

Editor's Shelf

editor's shelf

by Kathryn Mora

The purpose of Editor's Shelf is to highlight the following: new editions of important previously published works; reissues of significant works that had been out of print; U.S. editions of works published elsewhere in English; additional volumes in a publisher's series that *MultiCultural Review* has reviewed; translations; previously published works that have been reissued in a new form, such as audiocassettes, audio CDs, floppy disks, CD-ROM, or DVD; and online reference sources. Paperback reprints are not included unless the reprint contains at least some new material. The initial releases in a publisher's series and works that have undergone major changes in the course of their republication in new edition or new media will receive full-fledged reviews in *MCR*. The Publisher Directory contains addresses and phone numbers of publishers whose works appear in Editor's Shelf.

NEW EDITIONS

Hinojosa, Rolando. ***Dear Rafe/Mi querido Rafe***. Houston, Tex.: Arte Público Press, 2005. 272 pp. Bilingual (English-Spanish) ed. Series: Klail City Death Trip. ISBN 1-55885-456-8, \$14.95 (pb).

This new bilingual edition by the noted Mexican-American mystery writer contains universal stories about fools and heroes and borders among cultures, languages, and generations. The book is one of the first in the Klail City Death Trip series, which depicts the fictional south Texas town in the 1960s. College students and general readers will find the book insightful and compelling. The first edition of the book was published in 1981, by the same press, with an English version appearing in 1985.

The new bilingual volume includes an introduction by Manuel Martin-Rodriguez, professor at University of California in Merced, and a bibliography of Hinojosa's extensive work along with secondary sources.

Howard-Pitney, David. ***The African American Jeremiad: Appeals for Justice in America***. Philadelphia: Temple Univ. Press, 2005. 277 pp. ISBN 1-59213-415-7, \$24.95 (pb).

This updated and expanded volume reminds readers that African-American social activism through the written and spoken word is alive and strong. Readers at the secondary level and up will learn that prominent African-Americans have protested social injustice and promoted change through their essays and speeches. Howard-Pitney looked at activists in history who have voiced their concern about injustice; these include Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Ida B. Wells, W. E. B. Du Bois, Mary McLeod Bethune, Martin Luther King Jr., and Malcolm X, as well as contemporary figures such as Jesse Jackson and Alan Keyes.

Also included are a preface, an introduction, a conclusion, notes, and an index.

Malepe, Lesego. ***Matters of Life and Death***. Columbus, Miss.: Genesis Press, 2005. 250 pp. ISBN 1-58571-124-1, \$15.95 (pb).

Originally self-published in 2003, Malepe's novel of a black South African family under apartheid in the 1960s has been re-edited and made available to a wider audience through distribution by Kensington Publishing Group (publisher of the well-known African-American imprint Dafina Books). This much sharper new edition will appeal to both young adult and adult readers.

As in the first edition, the story begins with the vividly rendered legend of Mamogashwa, the river monster that drowns black children but leaves white children unscathed. Malepe goes on to tell the saga of the Maru family through the eyes of 13-year-old Neo, the youngest of four children and the only girl. At the beginning of the novel, security police arrest her 17-year-old brother, Tiro; later, her two other brothers flee to Botswana, leaving Tiro, her mother, and her grandmother to hold the family together. Readers follow Neo's coming of age in the midst of her brother's trial and the other struggles faced by her family and community during this harsh time.

Nydell, Margaret K. ***Understanding Arabs: A Guide for Modern Times***. Yarmouth, Me.: Intercultural Press, 2005. 202 pp. ISBN 1-931930-25-2, \$19.95 (pb).

Understanding Arabs has been consulted for more than 15 years by Middle East specialists and Americans who plan to work and/or live in the Arab world. It provides not only basic information about the region but also accurate cultural information.

This fourth edition offers guidance to high school students and the general reader on how to better understand Arabs since the critical time of 9/11. Readers learn that there is an enormous amount of misinformation about Islam and Islamic extremists. For example, there is a difference between Arabs who speak Arabic, who live in 21 countries and practice a variety of religions, and Muslims, who follow the Islamic religion. Only 20 percent of Muslims of the world are Arab. The truth is that most Muslims live in Southeast Asia, the Asian subcontinent, Africa, China, and Russia. "Arab" is not an ethnic, but a linguistic and cultural term only. Nydell shows that Islam is a diverse religion in terms of beliefs and practices, and so-called "extremists" make up a very small proportion of Muslims.

This book contains a message from the author, a map of the Arab world, an introduction, an appendix with basic information about the Arabic language, a bibliography, and references.

Pickens, William. ***Bursting Bonds: The Autobiography of a "New Negro"***. Notre Dame, Ind.: Univ. of Notre Dame Press, 2005. 76 pp. Edited by William L. Andrews. Series: African-American Intellectual Heritage. ISBN 0-268-03885-6,

This memoir, first published in 1911, is an excellent resource for college students and general readers. It recounts what led William Pickens (1881–1954) into public life. Pickens discusses his family, teachers, and mentors who guided him to success.

The new edition, part of a series that recovers the voices of African-American teachers, writers, and other intellectual leaders of the previous two centuries, contains an introduction by editor Andrews, a foreword, and a preface. The book is divided into two parts, “The Heir of Slaves” and “Bursting Bonds.” Part one describes Pickens’s parents and their aspirations for him, his early education, and the development of his philosophy of life. The second part includes his experience as a college teacher, his speaking tour in Europe, and his treacherous travels through Arkansas.

Rawley, James A. and Behrendt, Stephen D. ***The Transatlantic Slave Trade***. Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2005. ISBN 0-8032-3961-0, \$60.00.

This new edition of a history first published by W.W. Norton in 1981 has an in-depth discussion of the slave trade that addresses its misconceptions and stereotypes. It shows the importance of the transatlantic slave trade and how it played a major role in the development of modern world economies.

Rawley’s revised comprehensive edition, for which Behrendt joined him as co-author, includes text to show the major changes in historiography, a current slave trade data table and accompanying text, updated notes, and a bibliography. The volume also includes illustrations, table maps, and an introduction, along with notes and an index.

REISSUES OF OUT-OF-PRINT WORKS

Carbone, Elisa. ***Starting School with an Enemy***. Cassville, N.J.: Cloonfad Press, 1998, 2005. ISBN 0-670-06911-9, \$10.00 (pb).

