

1-1-1976

Book Review: Colonial Mobile, by Peter J. Hamilton: edited by Charles G. Summersell

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

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Recommended Citation

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society (1976) "Book Review: Colonial Mobile, by Peter J. Hamilton: edited by Charles G. Summersell," *Huntsville Historical Review*. Vol. 6: No. 1, Article 5.
Available at: <https://louis.uah.edu/huntsville-historical-review/vol6/iss1/5>

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COLONIAL MOBILE, by Peter J. Hamilton: edited by Charles G. Summersell (The University of Alabama Press, \$17.50).

"Colonial Mobile," still regarded as the best history of Mobile and the surrounding area in colonial times, has just been reprinted by the University Of Alabama in its "Southern Historical Publications" series.

First published in 1897 and revised in 1910, it long has been a scarce item in Alabama bibliography, even though it was reprinted in 1952.

This edition is very important in Alabama historiography, for it has been edited and annotated by Charles Summersell of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, the doyan of Alabama historians.

Summersell has prepared a superb introduction about Hamilton, not only providing us with an excellent biography of the man, but giving us at the same time an overview of the history of Mobile and placing Hamilton in historical perspective.

Summersell has also included a select bibliography that could well serve as a vasis for developing a library collection of material on Alabama history. Libraries around this state would do well to check their holdings against this bibliography, and add any missing titles. Individuals interested in Alabama history should do the same.

The price of the book is high, but you certainly get your money's worth. A "must" acqui-

sition for all libraries and individuals interested in Alabama history.

