

boyfriend, Michael. First of all, Michael is Irish, but, more importantly, he is a scientist doing stem-cell research. The latter fact horrifies Grace's staunchly Catholic parents and grandmother, Nonna. When Michael becomes ill, the book addresses issues of faith and the behavior of all concerned during times of crisis. The strength of the book lies in Frank's typically dead-on characterization of family dynamics. In addition to Grace's outgoing father Big Al, her seemingly demure mother Connie, and the somewhat stereotypical Italian matriarch Nonna, we meet Grace's older brother Frank, his wife, Regina, and their brood of three adolescent kids. Grace feels an affinity with Frank and Regina, but her younger brother Nicky and his irritating girlfriend, Marianne, exasperate her constantly. For the most part, the characters are very believable in this highly readable novel. Frank employs humor with a deft hand in her descriptions of people and situations, as well as in her dialogue. The most glaring weakness of the book lies in the religious conversion of one of the main characters at the end, primarily because it occurs abruptly and not with the attendant struggle one would expect from the character. Because of this tactic, much of the ending seems too predictable. Frank's book could be set anywhere in the country, not containing many specifically Southern issues or characteristics. However, Grace's Hilton Head and Charleston do seem to depict the New South as a melting pot that attracts all kinds of people from all kinds of places. One of Frank's fundamental messages is revealed by Regina, Grace's sister-in-law: "There's nothing you can do about your family. They just are as they are." Since most of us can identify with this sentiment, the book should appeal to readers of diverse tastes and backgrounds. Recommended for public libraries and for academic libraries that maintain a popular fiction section.—Reviewed by Carol Malcolm, Riverside Military Academy.

A Gentleman in Charleston and the Manner of His Death by William Baldwin (University of South Carolina Press, 2005; ISBN 1-57003-602-0, \$24.95). If a pickup truck, a dog and a broken heart are required for a good country song, then war, love, murder, and a natural disaster provide all the makings for an outstanding historical novel. *A Gentleman in Charleston and the Manner of His Death* enjoys all these ingredients and more. Shortly after the Civil War in a South struggling to recover, Frank Dawson finds love in three very different women: his introverted wife, a gregarious sister-in-law, and an immature and adventuresome nanny. Ultimately Frank Dawson is murdered in a locally famous scene defending his feminine household. Google Frank Dawson and you'll find fewer than 200 entries. Yet, Dawson occupied a surprisingly powerful place in Southern history as a soldier, newspaperman, back room politician, and backbone of a community and lifestyle he helped create and occupied, but where he never truly felt comfortable. The crux of the novel occurs about halfway through the book with the murder of Lawson (Dawson's fictitious name in the novel). The subsequent continuation of his family and community fill in the remaining story. Almost half a million search results pertain to the earthquake that occurred in Charleston in 1886. A disaster for the region, the event is subject of several early chapters of the book and shines a more personal light on the aftermath. One interesting note is the fear Charleston residents had that a tsunami would further ravage their city. *Gentleman* is an odd little book that reads more like you've stumbled into a family reunion, other than your own, and are privy to a story told by the remaining aunts. The main characters are portrayed from various perspectives: sometimes understood, sometimes adored, sometimes scorned, yet always admirably coveted as heritage in that quirky, perplexing time in Southern history—at the same time lusty and puritanical. It is a story that leaves the reader hoping how it ties with events of today and wondering what readers a mere 150 years from now will remember about our lives. This novel is recommended for adult fiction collections, as well as for mature young adults. —Reviewed by Lauri Thompson.