This easy-to-read, award-winning chapter book is about how Sarah found the strength to deal with bullying. It is geared to readers at the middle and upper elementary level. The cover is new and there are updated cultural references. However, the important theme of the book and well-developed characters remain the same. The title is a prequel to Carbone’s middle-grade novel *Sarah and the Naked Truth*.

Cloonfad is a new press that specializes in reprints of classic juvenile book titles.

Manley, Ruth. ***The Plum-Rain Scroll***. Queensland, Australia: Univ. of Queensland Press, 2005. ISBN 0-7022-3505-9, \$18.95 (pb).

This tale of danger and heroic deeds takes place in Japan and is written for young readers, but people of all ages will like it. Manley’s love of Japanese mythology surfaced when she studied the Japanese language and literature in her forties. She wrote *The Plum-Rain Scroll*, her first book, at the age of 59. It was published in 1978 by Hodder and Stoughton in Australia and won the highest children’s book award in that country the next year.

The book contains an afterword and a glossary.

Medearis, Angela Shelf. ***Skin Deep and Other Teenage Reflections***. San Antonio, Tex.: Wings Press, 2005. 46 pp. ISBN 0-916727-22-X, \$10.00 (pb).

VOICE OF YOUTH ADVOCATES



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This book is a collection of poems of adolescent life first published in 1995 by Atheneum and brought back into print in 1997 by Diva Productions in Austin, Texas. Most of the poems deal with the question of truth—with oneself, in relationships, and about the world. Some of the poems address specific issues related to being black (such as one about a teen who longs for the kind of experience her mother had working for civil rights and another who is teased because of her high grades and white friends), while others talk about being young and female. *Skin Deep* has the potential to promote open dialogue and understanding among teens, parents, and educators. This small book will have a profound affect on anyone who reads it, young or old. They will not feel alone any longer.

Scully, James. **Poetry as Line Break**. Willimantic, Conn.: Curbstone Press, 2005. 169 pp. ISBN 1-931896-18-6, \$14.95 (pb).

First published by Bay Press in 1988, Scully's collection of eight essays is considered a major work on poetry as social practice. For years, Scully has been part of a movement of people who have radicalized American poetry, in theory as well as practice, how it is lived as well as how it is written. Scully believes that poetry must judge the conduct of human beings, and all poetry is political whether or not the author realizes it. Scully thinks that "line breaks" are the "muscular fulcra on which all poetic discourse hinges." Some say that his view on the "line break" is his most brilliant insight about poetry.

The volume contains a new foreword by Adrienne Rich. Curbstone has published several other books by Scully, including a poetry collection in 1975 that was the press's debut publication and an edited volume on political writing and visual art.

St. Martin, Hardie, ed. **Roots & Wings: Poetry from Spain 1900–1975**. Buffalo, N.Y.: White Pine Press, 2005. Trans. from Spanish by the editor and others. Bilingual (Spanish-English) ed. 528 pp. ISBN 1-893996-34-4, \$20.00 (pb).

First published in 1976 by Harper & Row, this bilingual anthology includes the works of 30 major Spanish poets, including Miguel de Unamuno, Juan Ramón Jiménez, and Pedro Salinas. The translators are award-winning American poets such as Robert Bly, Philip Levine, W. S. Merwin, and St. Martin himself.

High school and college students will have the opportunity to read this poetry collection for the first time in two decades. This volume includes an introduction, biographical and bibliographical notes, and an index of poets and translators.

Trambley, Estela Portillo. **Trini**. New York: The Feminist Press at City Univ. of New York, 2005. 266 pp. ISBN 1-55861-502-4, \$15.95 (pb).

Trini, first published in 1986 by the Bilingual Review, is about a young Chicana girl who crosses the border into womanhood. The author is interested in the inequalities of gender and how they relate to and affect the Chicano movement. The protagonist not only experiences the injustices but also takes action in order to make her life and the world better for young women like her. While she changes

and grows in her journey from girlhood to womanhood, she is human in her actions, feelings, and choices.

The author believes that no matter where Chicana writers live, they need to have "a common focus on exploitation of women, their struggle to emergence as a whole woman, emancipation, and their problem of loneliness."

Zelver, Patricia. **The Wonderful Towers of Watts**. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills Press, 2005. 32 pp. Illus. by Frané Lessac. ISBN 1-59078-255-0, \$9.95 (pb).

This story, first published in 1994 by Mulberry Books, is about the Italian immigrant who followed his vision and lived his dream. His story will inspire young children, and anyone else who reads this picture book, to follow their dreams too. Simon (Sam) Rodia worked for over 33 years to create the colorful ornate masterpiece in his backyard located in an area of Los Angeles called Watts. Zelver and illustrator Lessac have created a magical book that children, parents, and teachers will want to read over and over. A Reading Rainbow Book.

FIRST U.S. PUBLICATION OF BOOKS PUBLISHED ELSEWHERE IN ENGLISH

Olsen, Sylvia. **The Girl with a Baby**. Winlaw, B.C.: Sononis Press; dist. by Orca Books, 2005. 203 pp. ISBN 1-55039-142-9, \$8.95 (pb).

This young adult novel is intended for high school students, though college students and general adult readers may appreciate it as well. When first published in 2003 by Sononis Press in British Columbia, it was nominated for the Saskatchewan Young Reader's Choice Snow Willow Award.

The story opens with an Indian teenager who has just given birth to the baby girl she has named Destiny. The teenager grows as a person and always gives the best that she has in order to raise her young daughter. She not only accepts the consequences of her actions but also moves toward her future with her feet on the ground.

Kennedy, Hugh. **When Baghdad Ruled the Muslim World**. Cambridge, Mass.: Da Capo Press, 2005. 326 pp. ISBN 0-306-81435-8, \$26.00.

This revised edition, excellent for high school and college history classes, is the story of Baghdad in its glory days during the Abbasid dynasty. Then, Baghdad served as the seat of cultural and political power under Harun al-Rashid and his intellectually distinguished son, Al-Mamun. The caliphs of Baghdad formed the social and political model for successful Muslim regimes today. In order to understand contemporary Iraq, the author feels it is important to understand the Iraq of the eighth and ninth centuries.

This volume was first published in 2004 by Weidenfeld & Nicholson in the U.K. under the title *The Court of the Caliphs*. It includes illustrations, maps, a genealogy, a time line, a foreword, notes, a bibliography, and an index.

