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Book Review: Mississippi, A Bicentennial History, by John Ray Skates

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

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The history of Mississippi has been so entwined with ours that all Alabamians should read this bicentennial salute to her. One of her best, if not the best, of the entire series of Norton's "The States and the Nation," this volume achieves the goals of the series; to present the significant events and special conditions that have moulded a state and have made that state a distinct entity different from all the others. This is good history, factual yet interpretative, often probing deeply beneath the surface. Mississippi is often an enigma to outsiders, even to Mississippians, and Skates, chairman of the history department at the University of Southern Mississippi, has given us a balanced view of her virtues and faults, explaining why and how Mississippi has been so misunderstood.

Editor