might expect Gleeson’s book to be primarily about the finer details of English culture such as beliefs, rituals, social practices, religion, language, dress, music, dance, art, etc. that were introduced to American society. These things are indeed of interest and discussed as part of the evidence to consider; but, the ten essays cover even broader territory than this. The essays provide a wealth of information regarding the English Diaspora, including but not limited to immigrant statistics; the role of English benevolent societies in maintaining and protecting English ethnicity; cultural mentalities relating to work and standards that influenced socio-political changes in the U.S.; the Anglican Church’s influence on religion, education and architecture; English social ideals and customs that influenced America’s attitudes toward land ownership, freedom and liberty; and even sports ideals and leisure pastimes that influenced contemporary society, some of which we still see the effects of today. This at first seemingly disparate collection of essays shows different and unique aspects of the claimed English contribution.

The stated primary goal of Gleeson’s work was to challenge the established view that English immigrants made no significant contribution to ethnicity in North America. Each of the essays is well-researched and cited, but do they work together as a whole to effectively challenge the established view? While the book would have benefited from a concluding chapter to tie together the wealth of information unpacked by the essays with that of the challenge that was issued; I think the answer is, yes, there is evidence of such contribution. Ultimately, in many cases the English cultural contributions to America discussed in the essays were taken and transformed over the years into something more uniquely American and woven into the fabric of the culture so seamlessly that they apparently became invisible to many scholars. The essays contained in Gleeson’s book expertly highlight some of the Anglo threads of the American cultural tapestry.

_Paris E. Webb_
Marshall University

Presidential rhetoric is a fascinating study when applied to the administration of our seventh president, Andrew Jackson (1829-1937). Amos Kiewe shows us that Andrew Jackson was a successful and respected leader and a believer in the wisdom of the people when it came to leading a nation. He shows us how Andrew Jackson crafted a new presidency and gave us the opportunity for a democracy.

Amos Kiewe traces the years before and during Jackson’s presidency to show how rhetoric in speaking and in letters was Jackson’s mainstay. Ignoring the political elite who historically secured and sustained elections, Jackson took his campaign for election and future governance to “the people”. Letters and publications circulating among people of the country carried in them Jackson’s messages of a new day where the Constitution and “the Union” coupled with the wishes of the people should lead the nation.

To move the American republic to a democracy was Jackson’s hope. Rallies and road trips from place to place put Jackson in front of “the people”. Speaking directly through letters or speeches Jackson shared his ideas and needs for change or support of governmental policies to benefit the people. Through Jackson the people became a new voice in politics.

Kiewe says Jackson was an activist president, a strong president, a skilled politician, a skilled administrator, “he understood the games of politics quite well”. (p. 247) Through examples of his leadership, tales of his interactions with his colleagues and perspectives on the issues of the day, Jackson came alive before us as readers.

As one explores this fascinating study, it is easy to see parallels between Andrew Jackson and Donald Trump’s presidential leaderships. I encourage you to read and look for the parallels that can be drawn.

This book is recommended for academic libraries, public libraries, archival collections, faculty adoption for texts. Of the 300 pages, the text is 263, Notes 265-289, Bibliography 291-294, Index 294-300. Illustrations in black and white follow page 143.

Carol Walker Jordan
Librarian and Consultant


It is possible your first reaction to the title of Tristan Stubbs’ book, “Masters of Violence: The Plantation Overseers of Eighteenth-Century Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia”, is a reflection. You may recall Harriet Beecher Stowe’s characterization of overseers, “great, tall, slapsided, (a) two-fisted renegade son of Vermont…who had gone through a regular apprenticeship in hardness and brutality and taken his degree to be admitted to practice…(he was) the absolute despot of the estate” (p.142).

From films, classroom discussions, and authors, like Frederick Douglas’ “My Bondage and My Freedom” (p.142), most of us saw plantation overseers as malevolent characters who “presses everything at the end of the lash; pays no attention to the sick …and drives them out again at the first moment. He has no other interest than to make a big …crop” (p.143).