NEW VOLUMES IN SERIES

African-American Biography Library

Schraff, Anne. **Martin Luther King, Jr.: We Shall Overcome.** Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2005. 128 pp. ISBN 0-7660-1774-5, \$31.93 (list); \$23.95 (libraries/schools).

This new series, written for ages 11 and up, offers books with easy-to-read chapters that portray the life of featured subjects. All the people profiled in this series have had a profound effect on our country and the world. They are positive role models for people of any age and especially the young.

The chapters are organized into clear and concise subjects and deal not only with the facts but also with the essence of the person profiled. A chapter heading entitled "I've Had Enough" reveals the substance of this great man. King was dragged and later beaten by police as he walked with his wife and Reverend Ralph Abernathy toward Montgomery County Courthouse in order to attend the trial of a man who had attacked Abernathy in his church office. King said to his wife, "I've had enough. I'm tired of how black people are treated by the police." Instead of paying the fine, he protested by going to jail.

Included in each volume are a chronology, color photos, chapter notes and suggestions for further reading, Internet addresses, and an index. Quotes from the featured subject and sidebars are informative and add life to the story.

Culture and Customs of Africa

Mbaku, John Mukum. **Culture and Customs of Cameroon.** Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2005. 236 pp. ISBN 0-313-33231-2, \$49.95.

The author, an expert on Africa, designed this book for high school students and the general reader. Cameroon, located in Central Africa, is sometimes called "Africa in miniature" because it has over 250 ethnicities. This volume is an in-depth overview of the country's history and geographic features. Other topics featured include religion; literature and media; art, architecture and housing; cuisine and traditional dress; gender roles, marriage, and family; social customs and lifestyle; and music and dance. For each of these subjects, different ethnic manifestations are covered.

This book also contains a series foreword, a preface, a list of acronyms, a chronology, a series introduction, a glossary, a selected bibliography, and an index.

Culture and Customs of Asia

Emadi, Hafizullah. **Culture and Customs of Afghanistan.** Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2005. 252 pp. ISBN 0-313-33089-1, \$49.95.

Written for high school students and the general reader, this new volume provides a detailed overview of Afghanistan. Chapters include Land, People, and History; Religion and Religious Thought; Literature and the Arts; Architecture, Housing and Settlements; Social Customs, Cuisine, and Traditional Dress; Family, Women and Gender Issues; Lifestyles; Media; and Education. The reader will learn that Afghanistan has been at the crossroads of many cultures and civilizations and occupies a unique place in the cultural geography of Central Asia. Tribes and armies invaded ancient Afghanistan and continue in modern times,

and the invasions have left their mark on this country and its people. This volume gives a close-up view of the people of Afghanistan as they struggle to rebuild.

A series foreword and preface, a map of the country, photos, a comprehensive chronology, a glossary, a bibliography, a resource guide, and an index complement the text.

Culture and Customs of the Middle East

Long, David E. **Cultures and Customs of Saudi Arabia.** Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2005. 224 pp. ISBN 0-313-32021-7, \$49.95.

High school students and general readers are the targeted audience for this volume, which gives a fairly comprehensive picture of Saudi Arabia. The main focus is on contemporary culture and life in a historical context. According to the author, who has lived and worked in Saudi Arabia, circumstances have caused the Saudi people to play an important role in current world affairs. Since the mid-twentieth century, this conservative traditional society has wrestled with the impact of modernization and of its great oil wealth. The author has used extensive personal contacts there to provide up-to-date material.

The volume includes a foreword, preface, chronology, and introduction and chapters on Land, People, and History; Traditional Islamic Culture and Modernization; The Extended Family and Gender Roles; Cuisine and Dress; Social Customs; Rites of Passage and Holidays; Communication and Mass Media; and Artistic Expression. A glossary, a bibliography, an index, a map, and full-color photos taken by the author are also included.

Fact Finders Biographies

Krohn, Katherine. **Madam C. J. Walker: Pioneer Businesswoman.** Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-4346-9, \$22.60; (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Krohn, Katherine. **Sojourner Truth: Freedom Fighter.** Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-4348-5, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Monroe, Judy. **Thurgood Marshall: Civil Rights Champion.** Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-4349-3, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

The biographies in this series, tailored for students in second through fifth grade as well as new and struggling readers of all ages, illustrate how African-American men and women have changed the world.

The books are informative and inspiring, written in short paragraphs with simple sentence structure. Full-color drawings and photos throughout help relate the subject to historical events during that time frame. The student will learn in *Madam C. J. Walker* that the Civil War ended two years before Walker was born and World War I ended a year before she died. "Fact!" boxes reveal little-known information about the featured subjects, such as that Thurgood Marshall, before he became a Supreme Court justice, won 29 of the 32 cases he brought before the Supreme Court between 1940 and 1961, the year of his nomination. They will also learn

in Sojourner Truth that Truth said, "I can't read books, but I can read the people."

The first chapter of each volume gives detailed information about each subject in a way that hooks the reader. For example, the author tells how Walker, a former washwoman, became a successful business person after she invented a product to make hair grow. Not long after, she spoke to nearly 2,000 African-American business people in Chicago, telling them, "But I know how to grow hair as well as I know how to grow cotton."

All books in this series contain a table of contents; "Fast Facts"; a time line, which contains the life events of the featured subject and key events in U.S. history; a glossary, Internet sites; further reading; and an index.

Famous Families

Ungs, Tim. ***Muhammad Ali and Laila Ali***. New York: Rosen, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 1-4042-0261-7, \$25.25.

The titles in this series, designed for elementary school students, are about famous parent-child relationships such as Goldie Hawn and Kate Hudson, Julio Iglesias and Enrique Iglesias, and Ozzy Osbourne and Kelly Osbourne. In these families, the child has followed in the professional footsteps of the parent. The newest volume, *Muhammad Ali and Laila Ali*, captures the relationship between father and daughter with honesty and warmth. Special attention is given to Laila's entry into the emerging sport of women's professional boxing. Young readers will feel inspired and motivated to be the best that they can be as they follow their dreams too.

Each book is organized by chapters and contains an introduction, full-color photos, a time line, a glossary, web sites, further reading, a bibliography, and an index. Boxing records of father and daughter are included.

The Graphic Library

Bram, Eric. ***Cesar Chavez: Fighting for Farmworkers***. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-4631-X, \$25.26 (list); \$18.95 (school/library).