Two Little Girls in Blue by Mary Higgins Clark (Simon & Schuster, 2006; ISBN 0-7432-6490-8, \$25.95). Margaret and Steve Frawley are in a panic. While attending a dinner, they are unable to reach the babysitter caring for their twin girls. Kathy and Kelly are the "two little girls in blue," so called because of their matching blue party dresses worn while celebrating their third birthday just that day. The Frawleys frantically call the local police, who have already discovered the unconscious babysitter and a ransom note demanding \$8 million dollars. *Two Little Girls in Blue* follows the foibles of the inept kidnappers who include Clint, his unpredictable girlfriend, Angie, Clint's former prison mate, Lucas, and the brains behind the crime, the "Pied Piper." While the twins are hidden away at Clint's house and being cared for by Angie, she secretly decides that she'd like to keep one of the girls for herself and begins taking steps towards her goal. The Pied Piper, unaware of Angie's change of plans, has called to let the Frawleys know where their girls are waiting to be picked up. Joy turns to anguish as the police find Kelly, the deceased Lucas, and the

suicide note informing them of Kathy's death. Clark incorporates another interest of hers, telepathy, in this novel as she explores the bond between twins. Kelly continues to relay messages from Kathy and often asks "when is someone going to get Kathy?" This, along with her own "mother's intuition," motivates Margaret to begin searching for Kathy on her own after the authorities have given up finding her alive. The reader feels helpless, yet excited, while reading of Angie's declining attempts to care for Kathy when she decides it's more important to look out for herself, Clint's search for Angie and his money, and Margaret's own heartbreaking investigation. The reader feels the pain and frustration as Margaret finds herself constantly one step behind the kidnappers. As with her other novels, this fast paced thriller has you reading "just one more" well into the night. The chapters are short and the action remains intense throughout the novel. This book will be a very popular choice by author recognition alone and will be a welcome addition to any library's fiction collection.—Reviewed by Susan Kellett, Emory University.

JUVENILE/YOUTH LITERATURE

The Bicycle Man by David L. Dudley (Clarion, 2005; ISBN 0-618-54233-7, \$16.00). Author David L. Dudley, a professor of African American Literature at Georgia Southern University, describes rural Georgia in 1927 and the plight of 12-year old Carissa and her mother as they try to make ends meet during the Depression. Carissa is not popular at school, and her only friend is hyperactive Poppy. Thus, she is ready when Bailey, the "bicycle man," comes into their lives. At first, Carissa's mother is very distrustful of Bailey, who jumps into repairing everything in need of fixing in exchange for food and a bed in a rundown shed. Bailey's ability to do everything and his wise counsel of every problem Carissa brings him seems a bit manufactured. Minor achievements, such as learning to ride a bike, become life-changing experiences for Carissa and her mother. When she learns that her father did not die the hero's death in the Great War (as she had always been led to believe), Bailey seems just too perfect in composing Carissa's hurt. The writer does a great job of describing the segregated South in the Twenties, and he has a good ear for dialect. Yet the ending of *The Bicycle Man* is especially unbelievable with everyone getting his or her wish. This book's target audience is middle schoolers. While some readers may be bored by its slow pace, other middle schoolers may identify with the daily bullying Carissa faces at school.—Reviewed by Tom Bush, Southwest Georgia Regional Library System.

NON-FICTION

The Place Setting: Timeless Tastes of the Mountain South, from Bright Hope to Frog Level by Fred W. Sauceman (Mercer University Press, 2006; ISBN 0-86554-990-6, \$25.00). The first of a planned two-volume set, *The Place Setting* is a compilation of humorous anecdotal essays that provides vivid descriptions of Mr. Sauceman's travels throughout the Appalachian areas of Tennessee, North Carolina, West Virginia, and Virginia as he searches for not only typical Appalachian foods, but festivals, restaurants, and a way of life that is quickly fading away as this region grows in popularity as a tourist destination. Visit such restaurants as the Grease Rack in Newport, Tennessee, and Snappy Lunch in Mount Airy, North Carolina. Attend the Jack Daniel's Invitational World Barbecue Championship in Lynchburg, Tennessee, or the Rainbow and Ramps Festival in Cherokee, North Carolina. Along the way, readers will enjoy recipes such as Grandma Nevada's Apple Stack Cake and Sheri Castle's Killed Lettuce, as well as meet such people as Janette Carter, daughter of country music legends A.P. and Sara Carter, JoAnn Kalonaheskie, and CEO of Lodge Manufacturing, Bob Kellerman. Fred Sauceman, a native of Greenville, Tennessee, is a senior writer and executive assistant to the president for public affairs at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, where he teaches courses in the foodways of Appalachia. He writes a weekly food column for the *Kingsport Times-News*, contributes to *Marquee* magazine, and is a regular commentator on *Inside Appalachia*, produced by West Virginia Public Broadcasting. Overall, *The Place Setting* is an enjoyable read for anyone that is interested in Appalachian and/or Southern culture. It is recommended for Appalachian and Southern culture collections, as well as for public libraries.—Reviewed by Catherine Morrow Roberson, UPS Supply Chain Solutions.

