

# THE MARKET PREPARATION OF CAROLINA RICE

## *An Illustrated History of Innovations in the Lowcountry Rice Kingdom*

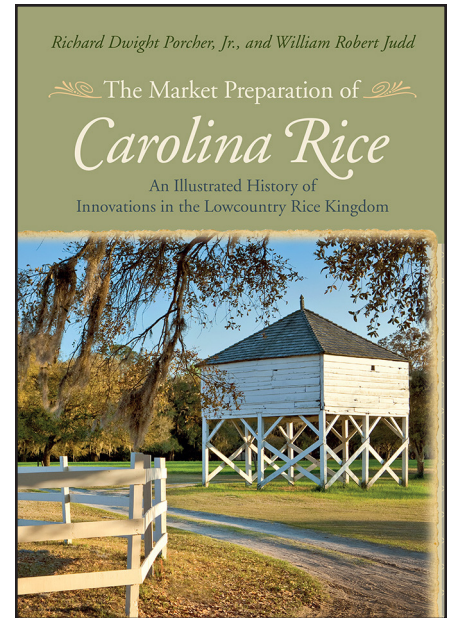
### Richard Dwight Porcher, Jr., and William Robert Judd

Richard Dwight Porcher, Jr., eminent field biologist and lowcountry South Carolina native, has brought all of his skills as a botanist, historian, photographer, and conservationist to bear in a multidisciplinary study of the rice industry in South Carolina from its beginnings in the 1670s to its demise in the twentieth century. Using the tools of the geographer, civil engineer, draftsman and close readings of many primary and secondary sources on the history of rice culture in the colony and state, Porcher and coauthor William Robert Judd have amassed a great body of previously unknown information on rice history.

Detailed illustrations and descriptions of the implements and machines featuring technology used to prepare Carolina rice for overseas markets, *The Market Preparation of Carolina Rice* includes 161 illustrations, most of them meticulously hand-drafted by Judd expressly for this edition. The book begins with the preindustrial implements and techniques used by African and African American slaves and workers in the late 1600s and early 1700s and concludes with the water- and steam-powered machines that drove rice threshing and milling until the end of the industry in 1911. In great detail the authors reveal the immense, continually evolving technological innovations of an agricultural industry that spanned the Industrial Revolution and much of the history of the colony and state.

Porcher stands at odds with theories held by most historians of rice culture, and believes that decline was retarded by continuous technological innovation and increasing investment in land, labor, and mechanization as local planters sought to sustain profits in a globally expanding market. Porcher asserts that the post-Civil War loss of slave labor and destruction of infrastructure, a series of hurricanes, competition from rice grown in the American Southwest starting in 1880, and financial restraints that led to the cessation of rice culture in lowcountry South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia. Impoverished and unable to adapt to new technologies and market demands, rice planters left the commercial rice enterprise to others.

June 2014, 408 pages, 33 color and 128 b&w illus.



**Richard Dwight Porcher, Jr.**, professor emeritus at the Citadel and adjunct professor of biological sciences at Clemson University, is the author of *Wildflowers of the Carolina Lowcountry and Lower Pee Dee* and the coauthor of *A Guide to the Wildflowers of South Carolina* (both published by the University of South Carolina Press) and *The Story of Sea Island Cotton*.

**William Robert Judd**, a self-taught draftsman/artist, archaeologist, and historian, is retired from the U.S. Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command.

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