Glaser, Jason. ***Jackie Robinson: Baseball's Great Pioneer***. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-4633-6, \$25.26 (list); \$18.95 (school/library).

Hoena, B.A. ***Matthew Henson: Arctic Adventurer***. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-4633-6, \$25.26 (list); \$18.95 (school/library).

Lemke, Donald B. ***The Brave Escape of Ellen and William Craft***. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-4973-4, \$25.26 (list); \$18.95 (school/library).

This nonfiction series for grades three through nine is unique in its format, which is more typical of the very popular graphic novels for children and teens. The easy-to-read text and vivid full-color illustrations by Phil Miller, Tod Smith, and Charles Barnett II feature appealing characters that will encourage young readers to learn about history. In these four volumes all the subjects are famous African Americans and Latinos whose adventures will appeal especially to preteen and young teenage boys. They include labor leader Chavez, the first African American to play in

modern major league baseball, the great explorer of the North Pole, and a couple whose spectacular escape from slavery (and their account of it) captured the imagination of nineteenth-century abolitionists.

Each volume offers a table of contents, controlled vocabulary, quotations from primary sources, short and direct sentence structure, and precise photo-text matches to aid comprehension. Also included are a glossary, a bibliography, Internet sites, and an index.

Great Historic Debates and Speeches

Brezina, Corona. ***Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I A Woman?" Speech: A Primary Source Investigation***. New York: Rosen, 2005. 64 pp. ISBN 1-4042-0154-8, \$29.25.

This series, intended for grades five through eight, uses primary source documents to reinforce and supplement the story. It offers a straightforward in-depth account of major events and historical figures, providing a broader context for the speech or debate.

This volume provides concise and clear biographical information about Sojourner Truth. Young readers will learn about this famous illiterate slave who became a celebrity in a time when society treated both women and African Americans as less than white men. The title of this volume is named after a famous speech she gave at a women's rights convention in Akron, Ohio, on May 29, 1851. The text of the speech is provided in an appendix.

Features in the book include full-color photos, an introduction, transcriptions, other primary sources, a time line, a glossary, print and web sources for further information, and an index.

Greenwood Biographies

Bruns, Roger. ***Cesar Chavez: A Biography***. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2005. 141 pp. ISBN 0-313-33452-8, \$29.95.

Nelson, Murry R. ***Bill Russell: A Biography***. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2005. 141 pp. ISBN 0-313-33091-3, \$29.95.

Steins, Richard. ***Arthur Ashe: A Biography***. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2005. 141 pp. ISBN 0-313-33299-1, \$29.95.

This extensive full-length biography series is designed specifically for high school students and for public libraries. The subjects include well-known civil rights activists, sports figures, scientists, and icons in contemporary popular culture. The volumes contain factual, in-depth information of the featured subjects from birth through adulthood.

Cesar Chavez provides a vivid picture of this dedicated and committed labor organizer and founder of the United Farm Workers of America, from childhood to adulthood. *Bill Russell* explores the career of the African-American basketball player who won two championships as a college player, 11 titles as a member of the Boston Celtics, and an Olympic gold medal. Nelson describes his career after retiring from the NBA, when he became a coach and a motivational speaker. Steins's biography of Ashe focuses on how the tennis player overcame segregation and racial prejudice to win three Grand Slam trophies and how he fought on behalf of blacks

in apartheid South Africa and those suffering from AIDS after the heart problems that ended his tennis career and left him infected with the AIDS virus.

In-depth time lines help students understand the significant contributions of the featured subjects. The bibliographies are valuable sources for student reports. Each volume contains a series foreword and introduction and an index.

The Greenwood Histories of the Modern Nations

Drakeley, Steven. ***The History of Indonesia***. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2005. 201 pp. ISBN 0-313-33114-6, \$45.00.

Gocking, Roger S. ***The History of Ghana***. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2005. 331 pp. ISBN 0-313-31894-8, \$45.00.

Tarver, H. Michael and Frederick, Julia C. ***The History of Venezuela***. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2005. 189 pp. ISBN 0-313-33525-7, \$45.00.

This series is intended to provide students in middle school through college and general readers with an up-to-date, concise historical analysis of countries of the contemporary world. Students will learn that the world is increasingly interdependent and that the knowledge of other countries will help promote a better understanding of each other.

Each volume contains a general series foreword, an in-depth time line of historical events, reference features that include a biographical section focusing on famous people of the specific country, a glossary, a bibliographical essay with further reading, and an index. The chapters listed in the table of contents include history, culture, politics, and the struggle for independence. The authors' approaches tend to be positive; for instance, in the volume on Venezuela, the authors emphasize the success of democratic governments after 1958. The country's current conflict with the United States receives little coverage. While Gocking describes the post-independence instability in Ghana, he notes that the present government's persistence since 1993 points toward a more stable future.

The History of Ghana, the longest volume of the three, contains several black-and-white photos and maps and an in-depth section of acronyms; these include state ministries and political organizations, ACDR (Association of Communities for the Defense of the Revolution), AFC (Alliance for Change), and CAP (National Coalition Against the Privatization of Water). Also included is a small section called Orthography, the study of spelling, and currency. The only graphic in the other two volumes is a map.

High Five Learning

Dean, Cynthia A. ***Michelle Wie: She's Got the Power***. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7368-5736-2, \$23.93 (list); \$17.95 (school/libraries).

Hatch, Thomas. ***A History of Hip-Hop: The Roots of Rap***. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7368-5740-0, \$23.93 (list); \$17.95 (school/libraries).

Sibila, Tom. ***LeBron James: King of the Court***. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7368-5737-0,

\$23.93 (list); \$17.95 (school/libraries).

With its first- to second-grade reading level, this contemporary book series is designed to motivate and attract new and struggling readers in grades four and up. It has uncomplicated and straightforward information with controlled vocabulary and short and direct sentence structure. The overall design is uncomplicated and appealing to the eye. Each chapter has a heading and photo caption matched with the text.

Topics and featured subjects are already known to the students and would tend to draw them into reading the books. For example, the Michelle Wie and LeBron James volumes are about people who most children have heard of and are inspired by because of their athletic achievements. *A History of Hip-Hop* is about music the young student might like and be motivated to learn more about.

Each volume contains full-color and historical photographs, a glossary, a bibliography, places to write and visit, an index, maps, illustrations, time lines, definitions of unfamiliar terms, and Internet sites for more information.

