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Note: For photos, see end of release.

PICTURES WORTH THOUSANDS OF WORDS THE FIRST IMAGES OF THE NEW WORLD AND THE ARTIST BEHIND THEM

(Chapel Hill, NC) Reproducing the complete collection of drawings and watercolors made by colonist and gentleman-artist John White, Kim Sloan's *A New World: England's First View of America* takes readers through a visual and literary odyssey of a budding colony's first years.

Sloan takes a new approach to studying early American colonial life. She examines the artistic work of White, who in 1585 accompanied a group of English settlers sent by Sir Walter Raleigh to found the colony on Roanoke Island in coastal North Carolina. White, who later served as Governor of the Lost Colony, was responsible for making visual records of everything he saw that was then unknown in England, including plants, animals, and birds. He also produced images of the native inhabitants of the New World, taking special care to record their dress, weapons, tools, and ceremonies.

A New World is the only book in print to reproduce all 75 of White's explorative iconic images. These visual records are not only the earliest surviving English watercolors, but also the oldest remaining images of North American Indians. From White's pictures, readers are able to view Native Americans and European settlers at the point of first contact in the New World.

Co-published by the British Museum Press, this lavishly illustrated book explores White's role as a colonist, surveyor, and artist in colonial America. Sloan's introduction of White and the nature of his work is followed by three specially commissioned essays by Joyce E. Chaplin, Christian Feest, and Ute Kuhleemann. These essays cover John White himself, as well as the

[more]

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indigenous inhabitants he depicted and provide historical context for his work.

Sloan's book offers an in-depth look at a man who supplied not only images of unfamiliar biological and geographical terrain, but who provided a look at a now-lost American Indian culture and way of life. White's pictures give readers the first visual records of colonial life and examine new ideas that have emerged in the last twenty years about Native Americans and the importance of the New World. His images are some of the only records that allow readers to view characteristics of the mysterious Lost Colony of Roanoke Island.

The publication of *A New World* is especially timely as it coincides with the 400th anniversary of the founding of America's first permanent English settlement in Jamestown, Virginia. The book also highlights the works that are appearing in a traveling exhibit of the British Museum's collection of White's drawings. The exhibit will open in Britain in the spring and will travel to the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh, North Carolina in fall 2007, marking the first time White's drawings will appear in the United States since 1985.

Kim Sloan is curator of British drawings and watercolors and Francis Finlay Curator of the Enlightenment Gallery in the British Museum. Her three previous books include *"A Noble Art": Amateur Artists and Drawing Masters, c. 1600-1800* (British Museum Press, 2000) and *Enlightenment: Discovering the World in the Eighteenth Century* (Harper Collins, 2003).

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A NEW WORLD

England's First View of America

by Kim Sloan

The University of North Carolina Press

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The text of this release, and other materials for media use, including a selection of the illustrations from the book, are available at www.ibiblio.org/uncp/media/sloan.

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