

Dear Readers,

Last fall, *NCLR* sent out a call for papers for our planned special feature section on the Civil War in North Carolina. Interestingly, most of the submissions received dealt with the effects of the Civil War – the Reconstruction period in North Carolina (see Sharon Kennedy-Nolle's article on two North Carolina-based magazines that were inspired by Confederate loyalties); post-Civil War plantation literature, a genre in which North Carolina writers are still producing (see Mary Ann Wilson's article on Kaye Gibbons's new novel *On the Occasion of My Last Afternoon*); and the continued influence of the Civil War upon North Carolina citizens (see Patrick Huber's article on Civil War reenactments in North Carolina). We did receive some submissions focusing on the Civil War period itself, including especially, Mary Bayard Clarke's description of Sherman's invasion of Raleigh, edited by Terry Crow and Mary Barden.

*NCLR* also announced a special feature section on the plantation fiction of Charles Waddell Chesnutt, which has been expanded to Ante- and Postbellum North Carolina Plantation Literature, in order to include some other provocative submissions (like Heidi Jacobs's article on Caroline Lee Hentz and Harriet Ann Jacobs). We are excited to include in this section, too, a previously uncollected short story by Charles Chesnutt himself.

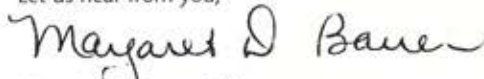
We have only just received responses to the NC Food Finds call for submissions in our last issue, so we hope to have this new column in the 2000 issue (see last page of issue for details). Our website is now up and its development is coming along.

Once again I will take this opportunity to thank the numerous people who have helped me throughout the year, beginning with the *NCLR* editorial and office staff. Most especially, I wish to express my overwhelming gratitude to Senior Associate Editor Lorraine Robinson, who volunteers her time not only revising manuscripts, but also going to Raleigh and Chapel Hill in search of images for us. I have been truly blessed this year with Graduate Assistants Michele Ward and Ellyn Felts Hassell, who took over and organized much of *NCLR*'s business and correspondence. I again thank Art Director Mary Thiesen, who designs the issue evenings and weekends after spending a full day/week doing the same kind of work at ECU's Publications office. I am also particularly grateful to volunteer assistant editors Glenda Jakubowski and Randall Martocchia. Several of my ECU colleagues have read manuscripts for us this year (please see Editorial Board for list); I thank them all, but I will mention in particular our new fiction editor Luke Whisnant, who is also working on developing the links on our website, and Sally Lawrence, who designed the website. I again also thank Alex Albright, *NCLR*'s founding editor, who continues to be a cheerful and supportive source of advice; Angel Savage, who manages our budget; Pat Bizzaro and Debbie Little, who assigned our graduate assistants; Kim Seavey and Kim Thompson, who handle our deposits and other paperwork; O. Bruce Southard, Chair of the ECU English Department; W. Keats Sparrow, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at ECU; the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association for its support of *NCLR*; and the North Carolina Arts Council for the Project Support Literature Grant. Finally, I want to say thanks to this issue's contributors – writers, photographers, and artists – and to the librarians and museum curators all over the state who helped us find many of the images for this issue.

We hope you will enjoy the special feature sections as well as our creative writing, book review, and North Carolina writers sections. And if you do, we hope you will subscribe or renew your subscription to *NCLR* and buy a friend a copy of the issue or a gift subscription.

I have appreciated the positive feedback I received from so many of *NCLR* readers regarding the 1998 issue, so now –

Let us hear from you,



Margaret D. Bauer, Editor