

Flashbacks: Read, Recall, Renew

Margaret D. Bauer, Editor

Following our 2002 Tenth Anniversary issue, *NCLR* introduced the popular new “Flashbacks” section. Here, special feature topics of previous issues are revisited.

The 2009 issue looks back to *NCLR* 13 (2004), which featured “Ethnic North Carolina,” with M. Luther Stirewalt’s exploration of the unmined literary possibilities in the various and extensive archives of the state’s German heritage. The complementary reprints of period letters from Stirewalt’s ancestors also recall the 1999 Civil War issue, which included nineteenth-century letters from another North Carolina family.

James Magorian’s poem “The Substitute” hearkens back to the perennially popular Civil War issue, with the title alluding to the Civil War practice (Union and Confederate) of hiring a substitute to take one’s place when drafted. Appearing with this poem is art by James Lancel McElhinny, whose work has appeared with earlier Civil War content in our 1997, 1999, and 2002 issues.

The Civil War issue continues to inspire *NCLR*’s editors as well as our readers. When I was invited to lecture on North Carolina’s literary history at the annual conference of the National Association for Developmental Education, held in Greensboro this past spring, Senior Associate Editor Lorraine Robinson, Assistant Editor Randall Martoccia, and I developed a presentation using primarily the Civil War issue to demonstrate how *NCLR* may be employed as a significant resource for North Carolina literary studies in the academy or by the interested general reader. We take this opportunity to thank the NADE conference coordinators Hilda Barrow and Darlene Smith-Worthington, as well as the Southern Writers Symposium coordinators Emily Wright and Brenda Jernigan, who provided another forum for our presentation and thus another opportunity to promote *NCLR*.

NCLR’s 1994 issue featured the 1898 Wilmington Race Riot, which Alex Albright reports he had not heard of prior to receiving an essay on the subject in his early years as editor. The 1994 issue’s special feature section played a part in calling attention to this dark chapter in North Carolina history in time for it to be given a public forum on the 100th anniversary of its occurrence, which then led to the North Carolina General Assembly commissioning an historical record of what is now more appropriately referred to as a coup d’etat. The third “Flashback” in this issue is “Coup” by Michael White, whose poetry collections have been reviewed in past issues of *NCLR*. This poem is the latest addition to the body of writing inspired by the Wilmington insurrection of 1898. *NCLR* 1994 includes essays and sidebars on earlier works of literature inspired by this event, from Charles Chesnut’s novel *The Marrow of Tradition* (1901), published just a few years after the insurrection, to Philip Gerard’s novel *Cape Fear Rising* (1994), published just a few years before the centennial. See also *NCLR* 1999 and 2002, both of which also include articles on Chesnut’s *Marrow of Tradition*.

More thanks go to the North Carolina State Archives for their regular help in finding photographs, including historical photographs like the ones that appear with White’s poem, as well as the photographs from the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association’s annual meeting, which they have regularly provided to accompany our announcements of the year’s literary awards. We here remind our readers that they might subscribe to *NCLR* via membership in the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association, whose history is linked to the North Carolina State Archives. Support for such organizations as “Lit & Hist” is particularly important during these economic times.

Read, recall, renew as you flash back, and order the past issues you missed while supplies last. ■