Latino Biography Library

Litwin, Laura Baskes. ***Diego Rivera***. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2005. 128 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2486-5, \$31.93 (list); \$23.95 (schools/libraries).

Main, Mary. ***Isabel Allende***. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2005. 128 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2488-1, \$31.93 (list); \$23.95 (schools/libraries).

This excellent new book series, written for ages 11 and up, is illustrated with color photographs. The books also feature a chronology, chapter notes, further reading, Internet addresses, informative sidebars, and an index.

Main paints a vivid and intimate picture of Allende and how she overcame great obstacles, including serious illness in her family, political violence, and exile, in order to achieve success as a writer. Young students will be motivated to use their talents to discover the magic within them.

Diego Rivera, a famous Mexican artist of the twentieth century, followed what he believed, no matter what. Students will learn that he sought to give all people of Mexico the opportunity to experience art. That inspired him to paint murals on the walls in public spaces available for all to view. His personal life and politics often caused controversy, which Litwin addresses.

Let's Find Out About

Bingham, Jane. ***Sikh Gurdwaras***. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-7034-0, \$25.36 (list); \$17.75 (library).

Ganeri, Anita. ***Hindu Mandirs***. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-7033-2, \$25.36 (list); \$17.75 (library).

Geldart, Anne. ***Buddhist Temples***. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-7035-9, \$25.36 (list); \$17.75 (library).

Maqsood, Ruqaiyyah Waris. ***Islamic Mosques***. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-7036-7, \$25.36 (list); \$17.75 (library).

Medina, Sarah. **Christian Churches**. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-7031-6, \$25.36 (list); \$17.75 (library).

Ross, Mandy. **Jewish Synagogues**. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-7032-4, \$25.36 (list); \$17.75 (library).

This outstanding series, designed for kindergarten through second grade, provides a colorful, easy-to-understand format for children to learn about religious edifices. Young students will be drawn to the full-color photos and appealing background colors of blue and lavender hues. Although each volume has substantial information, the simple text will encourage the student to read and not feel overwhelmed. This series provides an opportunity for the young child to feel open to differences rather than closed to the unfamiliar.

Each volume focuses on a featured place of worship from around the world and uses the structure to explain the beliefs and practices of the religion. The books include quotes from members of that faith, a world map that shows where the religion is practiced, a pronunciation guide, a glossary, sidebars, and further resources.

The Library of American Lives and Times

Randolph, Ryan P. **W. E. B. Du Bois: The Fight for Civil Rights**. New York: Rosen, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-4042-2656-7, \$31.95.

Sita, Lisa. **Pocahontas: The Powhatan Culture and the Jamestown Colony**. New York: Rosen, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-4042-2653-2, \$31.95.

This excellent series is designated "PowerPlus Books," intended for grades four through eight, with a fifth-grade reading level. It is a new imprint of Rosen Publishing Group and focuses on history.

The new volumes in this series are well written and will attract the interest of young readers. Sita's biography of Pocahontas reveals facts that most people, familiar with the Disney movie, might not have known about this young girl who had a major impact on history. In *W. E. B. Du Bois*, Randolph uses his skill as a writer and his interest in and knowledge of history to tell a vivid story about the life of the great civil rights activist that goes beyond the mere conveying of information for reports.

Features in each volume include full-color photographs, web sites, additional resources, a time line, primary sources, and a bibliography.

The Library of Author Biographies

Houghton, Gillian. **Mildred Taylor**. New York: Rosen, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-4042-0330-3, \$26.50 (list); \$19.95 (Web price).

In this biography the author reveals to young readers in grades 5–8 the impact that African-American heritage has had on the award-winning writer's life. In Taylor's stories (*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, Let the Circle Be Unbroken, The Friendship*, and many others), young readers walk in the shoes of African-American children and experience the terror her characters encounter every day from racist people—the same terror she felt as a child.

In Taylor's books, the message is that racism is the root of the struggle. The characters fight for dignity and self-respect and are hurt by ignorance and injustice. A strong family structure is the path to survival and ultimately to freedom.

This volume includes a rare interview with Taylor (who, unlike many well-known children's writers, does not tour), a time line, selected reviews, a list of selected works and awards, a glossary, web sites for more information and further reading, a bibliography, source notes, and an index.

The Mexican American Experience

Magana, Lisa. **Mexican American and the Politics of Diversity**. Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 2005. 113 pp. ISBN 0-8165-2265-0, \$15.95 (pb).

This book series, intended for undergraduate students, provides an in-depth introduction on single topics about Mexican Americans. Students learn that Mexican Americans are the fastest-growing minority in our nation and are targeted by political parties in order to get their votes. However, Mexican Americans' political diversity makes it difficult for the two major parties to put them into a cubbyhole. To gather information, the author interviewed Mexican Americans of various ages, professions, and personal beliefs who live in the western United States. They ranged from a 19-year-old student and a 63-year-old political organizer to a 56-year-old office manager and a 30-year-old instructor at Macalester College who was completing his doctorate in American studies. These interviews add interest to the author's analysis.

The book is organized into six chapters and includes a glossary, a bibliography, and an index. Each chapter contains discussion questions and references.

Modern Music Masters

Duggleby, John. **Uh Huh! The Story of Ray Charles**. Greensboro, N.C.: Morgan Reynolds, 2005. 160 pp. ISBN 1-931798-63-1, \$26.95.

This series is designed for students in upper elementary grades and middle school. Each volume contains a time line, a map, sources, bibliography, web sites, and an index. Also included are back-and-white and color photos, and sidebars.

Duggleby tells the story of the great Ray Charles with compassion, warmth, and insight from his birth in 1930 to his death in 2004. The musician did not let his blindness stand in his way. Readers will learn about the man behind the sunglasses, how he achieved his great success, and how his experiences shaped his personality.

Modern Nations of the World

Capwell-Fox, Martha. **Vatican City**. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-733-4, \$28.70.

Delgado, Kevin. **Morocco**. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-625-7, \$28.70.

Miller, Debra A. **Belize**. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-726-1, \$28.70.

Miller, Debra A. **Costa Rica**. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-623-0, \$28.70.

Miller, Debra A. **Indonesia**. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-442-4, \$28.70.

Miller, Debra A. **Nicaragua**. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-731-8, \$28.70.

Miller, Debra A. **Sri Lanka**. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-626-5, \$28.70.

Zurlo, Tony. **Algeria**. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-622-2, \$28.70.

