

## PREFACE

There has been no complete biographical study of Elise Sanguinetti published although several sketches of her life are available. One, prepared by McGraw-Hill, the author's publisher, can be found in the Southern Collection of the Birmingham Public Library, Birmingham, Alabama; another, entitled "Elise Sanguinetti: An Alabama Author," by Sarah Woodruff Bass is on file in the English Department, office of Dr. Ray M. Atchison, Sanford University, Birmingham, Alabama. Neither of the sketches is very detailed, nor do they include any attempt at an interpretation of Mrs. Sanguinetti's total work. They are brief statements about various experiences of her life.

Considering Elise Sanguinetti's ever-growing contribution to the literary field in general and the Southern scene specifically, it now seems necessary that one know more about this promisingly prolific writer. The purpose of this thesis, therefore, is primarily threefold: first, to show that there is conclusive evidence to support the theory that while Mrs. Sanguinetti's work is not as strongly autobiographical as, for example, that of Thomas Wolfe's, it is nevertheless based heavily upon experiences encountered throughout her lifetime; second, to analyze each

novel, according to the basic tenets of a novel--that is, setting, plot, characterization, style, and philosophy; and, third, to present critical reactions to the author's work.

Presentation of information in this thesis is relatively simple. First, since there is no extant biography of the author, a short biography is included as the first chapter and followed by three chapters devoted to a discussion of each of Mrs. Sanguinetti's first three published novels (following the chronological order of their appearance). These chapters are summarized in a final conclusion in which all of the author's works are subjected to a general analysis and presented along with a summary of critical opinion.

The sources of information for this paper are a close reading of the novels, critical opinions taken from Mrs. Sanguinetti's scrapbook (a collection of the review-clippings which have appeared in newspapers and periodicals throughout the United States), and personal interviews and letters from the author.

A special word of explanation should be given regarding the form of footnotes and bibliography. Some of the standard information--page numbers, etc.--has been omitted, usually in newspaper references. These items were omitted

from the clippings in the Sanguinetti Scrapbook and thus have been omitted from footnotes and the bibliography. It is believed, however, that enough pertinent information has been given for a researcher. For further consultation, one may see a microfilm copy of the Sanguinetti Scrapbook on deposit in the Samford University Library.

While writing this thesis has been primarily an individual endeavor, there are nevertheless several people to whom much gratitude is owed. Among these are the countless number of librarians who have gathered materials about Southern authors in general and Mrs. Sanguinetti in particular, the literary clipping service which made possible the Sanguinetti Scrapbook, and, of course, the many professors who have labored to teach me the skill of legible sentence construction and an insight into the values of good literature.

Further, to Mrs. Sanguinetti I owe an immense debt of gratitude as well as a frustrated "You're right; writing is tremendously hard work" and a deeper understanding of her statement, "Sometimes I wish I had never seen a typewriter...I couldn't live without it."

Also, I wish to thank Dr. Charles Workman for giving helpful suggestions while I was getting my research underway; Mrs. Frances Owens for serving as a second reader of

my manuscript; and Miss Amelia Walston for her typing par excellence.

It is, however, to Dr. Ray Atchison that I feel most indebted, for it is he who through constant encouragement gave me the confidence needed to complete this undertaking. Perhaps he can understand that my admiration and devotion to him are based not only upon his ability as a professor and advisor but also as a rare individual who willingly shares his time helping those who are not yet ready to solo. To him, my advisor, I offer a sincere "thanks."

Peggy Ann Buzbee

July 4, 1970