

M. Anna Fariello. *Cherokee Basketry: From the Hands of our Elders*. Charleston: The History Press, 2009. 160 pp. \$12.99. ISBN 978-1-59629-721-0

The original version of this article was published in the Fall/Winter 2009 issue of *North Carolina Libraries*

Basket weaving is one example of a craft which has become an integral part of Native American culture throughout history. Specifically, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians have used the natural resources available to them over the centuries to create intricately-woven baskets.

Cherokee Basketry: From the Hands of our Elders describes for readers the history of basket-weaving, the functions of baskets, and the different types available for daily usage. Anna Fariello begins by providing her audience with some historical background of the Cherokee and what role events may have played in the development of basket weaving as a trade. In 1838, large contingents of Cherokee Indians were systematically uprooted from their ancestral homeland and were forced to relocate to Oklahoma in the "Trail of Tears." During this arduous journey, entire Cherokee families relied on baskets to carry precious items which were deemed too valuable to leave behind. During the 20th century, Cherokee families used baskets to gather materials, process items or serve meals. Eventually, various types of baskets, including fish baskets, storage baskets, and "burden baskets" emerged with specific uses and became part of Cherokee livelihood. The author describes "burden baskets" as one type of basket which enabled the individual carrier to transport needed items on their backs. Over time, Cherokee basket makers began to rely on natural resources to construct their baskets, including honeysuckle and "rivercane," a type of cane plant which was indigenous to the riverbeds and creeks of the Southeast.

Author Fariello divides her book into different sections: a historical essay on the Cherokee and their history, the functions of baskets, types of baskets, and a biographical sketch of fourteen Cherokee women who are recognized for their contributions to the Cherokee basket weaving trade in western North Carolina. The author includes an extensive bibliography and a section of color photographs to showcase the different basket weaving patterns available to the public such as the "arrow," "chief's daughter," "cross-on-a-hill," and "fishbone" designs.

Anna Fariello is employed as an associate research professor at Western Carolina University and is directing the production, "From the Hands of our Elders" which seeks to highlight 20th century Cherokee crafts. Previously, she was a research fellow at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Archives of American Art. Fariello has contributed research on Native American craft and is co-author of the textbook, *Objects and Meaning: New Perspectives on Art and Craft*.

Cherokee Basketry: From the Hands of our Elders is intended to help readers comprehend the historical importance of baskets to Cherokee culture and the author delineates effectively how weaving the different types of baskets is a skill which is transferred primarily from mother to daughter. This book would be well-suited for inclusion in any public or academic library with an interest in Native American crafts.

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