Bamboo Fly Rod Suite: Reflections on Fishing and the Geography of Grace by Frank Soos (The University of Georgia Press, 2006; ISBN 0-8203-2835-9, \$14.95). Frank Soos considered himself a reasonably content man until the day a coworker dropped by his office with an unexpected gift—a bamboo fly rod. The rod was old, but not antique; battered, but not beyond repair; possibly worthless, but not without redeeming qualities. Conflicted about accepting the responsibility of such a dubious gift, yet excited about the inherent potential of the rod, Soos accepted it based on the simplicity of his mother’s favorite axiom: “If someone gives you a gift, take it. If they hit you, run.” This seemingly trivial event launched Soos, Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, on a journey of introspection. In this slim volume of essays, the restoration and use of the fly rod becomes the lens through which Soos views himself and the standard against which he measures the world’s values. Having wanted a bamboo fly rod since age ten, he examines the ways that prolonged desire makes the attainment more meaningful. A world of truly instant gratification, devoid of the opportunity to want, to desire, becomes unthinkable. The restoration of the rod causes him to question the nature of value. Is something valuable because it cost a lot? Because you have it and someone else wants it? Or is the real value of something in its usefulness as a tool? Regular use of the rod occasions meditation on the value of slowness. Fly fishing, which rewards slowness and patience, becomes a respite from a world that values “faster, better, cheaper.” Illustrations by noted Alaskan landscape artist, Kesler Woodward, add to the elegance of the language. Woodward, retired from his position as chairman of the Department of Art at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, contributed pieces ranging from small black and white renderings of fly-tying tools to vivid landscapes of tundra and mountains. In between are studies of miniature subjects, such as individual pinecones, leaves, and stones, which invite close examination. In *Bamboo Fly Rod Suite*, Soos combines fishing and philosophy in a graceful style that will appeal to a wide variety of readers. This is recommended for public libraries, particularly where there is strong interest in philosophical essays.
—Reviewed by Kathryn Pillatzki, Henry County Library System.

Stono: Documenting and Interpreting a Southern Slave Revolt edited by Mark M. Smith (University of South Carolina Press, 2005; ISBN 1-57003-605-5, \$14.95). On Sunday, September 9, 1739, one of the bloodiest slave insurrections in America took place in South Carolina. This insurrection that left, according to some accounts, 21 whites and 44 African Americans dead became known as the Stono Rebellion. Historians, using primary documents and personal accounts taken during that time, have tried to piece together what really happened on that fateful night. Historian Mark M. Smith, Distinguished Professor of History at the University of South Carolina, has created what may become an essential reading for anyone studying the Stono Rebellion. *Stono* is a collection of primary documents and interpretative essays written by leading historians on the subject. Divided in two parts, Smith first introduces the reader to pertinent historic documents, some of which were previously unpublished and unknown to other historians that provide important, but sometimes conflicting, details about the rebellion. Through his commentary throughout the first part of the book, Smith brings to the reader’s attention some discrepancies between the primary accounts and allows us to make our own guesses about what really happened. Smith follows the primary documents with essays written by historians Peter Wood, John Thornton, Edward Pearson and one of his own that provide very different analyses of the who, what, why, and how of the revolt. In his essay, Peter Wood places the revolt in its context and discusses its effects on the slave society in the slave holding states. Smith follows Wood’s essay with John Thornton’s analysis of the rebels’ origins: examining their African heritage could give us a better understanding of why they revolted and the strategy they used in their attack. Pearson’s discussion speculates on the role the shift from a frontier to a plantation society played in encouraging the insurrection due to the breakdown of the “gendered organization of labor.” Smith rounds out the discussion with an examination of the role religion played in the rebellion. The author has done a remarkable job in creating a work that will serve as an outstanding starting point for researchers of the Stono Rebellion. Filled throughout with notes, overflowing with secondary sources, and ending with a working bibliography, *Stono* will give readers a solid foundation in their study of the rebellion. This book is recommended for medium to large public libraries and academic libraries.—Reviewed by Tamika Maddox, DeKalb County Public Library.