This series for students in upper elementary through high school gives an expansive and objective overview of the featured country. Chapters cover history, geography, culture, and politics. Discussions are balanced both thematically and politically. For example, conflicts in the Middle East (in volumes on Algeria and Morocco) are not dealt with in a judgmental way in either text or photos. The same holds for countries like Sri Lanka and Nicaragua that have recently experienced civil conflict. Books on Indonesia and Sri Lanka include information on the deadly tsunami of December 26, 2004.

The introduction offers a useful overview for student research projects. Descriptive chapter headings are also helpful for such projects. Each volume contains quotations from primary and secondary sources, black-and-white photos, maps, sidebars with fast facts or anecdotes, a detailed chronology, statistics, web sites, a bibliography, and an index.

The Music Library

Kallen, Stuart A. **The History of Reggae**. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-740-7, \$28.70.

Koopmans, Andy. **The History of the Blues**. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-767-9, \$28.70.

Woog, Adam. **The History of Gospel Music**. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-735-0, \$28.70.

Books in this series, intended for upper elementary to high school students, have full-color images on each cover. The authors reveal information about the lives of well-known composers and musicians and explore the cultural history of musical styles from their roots to the beginning of the twenty-first century.

The History of the Blues follows the blues from its nineteenth-century roots in the American South to contemporary times and reveals how its influence can be found in all contemporary American popular music. The volume on gospel traces this music back hundreds of years and shows how it has influenced blues, rock and roll, and soul. *The History of Reggae* explores the development of this musical genre, which started in Jamaica in the nineteenth century. It is impossible to talk about reggae without the mention of the famous Bob Marley, though many other important reggae musicians, such as Jimmy Cliff, receive coverage too.

Informative sidebars, numerous quotations from

authoritative sources, annotated bibliographies, and complete indexes make these books valuable research tools for students. Also included are black-and-white photos, notes, and a list of titles for further reading.

Pebble

Braun, Eric. **Mae Jemison**. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2005. 24 pp. ISBN 0-7368-4231-4, \$15.93 (list); \$11.95 (school/library).

Braun, Eric. **Jesse Owens**. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2005. 24 pp. ISBN 0-7368-4230-6, \$15.93 (list); \$11.95 (school/library).

Hoena, B.A. **Matthew Henson**. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2005. 24 pp. ISBN 0-7368-5249-2, \$15.93 (list); \$11.95 (school/library).

This innovative, easy-to-read biography series for readers in kindergarten through second grade describes and illustrates the lives of great men and women. The subjects will inspire young readers to achieve their own greatness. For example, even though Matthew Henson lost his parents early in life, he was motivated to care for himself and ultimately achieved greatness as an explorer of harsh, unknown lands. In *Mae Jemison*, young people learn that this courageous woman not only earned her medical degree but also became an astronaut—her lifelong dream. *Jesse Owens* shows how the African-American athlete overcome discrimination and stood up to prejudice to win a gold medal at the 1936 Olympics in Munich, Germany.

Each volume contains a table of contents, a time line, photos, a glossary, further reading, Internet sites, and an index.

Questions and Answers Countries

Englar, Mary. **Argentina: A Question and Answer Book**. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-4350-7, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Spengler, Kremena. **Columbia: A Question and Answer Book**. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-4351-5, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Englar, Mary. **Costa Rica: A Question and Answer Book**. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-4352-3, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Designed for readers in second through fifth grades, each volume is in a pleasing, easy-to-read format with a full-size portrait of a child on the cover. The sentences are short and concise, informative and straightforward. Each book contains information about geography, history, government, housing, transportation, major industries, schools, favorite sports and games, traditional art forms, holidays, foods, and family life.

Each chapter title is in the form of a question. For example, "Where is Argentina?" "When did Argentina become a country?" and "What are Argentina's major industries?" Also, readers learn about the holidays of the featured country. For example, the people of Argentina celebrate many Roman Catholic holidays such as Christmas, as well as secular or national holidays such as Argentina's

Independence Day (in September), Labor Day (in May), and New Year's Day. Many towns in Argentina celebrate festivals such as the Day of Tradition in November, when gauchos ride their best horses in parades.

Each volume includes vivid full-color photos of houses, streets, students, sports, art, and food, as well as maps, graphs, and more. Highlighted words throughout the book are defined in the glossary. Other features in each volume include Fast Facts, Money and Flag, Learn to Speak (the specific language of the volume), Internet Sites, a reading list, and an index.

This series provides in-depth information about each featured country, which makes it a valuable tool for reports.

People on the Move

Dalton, Dave. ***Economic Migrants***. Chicago: Heinemann Library, 2005. 56 pp. ISBN 1-4034-6959-8, \$31.36 (list); \$21.95 (library).

Dalton, Dave. ***Environmental Migrants***. Chicago: Heinemann Library, 2005. 56 pp. ISBN 1-4034-6960-1, \$31.36 (list); \$21.95 (library).

Dalton, Dave. ***Refugees & Asylum Seekers***. Chicago: Heinemann Library, 2005. 56 pp. ISBN 1-4034-6961-X, \$31.36 (list); \$21.95 (library).

Dalton, Dave. ***Nomads & Travelers***. Chicago: Heinemann Library, 2005. 56 pp. ISBN 1-4034-6962-8, \$31.36 (list); \$21.95 (library).

This four-book series is written for readers in grades five through seven. It explores the movements and migrations of people around the world—the reasons why various people move in large numbers from place to place. For example, most economic migrants move because they see a chance to better their life. Students learn that these migrants evaluate push and pull factors as they constantly evaluate whether to stay or to move.

Environmental migrants and refugees and asylum seekers often have no choice; they are fleeing ecological disasters like floods or toxic spills, or civil strife that has uprooted their communities and put their lives in jeopardy. Nomads and travelers, like the Bedouins depicted on the book's cover or the Roma, travel from place to place as their peoples have done for centuries.

Included in each book are an introduction for each specific volume, copious full-color photos, a glossary, "Find out More" (resources), and an index.

Portraits of Black Americans

Bohannon, Lisa Frederiksen. ***Freedom Cannot Rest: Ella Baker and the Civil Rights Movement***. Greensboro, N.C.: Morgan Reynolds, 2005. 176 pp. ISBN 1-931798-71-6, \$26.95.

This nonfiction series for the secondary level features great African Americans who contributed to making America a more just place to live. Each volume contains color and black-and-white illustrations, a time line, sources and a bibliography, web sites, and an index.

