

2-15-2019

## The South of the Mind: American Imaginings of White Southernness, 1960-1980

Carol Walker Jordan  
*Librarian and Consultant*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Jordan, Carol Walker (2019) "The South of the Mind: American Imaginings of White Southernness, 1960-1980," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 66 : Iss. 4 , Article 4.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol66/iss4/4>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Southeastern Librarian by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu).



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.

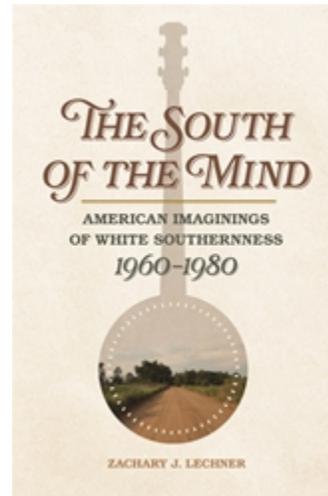
**Megan Carlton** has joined University Libraries as the science liaison librarian and assistant professor in the Department of Research, Outreach, and Instruction. Carlton was previously employed by the University of Alabama where she was a research and instruction librarian and liaison to the Department 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

**The South of the Mind: American Imaginings of White Southernness, 1960-1980.** Zachary J. Lechner. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2018. ISBN 978-0-8203-5371-5 (Hard: \$99.95) ISBN 978-0-8203-5390-6: Pbk: \$28.95). 232 p.



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

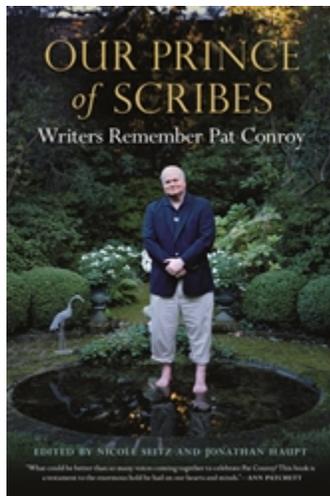
some aspects of the influence of these individuals and their work turned dark as time passed.

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.** Edited by Nicole Seitz and Jonathan Haupt. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2018. ISBN 978-0-8203-5448-4 (Hard); ISBN 978-0-8203-5449-1 (Ebook). \$29.95. 320 p.



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.xi)

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)

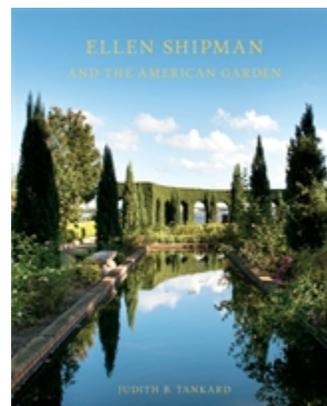
The chapters are titled under these headings, “I. Headwaters : The Early Years as Student and Teacher, II. Flow and Floodplains: Becoming the Best Selling Author, III. Tributaries and Delta: Sustained and Sustaining Friendships, Lasting Legacies”. The final piece is “Shared Blessings, Shared Sorrows 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.** Judith B. Tankard. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-0-8203-5208-4 (Hard). \$39.95. 298 p.



Ellen Shipman and the American Garden is a work sharing the life and works of a legendary female landscaper Ellen Shipman who created spectacular gardens from 1910-1945. The contents include Contents, Preface by Robin Karson, Introduction 1. Early Years, 2. Life in the Cornish Colony, 3. Collaboration with Charles Platt, 4. A Style of Her Own, 5. The New York Office, 6. Artistic Maturity, 7. The