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Found Anew: Poetry and Prose Inspired by the South Caroliniana Library Digital Collections

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for the Pruitt-Shanks Photographic Collection and for the conversion of legacy finding aids. She has held archival positions at the North Carolina State University and Duke University libraries.

Jodi received her M.S.L.S. from UNC’s School of Information and Library Science and she holds a B.A. in women’s studies from Barnard College in New York City.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library is also pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Nandita S. Mani as Director of the Health Sciences Library and Associate University Librarian for the Health Sciences.

As Director, Mani will oversee one of the nation’s leading health affairs libraries. The UNC Health Sciences Library (HSL) is the primary library for the University’s schools of dentistry, medicine (including allied health sciences), nursing, pharmacy, and public health. It also serves the UNC Medical Center and the North Carolina Area Health Education Centers (NC AHEC), a statewide program for clinical education and health services.

Mani will be part of the UNC Library’s Administrative Council and a member of the leadership team reporting to Sarah Michalak, University Librarian and Associate Provost for University Libraries.

At the HSL, she will oversee a budget with annual expenditures of approximately $8 million, a workforce of close to 60 FTE, and a recently renovated, technology-adapted building at the heart of the health sciences sector of the Chapel Hill campus. The HSL has a collection of close to 460,000 volumes and, with the UNC University Library, provides access to nearly 148,000 journals.

Mani comes to UNC from the University of Michigan, where she was Assistant Director for Academic and Clinical Engagement at the Taubman Health Sciences Library. She was previously Medical Librarian and Coordinator of Education and Consumer Health at the Henry Ford Hospital’s Sladen Library in Detroit, Michigan. She has held medical librarian and IT positions at the Vera P. Shiffman Medical Library of Wayne State University in Detroit, and the Cross Cancer Institute of the Alberta Cancer Board in Alberta, Canada.

Mani is Managing Editor for the journal Advances in Chronic Kidney Disease. She has published extensively on topics related to librarianship and technology. Dr. Mani’s research interests focus on learning analytics in evidence-based pedagogy and curricular design in health science education.

She holds a Ph.D. in instructional technology and an M.L.I.S. from Wayne State University. Her B.A. in psychology is from Concordia University of Edmonton, Alberta.

**BOOK REVIEWS**


The sixth title in the University of South Carolina’s Palmetto Poetry series, this book is a collection of literary works that take their inspiration from the digitized collections of USC’s South Caroliniana library. A similar volume—an anthology of poetry and prose inspired by the
works of renowned South Carolina artist Jonathan Green---was published as part of the same series in 2013.

Each author who contributed a work to the anthology began by choosing one or more photographs from the South Caroliniana Library’s digital collections to serve as inspiration. The book includes the chosen images as illustrations, making it easy for readers to move from image to text and back again. The library’s collections are available online (http://library.sc.edu/p/Collections/Digital/Browse?department=62) so that readers can easily view the image within the context of its collection if desired. Readers could also visit the online archives to find inspiration of their own.

Some of the collection’s works are meant to be more strictly ekphrastic than others, and the volume’s editors have arranged the pieces into three categories based on the author’s overall approaches: renderings, re-imaginings, and impressions. An outstanding forward written by award-winning poet and series editor Nikky Finney frames the book in terms of each writer having their own conversation with the past. From this vantage point—as if they are speaking with the dead—they are able to deeply explore meanings, feelings, and even the future.


Libraries with collections in Southern literature or history should consider adding this unique book with interdisciplinary appeal to their shelves. It may also serve as inspiration for potential future projects at libraries with their own online archives. Creative writing or history teachers might also be interested in constructing assignments based on photographs from the same online collections and using the writings in this book as inspirational examples for their students.

Allison Faix,
Kimbel Library, Coastal Carolina University


In the opening preface of her book, author Lynn Harris recounts how she and a colleague “motored slowly past alligators sunning on banks of the murky orange-colored Cooper River…” where they noticed many remnants of boats and ships scattered on the riverbed and immediately “speculated about the origins of these remnants”.

Harris, an underwater archeologist, in her opening remarks tells us that “River and waterborne activities were an integral part of the (South Carolina) low country plantation’s daily routine just as they were in the West Indies plantations”. Harris says an early historian wrote, “The oldest plantations were upon rivers, a waterfront indeed, and a landing was essential to such establishments, for it must have the periago for plantation purposes and the trim sloop and large cypress canoes for the masters use.” (The Papers of Henry Laurens to Timothy Creamer, Charleston, June 20, 1794;4:319.)

Through intense research in archival manuscripts and museum displays along with interviews and interpretations of maps and charts, Harris is able to help the reader understand the economies of the low country, the waterways flowing from the ocean inland, and the transportation shift for the patroons (land owners) from hard to reach ships and boats to more efficient and eventually secure watercraft (periaguas) for getting their goods to markets. Harris, explains how a work force developed in the region that arose from the native Americans, enslaved, Europeans, and people of color who came to the waterways to live, and work. In some detail, Harris explains how the boat building or watercraft industry arose from the creativity of this potential workforce.

The various research resources in this 146 page manuscript are presented in End Notes, a Bibliography and an Index. This is an excellent text to add to a university or special