

As an aspiring author, I have a keen interest and personal investment in the publishing industry. When I was offered an editorial internship at NewSouth Books, a small publisher and bookstore in Montgomery, Alabama that specializes in Southern literature, I jumped on the opportunity to go behind-the-scenes at a publishing company and to experience first-hand the publishing process.

Three memoirs defined my first month at NewSouth : H. Brandt Ayers's *In Love with Defeat*, Sue Pickett's *The Path Was Steep*, and Tasia Malakasis' *Tasia's Table*. I single-handedly created the index and photo-insert for Ayers's memoir, a tome on the two "New Souths," using InDesign, a form of publishing software. I also proofread Pickett's narrative, a "cultural artifact" that examines her life in Depression-era Kentucky, and discussed how best to publish this posthumous work with NewSouth's editor-in-chief. Finally, I worked closely with NewSouth's managing editor to proof Malakasis' cookbook, which highlights the author's Greek heritage and love of Southern cuisine, before its first printing.

My second month at NewSouth began with an unusual task: rewriting a 500+ page manuscript on the Lakeshore Foundation, a nonprofit organization for the disabled. NewSouth's editor-in-chief gave me 162 pages to cull, which I did at a breakneck speed: three days. I also had the opportunity to work directly with Larry Greenly, the author of *Eugene Bullard: World's First Black Fighter Pilot*, a middle-grade biography. By the end of the summer, I became the author's main editor and the book's chief designer.

While some of my other projects, like updating bookseller contact information or packaging ARCs for reviewers, were tedious, they showed me how closely connected my editorial assignments were to the publishing industry as a whole, an industry I hope to be a part of long-term. At the end of the summer, I was offered a part-time job working remotely as an editorial assistant from my home in Birmingham, Alabama. I feel lucky to have a job that not only involves my undergraduate majors, Latin and English, but also furthers my post-graduate plans: writing and publishing my own novels and short stories.