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**GENERAL ISSUE**

Editor's Introduction ... Douglas B. Chambers 5

**INTERVIEW**

The Scribe of River Lake Plantation: A Conversation  
with Ernest J. Gaines ... Anne Gray Brown 9

**ESSAYS**

The Southern Way of Death: The Meaning of Death  
in Antebellum White Evangelical Culture ... Randy J. Sparks 32

Marginal Spaces, Marginal Texts:  
Alice Dunbar-Nelson  
and the African American Prose Poem ... Adenike Marie Davidson 51

Mastering Childhood: Paternalism, Slavery, and  
the Southern Domestic in Caroline Howard  
Gilman's Antebellum Children's Literature ... Gale L. Kenny 65

Reading Trees in Southern Literature ... Matthew Wynn Sivils 88

**FICTION**

The Long Road South ... James Steward Corne 103

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAY**

Kilmer's Promotion of Poe ... Burton R. Pollin 120

**REVIEW ESSAY**

Between Midnight & Day: The Last  
Unpublished Blues Archive ... Robert Snyder 151

**On the Cover: The small church/school on the property of Ernest J. Gaines,  
River Lake Plantation, Oscar, Louisiana. Color photograph by Anne Gray Brown**

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bibliography of the Visual Arts and  
Architecture, Part XVIII ... Judith H. Bonner 160

## BOOK REVIEWS

- Mark Twain & Company:  
Six Literary Relations.*  
By Leland Krauth. ... Michael J. Kiskis 185

- Fetching the Old Southwest: Humorous  
Writing from Longstreet to Twain.*  
By James H. Justus. ... Gregg Camfield 188

- Reclaiming the American Farmer:  
The Reinvention of a Regional Mythology  
in Twentieth-Century Southern Writing.*  
By Mary Weaks-Baxter. ... William Conlogue 191

- Race Mixing: Southern Fiction  
Since the Sixties.*  
By Suzanne W. Jones. ... W. Lawrence Hogue 194