The Dawn of Religious Freedom in South Carolina edited by James Lowell Underwood and W. Lewis Burke (University of South Carolina Press, 2006; ISBN 1-57003-621-7, \$39.95). This book is a series of essays exploring the development of religious freedom in South Carolina, which for its time offered religious freedom to an unprecedented degree. Central to the book are two essays by James Lowell Underwood outlining the vicissitudes and growth of religious freedom in South Carolina. In general, these two essays provide a useful outline of the subject. Other essays discuss the experiences of various minority faiths: Jews, Huguenots, Afro-Carolinians, Quakers, Catholics, and Evangelicals. Evangelicalism, long a majority religious viewpoint in the South, is included because of its “unrespectable” origin in revivalism. In their essay, Burton and Herr discuss the Evangelical path from outside the power structure to sharers in it. Some of the essays in *The Dawn of Religious Freedom in the South* threaten to lose focus, as concern with religious freedom gives way to more general concerns with religion *and* freedom. The topic of slavery is discussed in numerous essays. In the antebellum South, Mohammedanism could receive more tolerance than abolitionism. Most denominations found it prudent to conform, from the Methodists, to evangelize the slaves; to the Catholics, to protect themselves. As for the Quakers, small in number and influence, in the end they decided simply to leave the state *en masse*. As is customary with a book of this nature, I took issue with some of the interpretations. At times too, I found myself wishing for more. The book is recommended for any library collecting on the subject of religion in the South.—Reviewed by Kenneth A. Smith, Valdosta State University.

Tybee Island: The Long Branch of the South by Robert A. Ciucevich (Arcadia Publishing, 2005; ISBN 0-7385-2475-1, \$24.99). There was a Tybee Island prior to Sandra Bullock’s arrival, and it is well-documented in this volume. Tybee has long been a family beach area, but in recent years has become the new hot property. Ciucevich, a local historian, has done considerable research on the subject of Tybee and has produced a very enjoyable book. Having spent many days of my life strolling beaches of Tybee, this book led me to remember things I had long forgotten that were handed down to me by my relatives, and new things that I didn’t know. From a historical point of view, no permanent settlement has been found on Tybee prior to the one established during the Oglethorpe settlement years, but Tybee and its location has been valued by Native Americans, French, Spanish, and English. Even though no battle occurred on Tybee, it played an important part during the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. During the Spanish American War, Fort Screven was constructed as part of a series of forts along the eastern shore. The 1840’s saw the beginning of what we know as Tybee today. During this era, pleasure excursions by steamers were offered to Savannahians and others. Following the end of the Civil War more folks were interested in the development of Tybee and the “beach colony” flourished. The Island continued to enjoy success with the completion of the Savannah and Tybee Railroad in 1887. The exposure of Tybee to more people was greatly increased when the Savannah and Tybee Railroad became a link of the Central of Georgia Railroad in 1890. This created a link between Tybee and hundreds of other cities throughout the South. But it was the completion of the paved causeway in 1923 which brought the people and still brings the people to Tybee today. As you read this work you will learn in detail about the early history, the construction of the Tybee Light, the siege of Fort Pulaski, the development of the coastal resort, and the evolution of Tybee during the 1960s to 2000. Also included in the book are over 30 pages of pictures of Tybee Island. (I even found a picture of my great aunt and uncle’s house.) In addition, there is an appendix which discusses the unique beach house architecture found on Tybee. No library collection on Georgia, whether general reading, K-12, or research-oriented, would be complete without this informative volume.—Reviewed by Dr. Gordon N. Baker, Clayton State University.