Stubbs’ research highlights practices of overseers on plantations and farm lands where enslaved peoples (bondpeople) were oftentimes brutally treated through forced work to make crops profitable. “When whippings came they were often prolonged, sometimes fatal, and always brutal”. (p.2)

In those early days of plantation life, plantation owners knew and might be described as complicit in the violence meted out by the overseer. Plantation owners sought overseers they believed capable of managing the workforce, knowing farming methods and delivering crops to the markets. Reasoning was that a highly productive enslaved labor force, a successful crop and competitive sales were the overseer’s obligations.

Stubbs points out as time moved forward mechanization of farming, and the American Revolution, coupled with voices of anti-slavery advocates, there came a gradual shift in
attitudes of plantation owners. Stubbs proposes through his research and theories that in time they began to recognize the importance of paternalism toward their slaves (bondpeople). Stubbs shows that this paternalism eventually led plantation owners and farmers to seek different types of overseers or managers for their land.

I recommend this book for academic libraries, public libraries and faculty who conduct research or teach the history of slavery. The contents 1-163, Notes 165-212, Bibliography 213-226, Primary Sources 213-215, Index 227-234. Few illustrations, black and white, buried in text.

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In her memoir The Climb from Salt Lick: a Memoir of Appalachia, Nancy Abrams affectionately recounts her years in West Virginia, where entranced by the beauty of West Virginia and its people, she comes into her own both personally and professionally. Relating the beauty of the stark mountains and genuine friendliness she encountered as an outsider, she pays homage to the Appalachian culture that influenced and inspired her.

Abrams candidly chronicles her personal journey, from a young woman fresh out of college in her first professional position as managing editor of the Preston News in Terra Alta, WV. After a junior year internship at the paper, she’s lured back to the mountains following graduation from the University of Missouri School of Journalism. Independent, and a bit of a self-described hippie raised by liberal Jewish parents in rural Missouri, she enthusiastically embraces her new life, settling quickly into the area. After renting a cabin in Salt Lick and adapting to a simpler lifestyle, she learns to make her own fun - hiking, kayaking down the Cheat River and taking advantage of the endless snow to toboggan.

Responsible for all aspects of publication of The Preston News, one of Abram’s greatest pleasures comes from interacting with the community, photographing regional events and developing stories. From snapping the Buckwheat Festival queen and junior deputies for the Good Neighbors Day parade, to covering contentious school consolidation politics and profiling the impact of coal on the region, she involves herself in all aspects of the town.

Cementing her ties to the place, she falls in love with and marries a mountain boy. Love of place, though, does not always ensure contentment and despite the satisfying job, disappointments begin to accumulate. Her small salary for a growing family of two boys, a husband who is functionally illiterate and often inebriated, and a new boss at the Preston News who relentlessly applies pressure, all combine to convince her to make changes.

When the Dominion Post in Morgantown WV, advertises for a photographer, Abrams jumps at the opportunity and later graduates to editing the newspaper’s Sunday magazine Panorama. Estrangement from her husband and a realization that she can no longer depend on him for support, leads her to leave him and settle in Morgantown.

While the memoir poignantly recounts Abram’s personal history, it is the stories she covers that especially resonate with the reader. Her reporting on the fiftieth anniversary celebration of Arthurdale - a utopian experiment by Eleanor Roosevelt that created a new community for the poorest of Americans who lived in Scott’s Run - makes the reader grasp the lasting impact of Roosevelt’s New Deal policies in Appalachia. Her coverage of the Great Flood of 1985 that washed away roads, bridges, houses, schools and churches captures the historic damage that devastated close to thirty counties in West Virginia.

Selected photographs from Abram’s years in West Virginia are included and provide visual context for the people, places and events she describes. An exhibit of her photographs is currently on display at the Rare Nest gallery in Chicago.

Recommended for public and academic libraries.

Melanie Dunn
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Guidelines for Submissions and Author Instructions

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