Profiles
Encouraged:

Tom Gilson

From the Reference Desk
from page 34

An Encyclopedia is volume one of a
projected series of encyclopedias dealing
with the history of science and offers a promising
start.

An area of increasing interest in the field
of literary criticism deals with feminist
theory. The Encyclopedia of Feminist
Literary Theory, also published by Garland
(1997.0-8153-0824-8, $75) gives students a
convenient overview of this growing field
of scholarship. The articles deal with impor-
tant terms and concepts, individual feminist
critics, and specific literary periods. Arrange-
ment is alphabetical with an index at the end
of the volume. Article content is scholarly
but accessible. There are useful bibliogra-
phies with each article, and in fact many of
the articles are informed by a sense of bibli-
ography. In many cases the authors high-
light the significant literature in the field
within the text of the article. In general,
Garland should be complimented on the atten-
tion to bibliography in their one-volume
encyclopedias. However, it would also be
helpful to have a table of contents to assist
readers in getting a better idea of the scope
of the volume and a better developed “see
also” cross referencing arrangement. The
History of Astronomy: An Encyclopedia did
not seem to have any “see also” references
and the Encyclopedia of Feminist Literary
Theory had some but they were in the index
rather than conveniently placed with the ar-
ticles themselves. Overall, however, both
sources are worthwhile contributions which
deserve consideration by reference libra-
rians collecting in these areas.

Letters from Oklahoma
from page 36

in order to perform miracles to store away
against beautility in the future. But a look
at the titles in their lists and I am reassured
that there are publishers in business who
personally care about their authors and their
books. I suspect that the same applies to
the next two publishers, even though Algonquin
Books of Chapel Hill is a division of Work-
man Publishing in New York, and the His-
torical Publications Section of the North
Carolina Division of Archives and History
is part of the Department of Cultural Re-
sources. The lists of these two houses speak
well of Workman and the Tarheel State,
sometimes known as the Old North State.

The North Carolina catalog is 1/2 inch
narrower than Parkway’s but standing up
they are head to toe the same height. It
contains sections on the Civil War (the War
Between the States), rosters of North Caro-
lina troops from 1861-1865 (both of my
families are represented on those rolls),
Coastal North Carolina (Triumph at Kitty
Hawk: The Wright Brothers and Powered
Flight by Thomas C. Farramore), North
Carolina’s African American Heritage (The
Black Experience in North Carolina by Jef-
frey J. Crow), and Life and Culture in North
Carolina (A History of Sports in North Caro-
olina by Jim L. Sumner and The Textile In-
dustry in North Carolina: A History by Brent
D. Glass) to name but a few.

In addition to its regularly catalog of
publications, Algonquin Books also issues a
wonderful series called The Algonkin.
If you have never seen it, write to Algonquin
Books at P.O. Box 2225, Chapel Hill, NC
27515-2225. “The Algonkin is a small per-
iodical about books, authors, and publish-
ing, prepared from time to time for the friends
of Algonquin and any others who might
take joy in it. . . . The Algonkin is distributed
greatly to such ends as to receive it by Work-
man Publishing, 708 Broadway, New York,
NY 10003.” Thank you, Workman Publish-
ing. More about The Algokian at another
time.

The Algonquin catalog is 8 1/2 x 11”
and features a cover illustration by Pat
Scheible — an overflowing bowl of fruit
with two trumpet blowing angels above and
to either side. It looks like fall to me. You
might expect to find books about North Caro-
lina or by North Carolinians in this catalog
and sure enough, the first book listed is Jill
McCorkle’s Carolina Moon. “Its geogra-
phical setting is the part of eastern North Caro-
lina I grew up in, a town that is near both
the ocean and a river.” This is how Jill McCorkle
describes her fifth (and latest) novel, For
the full story and a picture of Ms. McCorkle,
see pages 17-19 in the June 1996 issue of
The Algokian, the one with a picture of
Blind Lemon Jefferson on the cover.

Algonquin also publishes the fiction of
Chapel Hill resident Lee Smith and features
her The Christmas Letters: A Novella, also
described in the Blind Lemon Jefferson is-
ique of The Algokian and there is a picture
of Ms. Smith there, too. In this same issue of
the Algonquin fall catalog is another Chris-
tmas book, Let Us Now Praise Christmas
Cooking: A Reminiscence and a Recipe by
Camille Glen. The catalog entry lists a few
of the recipes by name only: Oyster and
Clam Chowder, Easy Bread Sticks, Colo-

nial Gingerbread, Tangerine Sherbet and
Winter Crystal Cookies, Creole Shrimp with
Rice, and New Orleans Madeleines. On page
31 of the June 1996 Algokian there is a full
recipe from the book, for “Four Star Corn-
meal Butterflycake Biscuits.”

Algonquin’s fall 1996 list also includes
Yak Butter and Black Tea: A Journey into
Forbidden China by Wade Brackenbury, 100
Flowers and How They Got Their Names,
by Diana Wells. Illustrations by Ippy
Patterson. Good Bugs For Your Garden,
written and illustrated by Allison Mia
Starcher, and The Emperor’s Virtual Clothes:
continued on page 78

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>