

years of close collaboration between Dr. Turner and Elders from a number of British Columbia First Nations. The mutual respect shared by Dr. Turner and the Elders is clear from the detailed information which they have provided to her and the care with which she has presented it. She emphasizes the need for paying attention to strictly sustainable harvesting, taking precautions against excessive consumption or incorrect preparation, and recognizing the intellectual property rights of First Nations peoples. *Food Plants of Coastal First Peoples* is an excellent book for showing people of any culture the continuing value of traditional ecological knowledge.

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### References

Turner, Nancy J.

- 1997 *Food Plants of Interior First Peoples*. Seattle: University of Washington Press Press.
- 1991 *Traditional Plant Foods of Canadian Indigenous Peoples: Nutrition, Botany and Use*. Philadelphia: Gordon and Breach Science Publishers.

Waselkov, Gregory A. and Kathryn E. Holland Braund (Editors): *William Bartram on the Southeast Indians*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995, ISBN 0-8032-4772-9 Cloth USA \$46.50.

William Bartram, born in 1739 to Pennsylvania Quaker parents, grew up in a household filled with enthusiasm for and knowledge of botany and natural history. His father, John Bartram, was "the best-known gardener and plant taxonomist in Britain's North American colonies and a correspondent of Linnaeus" (p.3). The younger Bartram had the opportunity to accompany his father on an expedition to survey the vegetation of East Florida commissioned by King George III in 1765. This trip sparked a strong interest in the region, its flora and fauna, and its Aboriginal population in the young man. In 1772 William Bartram sought and obtained the patronage of Dr. John Fothergill, a London Quaker with important business and scientific connections in Britain, to collect botanical specimens in the southern colonies. Bartram journeyed for the next four years in the region, and was

in frequent contact with its Muscogulge (Upper Creek, Lower Creek, and Seminole) and Cherokee inhabitants. In this volume Waselkov and Braund have compiled the writings and observations made by Bartram of these encounters.

Three major sources provide the texts printed here. The first is Bartram's famous work first published in 1791, *Travels Through North & South Carolina, Georgia, East & West Florida, the Cherokee Country, the Extensive Territories of the Muscogulges, or Creek Confederacy, and the Country of the Chactaws...* Although this work has been frequently reprinted, here the editors present only those portions of the text which describe encounters with Native people or descriptions of their culture (including the culture of their ancestors, as Bartram recorded the prehistoric earthworks encountered in his travels). The second source has also been previously published, in a text edited by E.G. Squire, in 1853. Entitled "Observations of the Creek and Cherokee Indians...", it was included in the *Transactions of the American Ethnological Society*. This volume is extremely rare, it being reported that only 25 survived a fire which destroyed the remainder of the print run of the publication. The third source is a manuscript from the papers of Henry Knox, who as Secretary for War had responsibility for Indian affairs in the early years of the American republic. It bears the title "Some Hints & Observations, concerning the civilization of the Indians, or Aborigines of America". It is not clear when or why (or even if) Knox solicited the manuscript. Waselkov and Braund feel it was written sometime between 1787 and 1790.

Bartram's writings provide a fascinating glimpse of the complex economy and polity on the Native side of the frontier at a time of major political upheaval in His Majesty's American colonies. Bartram is candid about the sources of much of his information, so one can make some judgement about the validity of the data presented. He did rely on traders and other non-Indians for some of his information, but he brought to his questions much less cultural bias than most 18th-century observers of foreign cultures. His botanical knowledge led him to bring a precision to his observations of plant use lacking in most other sources. These botanical interests are reflected in the name given him by the Muscogulges, "PUC PUGGY or the Flower hunter" (p.15).

One could cite numerous passages in Bartram's writings that reflect his positive view of the Aboriginal peoples he knew. Here I will only mention two, both found in the manuscript among the papers of Henry Knox. "Who," Bartram asked, "has a stronger claim to this Country than the Indians?" (p.197). In the same document he writes of "the Treaties, betwixt the Indians & Europeans, from the earliest invasions of the latter" (p.197). As the editors

of this volume point out (p.284), the use of the word "invasions" to describe the European colonizing of North America at this early date is unusual to say the least.

Also found in this volume are copies of sketches made by Bartram of occupied towns that he visited and earthworks which dominated settlements no longer occupied. Bartram's originals for these do not survive, however, and a comparison of copies presumably made from the same original provides a sobering experience for those using such historical evidence. It is useful that the editors chose to reproduce all the variant copies.

The contribution of Waselkov and Braund has greatly enhanced the value of Bartram's words. They provide detailed introductions to each text and provide a useful assessment of Bartram's writings. Their annotations to the text are very extensive (occupying pp.215-290) and very useful. Their work has made widely available a valuable collection of observations on late 18th-century cultures of southeastern North America.

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