Students will learn the Baker adage, "One person can make a difference." She helped found many organizations, campaigns, and coalitions dedicated to establishing civil rights for all Americans.

Rough Guides

Jal, Emmanuel & Salim, Abdel Gadir. ***Ceasefire***. London: World Music Network, 2005. CD. 62 minutes. \$16.98.

The Rough Guide to Balkan Gypsies. CD. 66 minutes. London: World Music Network, 2005. \$16.98.

The Rough Guide to Celtic Music. CD. 69 minutes. London: World Music Network, 2005. \$16.98.

The Rough Guide to Salsa Dance. CD. 72 minutes. London: World Music Network, 2005. \$16.98.

The Rough Guide to the Music of Brazil: Rio De Janeiro. CD. 61 minutes. London: World Music Network, 2005. \$16.98.

The Rough Guide to Tito Puente. CD. 66 minutes. London: World Music Network, 2005. \$16.98.

Three of the six CDs fall into the most common type from this valuable and well-established series. They are surveys of a country or region—in this case, the city of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, the Balkans, and the lands inhabited by the Celtic people. These CDs give a taste of the variety of music produced in that region or from that culture. Two others feature the work of a performer or performers—mambo king Tito Puente and two musicians from Sudan. The remaining one focuses on a genre, Salsa Dance, and the legendary musicians who created it.

Brazil: Rio de Janeiro features the colorful music of the samba and bossa nova performed by several well-known and talented artists. *Balkan Gypsies* presents music by the Roma people in the Balkan countries of Eastern Europe, home to the largest Roma populations in the world. *Celtic Music* features artists from Ireland, Scotland, Spain, and France. The music includes a cappella ballads and lively jigs and reels.

The Tito Puente album presents the award-winning mambo king. The late Puente earned dozens of awards, including a number of Grammys. The album showcases his diversity with mambo, pachanga, boogaloo, salsa, and Latin jazz and his work with some of his favorite singers.

The salsa is considered the musical pulse that flows not only through Latin America but also throughout the world. The second edition of the album *Salsa Dance* features the music of the newest salsa bands and songs from Colombia, New York, Cuba, and Puerto Rico.

Ceasefire brings southern Sudanese Christian rap artist Emmanuel Jal and northern Sudanese Muslim musician Abdel Gadir Salim together in performance for the first time, although they are from the opposite sides of the Sudanese conflict. Orphaned at an early age, Jal was once a child soldier in Sudan's civil war. Now he is an internationally known and respected artist who has brought his message of peace to dozens of countries around the world. Among other venues, he performed at the Live 8 concert in fall 2005.

Scraps of Time

McKissack, Patricia C. ***Abby Takes a Stand: Scraps of Time 1960***. New York: Viking, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 0-670-06011-9, \$14.99.

Award-winning author McKissack brings history alive for intermediate readers in this series, which uses family heirlooms and documents to tell the story of blacks in America. In *Abby Takes a Stand*, she portrays the early days of the civil rights movement, demonstrating to readers “how freedom, just like a menu, is about having choices.” Abby, who is ten years old in 1960, unwittingly enters a whites-only restaurant because a flyer says it has a merry-go-round. She is promptly ejected but turns her anger and humiliation in a positive direction when she hands out flyers to publicize civil rights protests. The black-and-white illustrations by Gordon C. James add to the development of the story.

The novel combines fiction with historical facts, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his “I Have a Dream” speech and John F. Kennedy’s death. Also included in this book is a time line called, “Remembering How It Was,” which explains key events and concepts in the civil rights movement.

Seeing . . .

Carpenter, Juliet Winters. ***Seeing Kyoto***. New York: Kodansha International, 2005. 96 pp. ISBN 4-7700-2338-3, \$35.00.

Shoji, Kaori. ***Seeing Tokyo***. New York: Kodansha International, 2005. 96 pp. ISBN 4-7700-2339-1, \$35.00.

Whipple, Charles. ***Seeing Japan***. New York: Kodansha International, 2005. 103 pp. ISBN 4-7700-2337-5, \$35.00.

This series is made up of large, slim books with elegant, glossy book covers, an indication of what is to come—and no one will be disappointed, young or old. Each volume contains a large full-sized map, full-color pictures, and lively text.

Seeing Japan, *Seeing Tokyo*, and *Seeing Kyoto* will lure the reader to book a flight to Japan even before the guide is completed. The general volume on Japan and the one on Tokyo take readers through the countryside and cityscape, respectively. One might visualize having a picnic with friends while sitting under peach blossom trees in the quiet countryside, eating off the best china and using white linen napkins. In *Seeing Tokyo*, readers learn about the metropolitan government office buildings that tower over the city in pure elegance. *Seeing Kyoto* shows off the rich art of twelve centuries of culture, the elegance and charm of the Gion quarter, where geishas still practice their trade, and the cobblestone back streets lined with traditional wooden houses.

Signature Lives

Doak, Robin S., ***Phillis Wheatley: Slave and Poet***. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2005. 111 pp. ISBN 0-7565-0984-X, \$22.95.

Gregson, Susan R. ***James Beckwourth: Mountaineer, Scout and Pioneer***. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2005. 111 pp. ISBN 0-7565-1000-7, \$22.95.

Haugen, Brenda. ***Crazy Horse: Sioux Warrior***. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2005. 111 pp. ISBN 0-7565-0999-8, \$22.95.

Haugen, Brenda. ***Geronimo: Apache Warrior***. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2005. 111 pp. ISBN 0-7565-1002-3, \$22.95.

Haugen, Brenda. ***Henry B. Gonzales: Congressman of the People***. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2005. 111 pp. ISBN 0-7565-0996-3, \$22.95.

Haugen, Brenda. ***Langston Hughes: Voice of Harlem***. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2005. 111 pp. ISBN 0-7565-0993-9, \$22.95.

Rosinsky, Natalie M. ***Sarah Winnemucca: Scout, Activist, and Teacher***. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2005. 111 pp. ISBN 0-7565-1003-1, \$22.95.

Williams, Jean Kinney. ***Bridget “Biddy” Mason: From Slave to Businesswoman***. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2005. 111 pp. ISBN 0-7565-1001-5, \$22.95.

