

Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies

(formerly Kansas Quarterly)

Volume 30, Number 3

December 1999

A Geographer Looks at the Delta	175
by Gerald T. Hanson	
A Northeast Arkansas Ballet Book	179
annotated by W. K. McNeil	
Where a Good Man Ought to Be (fiction)	205
by Frank Durham	
“Where the Redemptive Process Begins”: Mars Hill and <i>The Moaner’s Bench</i>	212
by Janelle Collins	
Mississippi River Images	226
Won’t You Help Tiffany the Tiny Pom-Pom Girl and Little Kevin the Quarterback with Their Expensive Operations? (poetry)	232
by Mark Defoe	
Free Money (fiction)	233
by Brenda Smart	
“The Lord Blessed Me”: An Interview with Victoria Berry	241
by Larry D. Ball and Michael B. Dougan	
Delta Sources and Resources	248
Museum of the Mississippi River by John M. Barry	
Reviews	251
Knudsen and Plank, <i>Old Man River and Me: One Man’s Journey Down the Mississippi</i> , reviewed by Jack Zibluk	
Billingslea-Brown, <i>Crossing Borders Through Folklore: African American Women’s Fiction and Art</i> , reviewed by Rebecca S. Wood	
Hobson, <i>But Now I See: The White Southern Racial Conversion Narrative</i> , reviewed by Ben Johnson	
Spiegel, <i>James Agee and the Legend of Himself: A Critical Study</i> , reviewed by Catherine Calloway	
Weston, <i>Barry Hannah: Postmodern Romantic</i> , reviewed by Owen W. Gilman Jr.	

- Morse and Morse, *The Lower Mississippi Valley Expeditions of Clarence Bloomfield Moore*, reviewed by David H. Dye
- Friend, *The Buzzel About Kentuck: Settling the Promised Land*, reviewed by Ted Olson
- Tregle, *Louisiana in the Age of Jackson: A Clash of Cultures and Personalities*, reviewed by Samuel Watson
- Wilson, *Lincoln Before Washington: New Perspectives on the Illinois Years*, reviewed by Damon Eubank
- Nelson, *King Cotton's Advocate: Oscar G. Johnston and the New Deal*, reviewed by Donald Holley
- Norrell, *Reaping the Whirlwind: The Civil Rights Movement in Tuskegee*, reviewed by Felix L. Armfield
- Mahar, *Behind the Burnt Cork Mask: Early Blackface Minstrelsy and Antebellum American Popular Culture*, reviewed by W. K. McNeil
- Morrison, *Go Cat Go! Rockabilly Music and Its Makers*, reviewed by David Sticklin

Contributors263

Art and photography by Thomas Chaffee, Steven L. Mayes, Gayle Pendergrass, Curtis Steele, Sara Trimarchi, and Jack Zibluk.

From the General Editor

This issue completes *Arkansas Review's* second year as "A Journal of Delta Studies." Our original intent was to explore the seven-state Mississippi River Delta from an interdisciplinary perspective, drawing upon a variety of fields in the social sciences and humanities: anthropology, art history, folklore studies, geography, history, literature, music history, political science, and sociology--to name those that come most readily to mind.

We have achieved that interdisciplinary focus in some respects, but some fields have appeared more prominently in our pages than others. A special issue on the blues (April 1998) tended to foreground folklore studies and music history, while the Hemingway issue, which appeared in July 1999, placed literature in a central position. While we have heard from anthropologists, historians, and political scientists in our book review pages and with this issue geography joins geology and history as a contributor to our "What Is the Delta?" series, we would

like to see those disciplines and others represented more often.

We also began with a commitment to maintain the practice of our predecessors, *Kansas Quarterly* and *Arkansas Review* (under the editorship of Norman Lavers), of publishing first-rate creative material--our only stipulation being that poetry, fiction, personal essays, and visual art should in some way respond to or evoke the Delta. We have been very successful in this respect due to the efforts of Creative Materials Editor Norman E. Stafford and Art Editor Steven L. Mayes.

This issue represents the sort of mix between scholarly and creative material that we aspire to. Short stories and a poem join a visual essay as well as individual photographs and watercolors in complementing the more academic pieces: two interviews, an annotated manuscript collection of folksongs, a geographer's look at the Delta, an entry in our "Delta Sources and Resources" series, and a number of book reviews, representing our intended range of disciplinary coverage.