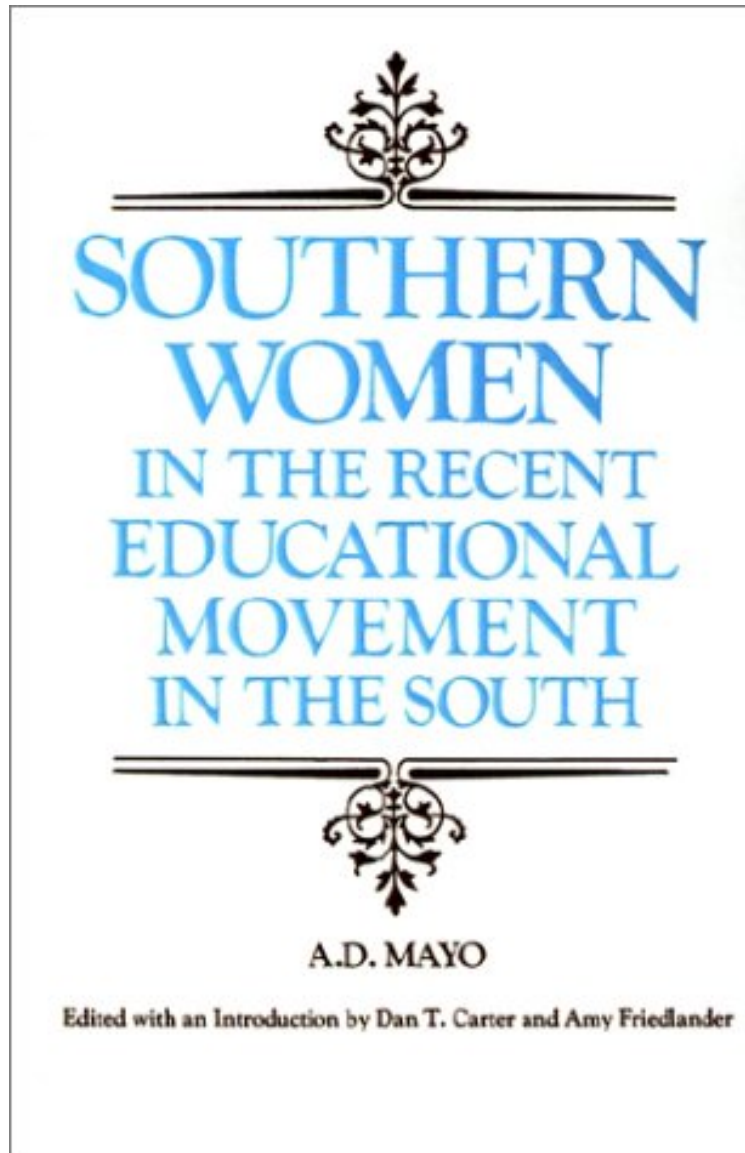


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## **Southern Women in the Recent Educational Movement in the South (Southern Literary Studies)**

*From Amory Dwight Mayo*

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**From Amory Dwight Mayo : Southern Women in the Recent Educational Movement in the South (Southern Literary Studies)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Southern Women in the Recent Educational Movement in the South (Southern Literary Studies):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Real GemBy Clifton C. HawkinsThis work is a real gem. It consists of the memoir [translated from the French] of Jean-Charles Houzeau's years at the \*New Orleans Tribune\* during part of the Civil War and Reconstruction [pp. 69-153]; a harrowing letter to a friend describing Houzeau's hairbreath escape from death during the infamous New Orleans pogrom of 1866 [pp. 155-161]; and a long, annotated introduction by the volume's editor, David C. Rankin [pp. 1-67]. Houzeau was a white Belgian [first and most fluent language French] whose amazing life included "passing for black" while editing the first African-American daily in the United States. \*The New Orleans Tribune\* was a voice for racial equalitarianism, class justice, and other progressive causes at a time when such voices were rare indeed. Houzeau's account of his experiences in New Orleans is evocative and brilliant. He describes and analyzes the tensions between the prewar free French/Creole elite [considered "black" or "colored" by the whites, and as a favored, distinct group by themselves], the dilemmas of a radical working in a reformist environment, and other topics. I at first resented the length of Rankin's introduction [I'm generally dissatisfied when the length of the scholarly apparatus of an original source compares to or exceeds the document itself] but long before I finished I was wishing for a full-length biography, and, even more, for an edition of additional Houzeau's writings, not only his articles and editorials for his paper, but especially his private letters to friends and family [which have apparently never been published, much less translated into English].

Like many other northern clergymen after the Civil War, A. D. Mayo became interested in the role that education could play in rebuilding southern society. From 1880 to 1900 he traveled from Virginia to Texas as an educational missionary advocating the "new education" theories of the 1840s and 1850s. In time he came to be considered one of the most perceptive observers of southern education during the period from the end of Reconstruction to the rise of the Redeemer governments in the 1890s. Mayo was convinced that the changes in southern society that Reconstruction had failed to bring about could be realized under a sound educational system. Learning, he believed, should be based on individual needs rather than on rote memorization of facts, and teachers should be recruited from those trained in the civilizing values. In *Southern Women*, Mayo set forth at length the ideas that southern white women were the ideal ones to transmit learning to the young blacks. Stressing the greatly expanding role of these women because of the war, Mayo saw them as a kind of elite trained in the ideals and culture of the Old South, but receptive to the values of the New South. In their introduction Dan Carter and Amy Friedlander place Mayo in the context of nineteenth-century intellectual and social currents and provide an interesting perspective on his often surprisingly contemporary-sounding ideas on education.

Language NotesText: English, French (translation)About the AuthorDan T. Carter is Educational Foundation University Professor at the University of South Carolina and former president of the Southern Historical Association. He is also the author of *The Politics of Rage: George Wallace, the Origins of the New Conservatism, and the Transformation of American Politics*; *From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich: Race in the Conservative Counterrevolution, 1963-1994*; *When the War Was Over: The Failure of Self Reconstruction in the South*; and *Scottsboro: A Tragedy of the American South*. Amy Friedlander is Special Projects Associate at the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), where she is assigned full-time to the Library of Congress's national program on long term preservation of digital content.