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## BOOK REVIEWS

Downs, Robert B. *Books That Changed the South*. Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Pr., 1977. 292p. \$10.95. LC 76-13181. ISBN 0-8078-1286-2.

Bob Downs is a believer in books—in books and libraries. In *Books That Changed the South* he continues to bring the message of the book in the same pattern he has in five earlier volumes, *Books That Changed the World*, *Famous American Books*, *Molders of the Modern Mind*, and so on. The geographical scope of the new book is more limited than before, but there is still plenty of room for Downs to illustrate that the cultural history of a society is demonstrated in its books.

In *Books That Changed the South* Downs discusses in thoroughly researched essays twenty-five important works ranging

from John Smith's *The Generall Historie of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles* (1624) to C. Vann Woodward's *Origins of the New South, 1877-1913* (1951). His criteria for inclusion in his work rule out the last quarter-century. The works between 1624 and 1951 include such diverse items as Mason Locke Weems' *The Life of Washington the Great* (1800?), Augustus B. Longstreet's *Georgia Scenes* (1835), George W. Cable's *Old Creole Days* (1879), and W. J. Cash's *The Mind of the South* (1941).

Downs seems to have made a special effort for a full and fair representation of blacks among the authors he covers. His list includes Frederick Douglass' *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845), Booker T. Washington's *Up from Slavery* (1901), and W. E. B. DuBois' *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903). Two other books,

Hinton Rowan Helper's *The Impending Crisis of the South* (1857) and Frances Anne Kemble's *Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation in 1838-1839* (1863), are forceful anti-slavery documents, and blacks and their progress figure strongly in at least half a dozen of the other works.

Downs attacks his work head-on. There is no beating about the bush, no essay-inspired-by sort of criticism. He tells succinctly what a book is about and then relates the reactions of the readers, critics, and historians to it. There is seldom any critical estimate of the work that is expressed as Downs' own. This is a perfectly legitimate technique, but a reader—this reader, at any rate—wishes that Downs would draw more from his wide experience as a historian of books in stating his personal opinions.

The compiler of a list of books sets up his own criteria, stakes out his own boundaries, writes his own ground rules. To argue with Downs' selections is to do a sort of

second-hand tilting with windmills. But it is not impossible to dream of a few changes in the list. Additions are easy to suggest: Mary Boykin Chesnut's *A Diary from Dixie* first and foremost; if not Erskine Caldwell's *Tobacco Road* or *God's Little Acre*, then the superb *You Have Seen Their Faces* that he did with Margaret Bourke-White; John Wesley's journal while in America; Will Alexander Percy's *Lanterns on the Levee*; Beverly N. Tucker's *The Partisan Leader*; Douglas Southall Freeman's *R. E. Lee*; Frances Peyre Porcher's *Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests*; *The Case of the Cherokee Nation Against the State of Georgia . . . 1831*; John Esten Cooke's *The Wearing of the Gray*; Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With the Wind*; Charles Colcock Jones's *Religious Instruction of the Negroes*, and on and on.

Not all of these are books that "changed" the South, but neither are all in Downs' list. "Change" is a word that sounds fine in the title, but Mr. Downs wavers in insisting on change as a criterion. Fair enough. The



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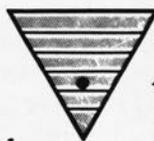
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books he treats are interesting and important. That's the main thing. But I would certainly make room for Mrs. Chesnut and for Margaret Mitchell in the list (and thereby, incidentally, give Fanny Kemble some female companionship). If any single Southern book reflects an era as fully and as delightfully as Mrs. Chesnut's diary, I do not know what it is. And if Mr. Downs thinks *In Ole Virginia* and *Gone With the Wind* belong directly in the same tradition, I can only conclude that he has never read them.

To make room for other titles in the list obviously something must come out. The reviewer would shirk half his duty to suggest only additions. Deletions might legitimately be Weems' *Washington*, Edward King's *The Great South*, Mark Twain's *Life on the Mississippi*, Page's *In Ole Virginia*, and C. Vann Woodward's *Origins of the New South*. One suspects that Mr. Downs was a bit too anxious for chronological coverage.

This is a good book, a book that is fun to argue with. And that is one of the things books are for.—Richard Harwell, *University of Georgia, Athens*.

**National and International Library Planning.** Key Papers Presented at the 40th Session of the IFLA General Council, Washington, D.C., 1974. Edited by Robert Vosper and Leone I. Newkirk. IFLA Publications, 4. München: Verlag Dokumentation, 1976. 162p. DM 38. ISBN 3-7940-4424-X.

Although it is most unfortunate that the many papers presented at the 1974 General Council of the International Federation of Library Associations have not been published, at least twelve of the papers, singled out as key papers, appear in this new volume. The publication of these papers two years after the session again points out the serious time lag that exists between a conference and the publication of its proceedings. In this particular case, however, five of the contributions in this volume have also appeared in the 1975 *Bowker Annual*.

The editors indicate that the papers selected for inclusion were intended to heighten awareness and to suggest the variety of national experiences in differing

cultural situations and at different levels of library experience.

This collection deals with five aspects of national and international library planning: objectives; developments in selected countries; academic and research libraries and national planning; planning of national libraries; and, finally, some aspects of library education and manpower planning. The editors acknowledge that there are many gaps in the collection. There are no papers on public libraries and national planning or on such important topics as statistics, planning methodologies, and curricular reform.

The first two papers by Robert Vosper and C. R. Zaher deal primarily with trends in interdependence, the essential tools required for planning, programs for multi-national cooperation such as UBS, IFLA's program for universal bibliographic control, and NATIS, Unesco's National Information Systems.

Papers dealing with state-of-the-art surveys of national planning in selected countries are presented by Frederick Burkhardt (U.S.), H. T. Hookway (Great Britain), N. M. Sikorsky (Soviet Union), George Kaltwasser (Federal Republic of Germany), and Joyce I. Robinson (Jamaica). The strength and credibility of these papers lie in their authorship; their weakness lies in the lack of documentation.

These papers provide a striking contrast between the comprehensive and sophisticated plans for the nationwide integration of libraries and documentation in the developed nations and the frustrations encountered by planners in a developing nation where librarianship is a barely recognized profession and the relevance of libraries is yet to be established.

Of the remaining papers dealing with specific problems that require attention at the national level, those presented by F. A. Ogunsheye and Hedwig Anuar are particularly noteworthy. Ogunsheye provides an excellent summary on the development of library schools, the structure of the library profession, and the distribution of library manpower in African nations. Anuar discusses concepts, functions, and implementation of plans for national libraries in several countries in Southeast Asia and the Philippines.