This impressive series, written for students in grades five through seven, describes the lives of notable people on the American frontier (both the physical frontier and the frontier of innovation in their fields), from the 1700s through the late twentieth century. The lively, well-researched stories, based on primary sources, cover mountaineers, scouts and pioneers, Native Americans, poets, storytellers, playwrights, former slaves, activists, teachers, and a former congressman. Authentic drawings and photos add to the appeal.

The earliest of the people covered is Phillis Wheatley, the slave in eighteenth-century Massachusetts who became a respected poet in both England and the colonies. In addition to the three American Indian figures who played major roles on the nineteenth-century frontier—Sarah Winnemucca, Crazy Horse, and Geronimo—the series presents one of the early African-American explorers, James Beckwourth. Beckwourth was born a slave on a Virginia plantation in 1798 but became free along with his mother shortly thereafter. He became a trader and scout along the frontier and spent almost a decade with the Crow. His autobiography was published in 1856.

Also included in each volume are full-color images, historical photos and paintings, detailed maps, a table of contents, time lines, web sites, historic sites, sidebars, reproductions of government documents, source notes, a glossary, a bibliography, and an index.

We’re From

Lynch, Emma. ***We’re from Brazil***. Chicago: Heinemann, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-5802-2. \$24.21 (list); \$16.95 (library).

Lynch, Emma. ***We’re from China***. Chicago: Heinemann, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-5803-0. \$24.21 (list); \$16.95 (library).

Lynch, Emma. ***We’re from Italy***. Chicago: Heinemann, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-5805-7. \$24.21 (list); \$16.95 (library).

Lynch, Emma. ***We’re from Indonesia***. Chicago: Heinemann, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-5804-9. \$24.21 (list); \$16.95 (library).

Lynch, Emma. ***We’re from Kenya***. Chicago: Heinemann, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-5806-5. \$24.21 (list); \$16.95 (library).

Lynch, Emma. ***We're from Pakistan***. Chicago: Heinemann, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-5807-3. \$24.21 (list); \$16.95 (library).

This easy-to-read series designed for students at the primary level invites readers in with a full-color cover photo of children from the featured country. Young readers will learn about the different aspects of daily life, which include home, school, play, and work.

Also included in each volume is a map of the featured country. Three young children per volume give a tour of their lives at home and school, discussing also what their parents and siblings do for work. The authors seek to depict a full range of experiences—urban and rural, well-to-do families and those who work hard for subsistence, and different ethnic and/or religious groups within a country. Full-color photos, a glossary, further reading, and an index are additional features in each book.

We the People

Flanagan, Alice K. ***Angel Island***. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7565-1261-1, \$17.95.

Englar, Mary. ***The Cherokee and Their History***. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7565-1263-5, \$17.95.

Rau, Dana Meachen. ***The Harlem Renaissance***. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7565-1264-6, \$17.95.

This book series, designed for the older elementary grades, explores all eras of U.S. history for the curious student who wants to know about important places and events. Historical primary source documents and illustrations provide additional information. *Angel Island* discusses the immigration station on San Francisco Bay where new immigrants, mostly Asians, landed in search of a better life. *The Cherokee and Their History* tells how the ancestors of the Cherokee lived in the southern Appalachian Mountains for hundreds of years before the Europeans came to North America and disrupted life as they had known it. In *The Harlem Renaissance*, residents of the African-American community in New York City's Harlem during the 1920s and '30s expressed their individual creativity and black identity through their art, music, literature, and theater.

Each volume is indexed and contains a glossary, maps, time lines, resources for more information, important dates and facts, and links to the publisher's FactHound.com Internet site.

The Women's Hall of Fame

Rooney, Frances. ***Extraordinary Women Explorers***. Toronto, Ont.: Second Story Press. 118 pp. ISBN 1-896764-98-3, \$7.95 (pb).

This series introduces readers of middle school age to women throughout history who have shattered rigid stereotypes. Featured here are 12 women who traveled thousands of miles through four continents. The author, a skillful storyteller, brings alive the life of each woman. The

women covered include Sacagawea, who explored the western United States with the Lewis and Clark expedition; Amanda Berry Smith, born into slavery, who went on to explore India and Africa; and Alexandra David-Neel, a French woman who rebelled against how society expected a woman to live. At an early age she wandered away from her life in Europe and traveled to Tibet, China, and India. Each woman's story is unique and full of adventure and inspiration.

Black-and-white photos add to the story about the women's adventures. The book also contains an introduction, further resources, and photo credits.

NEW EDITIONS IN OTHER MEDIA

Erdrich, Louise. ***The Game of Silence***. New York: Harper Audio, 2005. 5 compact discs; 6 hours. Unabridged. Performed by Anna Fields. ISBN 0-06-075839-2, \$27.95.

Erdrich, Louise. ***The Painted Drum***. New York: Harper Audio, 2005. 8 compact discs; 9 hours. Unabridged. Performed by Anna Fields. ISBN 0-06-082816-5, \$39.95.

Erdrich, born in North Dakota, is of German-American and Ojibwe descent. *The Game of Silence*, the sequel to her award-winning children's novel *The Birchbark House*, continues the story of Omakayas and her family, Ojibwe who in this installment are forced to move because of the coming of the white settlers. Nine-year-old Omakayas is beginning to discover her powers as she also starts on her journey to womanhood.

The Painted Drum is Erdrich's tenth novel for adult readers. The story depicts a seller of antiquities, of mixed Native and European ancestry, who discovers through a ceremonial drum the stories buried on the Ojibwe reservation a century earlier. These include children who have died for the sins of their parents. Erdrich captivates the listener with stories about the strange power the lost children possess. Some say this story is her finest work.

Both novels are ably read by professional audiobook reader Anna Fields.

Feiler, Bruce. ***Where GOD Was Born***. New York: Harper Audio, 2005. 6 compact discs; 6 hours. Abridged. Read by the author. ISBN 0-06-082385-2, \$29.95.

This book, an excellent choice for high school and college classes, was written by the best-selling author, who traveled 10,000 miles through the Middle East to examine and answer questions about religion. *Where GOD Was Born* takes readers to places Westerners have not seen in decades, if ever. Feiler

reveals details about the common roots of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. He comes to the conclusion that the sacred texts are important in today's world. If all the faiths took from one another, exchanged ideas, recognized their commonalities, and were open to peaceful coexistence rather than fighting over whose beliefs are right, there would be peace and harmony. Feiler feels that God can unite different faiths into a shared "allegiance of hope."

Continued on page 49