An Annotated Bibliography of Florida Fiction, 1801-1980 by Janette C. Gardner

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distinguished publishing house Harcourt, Brace and Jovanovich since moving much of its operation to Orlando.

Nolan tells history the way it should be told. He looks for the people who make history and writes about them and how they did what they did. Florida has an overabundance of interesting characters and superior developers. This historian plows up new anecdotes about our early heroes including Henry Flagler and Henry Plant and moves rapidly along to tip his hat to the real hey dey of the Sunshine State’s exploitation during the boom. He touches all bases reporting on Julia Tuttle, George Merrick, Carl Fisher, Addison Mizner, John Ringling, Mrs. Potter Palmer, an all-star cast of legendary promoters and builders.

D. P. Davis, Nolan writes, was the quintessential boomer. “Floridians took special pride in ‘Doc’ Davis because he rose higher and faster and became richer, than any other native son during the Roaring Twenties,” he notes. This remarkable entreprenuer came to Tampa from Green Cove Springs as a boy, hawked the Tampa Daily Times on the streets during the Spanish-American War, and learned his first lessons in salesmanship. He struck it rich during the boom dredging up the bay to build on several grassy keys and turning them into the exclusive Davis Islands residential section. (Today, he would have been stopped cold by the environmentalists for disturbing the sensitive wetlands). Davis was busy starting a new development in St. Augustine when the boom went bust. Davis after that went abroad on a steamship and was mysteriously lost at sea.

Such are the tales Nolan has spun so well in this excellent panorama of paradise. The book is enriched with an expert selection of photographs that complement Nolan’s picturesque writing.

Hampton Dunn


Florida, long known for its bilious retirees and its bellicose tourists, is less recognized for its belles-lettres. While the literary cognoscenti know of the Florida contributions of Harriet Beecher Stowe, Zora Neale Hurston, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and John D. MacDonald, the state has provided a rich setting for hundreds of other authors. Key West, for example, has attracted scores of literary illuminati to its haven on earth, including Zane Grey, John Dos Passos, Ernest Hemingway, Wallace Stevens, Elizabeth Bishop, Tennessee Williams, Ralph Ellison, John Hersey, Joseph Lash and Philip Caputo.

Research librarians and bibliophiles of Floridiana are indebted to Janette C. Gardner for her exhaustive An Annotated Bibliography of Florida Fiction, 1801-1980. Gardner has amassed 1,101 works of fictional nature with a setting in some part of Florida. The books range from gothic romances set in Florida castles that never were to science fiction novels that were to be. A brief annotation follows each listing.
This reference book should appeal to a variety of readers, who will find some of the more obscure novels ever written: Millard C. Horton’s *Joan of the Everglades* (1922) and Edward Stratemeyer’s *The Moving Picture Girls Under the Palms* (1914). Readers should have great fun in wandering down the eddies and currents of Florida literature. One will discover that the Rev. Michael Smith wrote the state’s first novel in 1830, *The Lost Virgin of the South*. Or that James Fenimore Cooper’s novel *Jack Tier* was placed in Florida, written in 1848 about filibustering off the Florida coast.

Readers interested in the Tampa Bay area will be pleased to know that the region has served as a setting for hundreds of novels. St. Petersburg, by Gardner’s count, has been depicted in twelve such works, including *A Knight Comes Flying*. This 1931 melodrama involved a World War One ace who crash lands his plane in a Pinellas orange grove, only to discover that the grove’s owner is a damsel in distress, victimized by rum-running gangsters. Sarasota has been the setting of fourteen novels, whereas Sanibel, LaBelle, Immokalee, Ruskin, Bartow, and Bradenton serve as the backdrop of one book each. Tampa has been popularized in print forty-one times. Tampa’s two most acclaimed novels are by Rex Beach and José Yglesias. Politically and culturally, they accentuate Tampa’s diversity. Whereas Beach migrated with his family from Michigan to Florida in the 1880s, Yglesias was born in Ybor City in 1919. Beach achieved popular acclaim for his nostalgic renderings of the Florida cattle trade in *Wild Pastures* (1935), where Yglesias sings an elegy to the Latin barrio of his youth, a bittersweet memory etched in *The Truth About Them* (1971) and *A Wake in Ybor City* (1963).

One wishes Gardner had gone beyond the mere indexing of literature and authors and offered readers additional information, such as how many novels or plays featuring a Florida setting have won Pulitzer Prizes. (The answer is two: Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings’ *The Yearling* (1938), and James Gould Cozzens’ *Guard of Honor* (1948), although one might claim Ernest Hemingway’s *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952) violated Florida’s territorial waters.)

Gary R. Mormino


Historians, as Howard N. Rabinowitz points out in his essay on Albuquerque, unlike journalists and politicians have focused scant attention on the “causes and consequences of the (Sunbelt’s) remarkable postwar expansion” (p. 255). The essays included in Richard M. Bernard and Bradley R. Rice’s anthology, *Sunbelt Cities: Politics and Growth Since World War II*, broaden significantly our understanding of the historical dimensions of America’s Sunbelt phenomenon. This volume provides a thought provoking introduction to the similarities as well as the diversity that characterize Sunbelt cities in the United States.

As the editors indicate in their introduction, increasing use of the term Sunbelt has not been accompanied by a commonly accepted definition of the term. Coined by Kevin Phillips in 1969 in *The Emergent Republican Majority*, the “Sunbelt idea” has come to mean “a mix of economics, conservative politics, and demographic change generally associated with the