

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

Feather, Leonard and Gitler, Ira. *The Biographical Encyclopedia of Jazz*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2007. 718 pp. Updated ed. ISBN-13 978-0-19-532000-8, \$29.95 (pb).

The revised and expanded edition of this classic encyclopedia gives detailed information on the careers of more than 3,300 jazz musicians. It is an invaluable research tool for jazz writers, record collectors, musicians, and fans. Arranged alphabetically, the volume includes jazz greats Louis Armstrong, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Duke Ellington, Wynton Marsalis, and many more. For the most part, this new edition does not update or correct information in the body of each entry. However, there are corrections and updates in the headings of many biographies such as dates and places of birth, and dates and places of death. Musicians born in the nineteenth century are included as well as several new young musicians, some in their twenties. Each entry contains basic information about the musician, important dates, association with other musicians, major recordings and performances, and their chief influences. This volume contains information about the life and the art of the musician, the evolution of his or her music and career, crucial turning points, important relationships, and public and critical receptions.

Prefaces by each of the encyclopedia's compilers are included. The late Feather, a respected figure in jazz writing and criticism, moved to the United States from England in the 1930s. He wrote *Inside Bebop* and the *Book of Jazz*. Gitler has composed jazz since 1951 and teaches jazz history at the Manhattan School of Music.

In the 1960s he was the New York editor of *Downbeat* and still contributes articles to that and other publications.

Graves, Kathy Davis and Ebbott, Elizabeth. *Indians in Minnesota*. Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2007. 388 pp. Fifth ed. ISBN 0-8166-2733-9, \$19.95 (pb).

New information was collected from hundreds of interviews with tribal members, as well as data from the 2000 Minnesota Census and federal and state reports. The new edition examines the significant changes and continuing needs of Indians in the twenty-first century. Indians' relationships with federal, state, and local governments are explored along with the expansion of gaming and growing tribal sovereignty. This book includes information about the status of Indian culture, natural resources, economic development, employment, education, social services, health, housing, and criminal justice issues. The authors also focus on central concerns facing Indians today, including efforts to preserve sovereignty, culture, language, and reservations, and to build brighter futures for Indian youth.

A list of tables, a preface, an introduction, a conclusion, and a glossary are also in this volume. An appendix contains facts, figures, and maps of Minnesota Indian reservations. A second appendix has treaties, significant federal legislation, federal court decisions, a selected bibliography, Internet resources, and an index.

Hamann, Jack. *On American Soil: How Justice Became a Casualty of World War II*. Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 2007. 384 pp. ISBN-13 978-0-295-98705-7, \$19.95 (pb).

This updated edition was originally published in 2005 by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill and won the 2005 Investigative Reporters and Editors Book Award. It examines an incident that grew out of the internment of a group of Italian prisoners of war during the Second World War, in close proximity to African-American soldiers awaiting their assignments. Because of legalized and *de facto* segregation, the POWs had more freedom than the Black soldiers. In August 1944, a group of frustrated and angry soldiers attacked the POWs, killing one, and were in turn court-martialed. Three of the 43 court-martialed soldiers faced a death sentence. Though some were exonerated and none executed, many received long prison sentences. This book inspired Congressman Jim McDermott to introduce legislation directing the secretary of the army to reopen the cases of the African-American soldiers and find out the truth.

Included in this volume is a preface to the 2007 edition, an author's note, notes on sources, a bibliography, and an index.

Leckie, William H., with Shirley A. Leckie. *The Buffalo Soldiers: A Narrative of the Black Cavalry in the West*. Norman: Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 2007. 336 pp. Revised ed. ISBN-13 978-0-8061-3840-4, \$19.95 (pb).

This revised edition was originally published in 1967; a second hardback edition appeared in 1971. This was the first book to acknowledge the importance of African-American units in the takeover of the West. The book was praised by reviewers. However, some felt that the volume paid too little attention to the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Infantry, units of Black soldiers. Critics also felt that *The Buffalo Soldiers* did not deal enough with social and family relations among the enlisted men and too few details about enlisted Medal of Honor winners.

In 1996 the University of Oklahoma press reissued the book. Historians have dealt with many of the question the critics raised in the first edition. The authors of the 2007 edition have provided even more information about "American expansionism" and African Americans in the West.

Also included here are a list of illustrations, a preface to the 2007 revision, the preface to the first edition, an epilogue, an updated bibliography, and an index.

Levine, Lawrence. *Black Culture and Black Consciousness: Afro-American Folk Thought from Slavery to Freedom*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2007. 560 pp. 30th anniversary ed. ISBN-13 978-0-19-530568-5, \$18.95 (pb).

This expanded volume, first published in 1977 by Oxford University Press, will inspire and educate readers. The author wrote a new preface in celebration of the anniversary reissue that tells how the writing of this book came to be and its influence on later scholarship in this area. Levine writes how earlier scholars referred to the Afro-American folk culture as inarticulate. In reality, he found that was not true at all; African people in America have developed a rich oral tradition that serves as the foundation of their community. Among the oral expressions that Levine explores are songs, folktales, verbal games and challenges, and long narrative poems called "toasts." *Black Culture and Black Consciousness* has strongly influenced a generation of historians and continues to be read and taught. Also included in this volume are an epilogue, notes, and an index.

