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“Our Country First, then Greenville”: A New South City During the Progressive Era and World War I

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interest in popular culture can become a reality at their campus library. Specifically, effective popular culture outreach programs and bibliographic instruction classes with a popular culture component or theme can be developed on college campuses. The “library as space” concept is put into practice more often today on college campuses in order to account for the growing popularity of popular culture icons.

In this book, co-editor and contributor biographies are included at the end of the book for easy convenience. Also, examining the contributor biographies would lead the reader to conclude that all of the writers have a vested interest in the topic of popular culture use in academic libraries. Although no illustrations are included in this compilation, the chapter authors do a remarkable job of painting a picture of the full capabilities of using popular culture in higher education institutions. The book is divided into four parts as follows: foundations of popular culture in libraries (part one), using popular culture in library collections (part two), integrating popular culture into library instruction (part three), and popular culture programming in academic libraries (part four). Each chapter begins with a summary of the specific academic library/popular culture trend and how the specific college or university library is addressing the issue at their specific institution. In some cases, the authors of each chapter talk about actual experiments or surveys that they conducted with their patrons to gauge their interest in popular culture materials.

This book is intended to showcase the various means by which academic libraries at college campuses across the United States have incorporated elements of popular culture into their library collections, programming and outreach, and both one-shot and multi-session bibliographic instruction classes. Library administration and library staff can use growing popular culture trends to increase the user experience at the university library. By focusing on popular culture foundations, collections, instruction methods, and programming, the book gives readers a full picture of the potential benefits of popular culture materials in higher education. Because of its specific scope, *Integrating Pop Culture into the Academic Library* would be suitable for inclusion in any academic or local library with a focus on popular cultural trends in university libraries and college

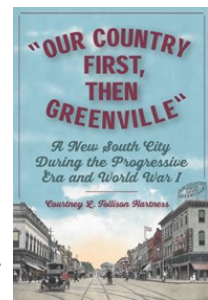
courses.

Since September 2022, Melissa Edmiston Johnson has been employed as Associate Professor & Director of Reese Library at Augusta University in Augusta, Georgia. Thomas C. Weeks is Reference & Instruction Librarian at Augusta University. Jennifer Putnam Davis is Scholarship & Data Librarian at Augusta University.

David W. Young, University of North Carolina at Pembroke

“Our Country First, then Greenville”: A New South City During the Progressive Era and World War I

Courtney L. Tollison Hartness
Columbia: University of South
Carolina Press, 2023
ISBN: 9781643364162
328 p. \$34.99 (Pbk)



The commemorations for the centenary anniversary of World War I, often called the “Great War,” are long over. One might suspect that the moment for books exploring the home front experience during that war has also passed, but Courtney L. Tollison Hartness’ book *“Our Country First, then Greenville”: A New South City During the Progressive Era and World War I* puts that assumption to rest.

This book could have been a simple local history of Greenville, South Carolina—one that only focused on the activities at Camp Sevier, which was a military training camp that prepared American soldiers to fight overseas. Instead, Tollison Hartness situates her study in the community development efforts of local leaders before, during, and after the war. These leaders were forward-looking and supported the construction of roads and highways, better public education, and improved sanitation and public health. Unlike many other municipal leaders in Southern cities, they championed Progressive Era reforms and sought partnerships with the federal government. Tollison Hartness notes that the city’s embrace of the federal government and the desire to place an American identity before a Southern identity was rare, especially because it occurred *prior* to America’s entry into World War I. As a telling example,

in 1916, the Chamber of Commerce raised funds to build a huge, electrified sign. The purpose of the sign was to demonstrate the city's patriotism with the bold and unambiguous slogan, "OUR COUNTRY FIRST, THEN GREENVILLE."

The subject of Southern Progressivism is a bit of a sticky wicket, but Tollison Hartness includes a masterful historiography of the topic through the lens of the lived experience of the residents of Greenville, many of whom viewed the siting of Camp Sevier opportunistically. Local businessmen were eager for the influx of thousands of soldiers and the dollars that would follow. White women hoped that their contributions to the war effort would translate into broader support for suffrage. The war also provided African Americans a narrow opening to improve their lot.

African Americans in Greenville demonstrated their patriotism through actions such as purchasing Liberty Bonds, assisting the Colored Auxiliary of the Red Cross, and supporting segregated Black soldiers. Local African American men enlisted in the military and served honorably. Such actions improved conditions for the Black community in Greenville, but such gains were often short-lived. There would be no fundamental reordering of society in the Piedmont following the war's end. Some African Americans, weary of discrimination, segregation, and race-based violence, became part of the Great Migration. They left to seek better pay, improved work conditions, and more freedom in Northern cities because, as Tollison Hartness states eloquently, they were "pushed by anguish and pulled by ambition" (p. 109).

White women who were already active in social clubs, charities, and Civil War remembrance endeavors redirected their energies toward supporting the soldiers and their accompanying family members. They did this as individuals and through organizations such as their local chapters of the Red Cross, Women's State Council on Defense, and the Young Women's Christian Association. The mass movement of men to training sites and then to fight overseas created a vacuum that women filled. Some opened their homes to boarders; others found employment outside of the home. But the political and economic gains they experienced did not last. After the war, men returned to the workplace and most women assumed their traditional roles. When the war end-

ed, there was little traction on the issue of suffrage because of fears that giving women the vote would lead to federal interference in elections and a weakening of white supremacy. As a telling indicator of how deeply held those fears were, South Carolina did not ratify the 19th Amendment until 1969.

Following the war's end, Greenville's population continued to surge. Some of the men that trained at Camp Sevier decided to return to Greenville and establish roots there. Municipal services increased and infrastructure development projects continued. The city and surrounding area continued to reap the economic impact of Camp Sevier. The shadow of the war remained into the 1930s with soldier reunions and memorials to fallen servicemen. The shadow of the Civil War also remained because these ceremonies honored Confederate war veterans and glommed on the language of the "Lost Cause" in their tributes to the war dead. Tollison Hartness details other developments during the postwar years, including the influenza pandemic of 1919.

Throughout the book, she illustrates how the people of Greenville embraced the federal government, economic growth, and a truly American identity—except when doing so posed a threat to the existing social order. *"Our Country First, then Greenville"* is an important book because it helps answer the riddle of Southern Progressivism, which is: When was a Southern Progressive not progressive? The answer: Whenever the color line was at stake.

This book is highly recommended for academic libraries and public libraries with South Carolina and Piedmont region history collections.

Kristine Stilwell, University of North Georgia

Sown in the Stars: Planting by the Signs

Sarah L. Hall
Lexington: University
Press of Kentucky,
2023
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150 p. \$34.95 (Hbk)

Set in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, Berea Col-

