

*27 Views of Wilmington: The Port City in Prose & Poetry*. Hillsborough: Eno Publishers, 2015. 205 pp. \$15.95. ISBN 978-0-9896092-3-4.

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*27 Views of Wilmington*, with an introduction by local author Celia Rivenbark, is a collection of both prose and poetry selections that detail the history, culture, and people of Wilmington, North Carolina. Specifically, Wilmington is known as a center of the film industry with several popular shows like *One Tree Hill* and the TV show *Matlock* having been filmed nearby. Additionally, Wilmington is the location for several popular tourist attractions such as the *USS North Carolina*, the annual North Carolina Azalea Festival, Fort Fisher, and the popular Cape Fear River waterfront. Besides these facts, Wilmington is the birthplace of popular TV personalities, namely, David Brinkley, Charles Kuralt, and Charlie Daniels. Visitors to Wilmington can also view loggerhead turtles on Wrightsville Beach, take scenic riverboat tours on the Cape Fear River, or enjoy the local nightlife along Front Street or Market Street. Like other cities, Wilmington has overcome some unrest during its historical development. Specifically, on November 10, 1898, several local businessmen and the North Carolina "Redeemer" Democratic Party used local armed guards (named "Red Shirts") to keep black residents from voting. Despite some turbulent chapters in its historical development, Wilmington has become in modern times a popular state retirement center.

This book is the final installment of the popular Eno Publishers *27 Views* series. Other titles are as follows: *27 Views of Greensboro*, *27 Views of Charlotte*, *27 Views of Raleigh*, *27 Views of Durham*, *27 Views of Asheville*, *27 Views of Chapel Hill*, and *27 Views of Hillsborough*. In *27 Views of Wilmington*, twenty-seven different authors from the Wilmington area contribute both prose as well as selections of poetry to the compilation, and give their unique perspectives of the Wilmington area. Interestingly, the contributors are employed as UNC-Wilmington faculty in the Creative Writing or Masters in Fine Arts Program, Cape Fear Community College faculty, a former UNC-Wilmington Chancellor, the widow of the co-pilot for *United Airlines Flight 93*, or local radio station commentators. Each selection in *27 Views of Wilmington* ends with a short biography of the contributor. The book is divided into specific sections entitled, "A Place Called Home," "Close-Ups," "A World Apart," "Street Scenes," "Views from Before," "Views from 1898 & Beyond," and "Views in Fiction." Although the book does not contain any specific illustrations, one illustration on the book's cover does depict popular Wilmington area landmarks, including Airlie Gardens and the Bellamy Mansion.

Ultimately, *27 Views of Wilmington* offers a glimpse into the daily lives of the "Port City's" residents. After completing this book, readers can begin to understand the events which have shaped Wilmington's past and which may serve a valuable role in its future. Because of its specific scope and subject matter, *27 Views of Wilmington* would be suitable for inclusion in a public or academic library with a local history focus.

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