Moran, Robert T.; Harris, Philip R.; and Moran, Sarah V. *Managing Cultural Differences: Global Leadership Strategies for the 21st Century*. Boston: Butterworth-Heinemann, 2007. 708 pp. Includes CD. Seventh ed. ISBN-13 978-0-7506-8247-3, \$74.95.

This updated edition, initially written for practitioners and students, will also interest instructors in various departments of universities and colleges and human resource departments in corporate America. First published in 1979, this volume has been updated with more maps for geographical areas, current and expanded statistical tables and graphs, and more profiles of countries

within a region. There is a more complete discussion of globalization and its impact on business, as well as security issues and terrorism post-9/11. Although the number of pages has increased in this expanded seventh edition, it retains the same organizational structure and includes case studies as well as explanatory text.

New to this edition is a CD-ROM with resources and activities for students, as well as an online instructor's guide, making this a good choice for business-school classes. A foreword, a prologue, an epilogue, and an index are included as well.

Roberts, Janine. *Glitter & Greed: The Secret World of the Diamond Cartel*. New York: The Disinformation Company, 2007. 408 pp. Revised ed. ISBN 1-932857-60-5, \$15.95 (pb).

This updated edition of a book first published in 2003 tells the truth about the diamond trade—the brutality, the abuse, and the fraud. The author's investigative talents help her to expose the truth about diamond giant De Beers, and her writing ability makes the tale especially gripping. She reveals that many "flawless" diamonds are actually man-made, and the cartels' price fixing has led to massive profits at the expense of workers and consumers. Hunting diamonds has driven people to poverty, to be hurt or even killed. The atrocities are wide-ranging, from indigenous people forcibly evicted in South Africa, to child slaves in India, death squads in Congo and Sierra Leone, and horrific conditions in the mines everywhere. Some parts of this story, such as the "blood diamonds" of West Africa, are gradually becoming known to the rest of the world through documentaries and feature films, songs, and the high-profile efforts of celebrities.

The volume includes a glossary, references, a bibliography, and an index.

Starr, Meg. *Alicia's Happy Day/El día más feliz de Alicia*. Long Island City: Star Bright Books, 2007. 32 pp. Illus. by Ying-hwa Hu & Cornelius Van Wright. Bilingual (English-Spanish) ed. Spanish translation by María Fiol. ISBN-13 978-1-59572-116-7, \$5.95 (pb).

This picture book, first published in 2002, is now available in a bilingual English-Spanish version. It's Alicia's birthday, and as she walks through her predominantly Puerto Rican neighborhood, she imagines banners flying and people stopping to dance in her honor. Children will love to have the story read aloud to them. The full-color illustrations are done by award-winning artists Hu and Van Wright. They vividly show what it's like to live in a multicultural city.

Thich Nhat Hanh. *Living Buddha, Living Christ*. New York: Riverhead, 2007. 222 pp. 10th anniversary edition. ISBN-13 978-1-59448-239-7, \$15.00 (pb).

The tenth anniversary edition of this classic work, which explores the convergence of Buddhist and Christian ethics and spirituality, includes all of the original text, as well as a brand-new mindful living journal.

The author has been banned from his native Vietnam and has lived in exile since the age of 40. He was banned by both the non-

Communist and Communist governments for his role in resisting the violence affecting his people. He now lives in southwestern France, where he founded a retreat center 12 years ago and continues to teach, write, and garden.

REISSUES OF OUT-OF-PRINT BOOKS

Chuang Hua. *Crossings*. New York: New Directions, 2007, 1986. 216 pp. Foreword by Amy Ling. ISBN-13 978-0-8112-1668-5, \$14.95 (pb).

Originally published in 1968, *Crossings* almost immediately went out of print. However, years later it is widely recognized as the first modernist novel to address the Asian-American experience. It is the story of a woman's search for herself.

In the novel, Fourth Jane, the fourth child of seven siblings, has memories of an oppressive father, although he was loving to her. She travels among four continents, and her constant journeys cause her often to feel displaced. This powerful narrative is a moving work of literature. *Crossings* is the Chinese-born author's only known written work.

Langan, Paul. *The Bully*. New York: Scholastic, 2002, 2007. 208 pp. Series: Bluford High. ISBN-13 978-0-439-86546-3, \$3.99 (pb).

Langan, Paul. *Payback*. New York: Scholastic, 2002, 2007. 144 pp. Series: Bluford High. Originally published as *The Gun*. ISBN-13 978-0-439-90487-2, \$3.99 (pb).

Schraff, Anne. *Lost and Found*. New York: Scholastic, 2002, 2007. 134 pp. Series: Bluford High. ISBN-13 978-0-439-89839-3, \$3.99 (pb).

Schraff, Anne. *A Matter of Trust*. New York: Scholastic, 2002, 2007. 125 pp. Series: Bluford High. ISBN-13 978-0-439-86547-0, \$3.99 (pb).

Schraff, Anne. *Secrets in the Shadows*. New York: Scholastic, 2002, 2007. 128 pp. Series: Bluford High. ISBN-13 978-0-439-90485-8, \$3.99 (pb).

Schraff, Anne. *Someone to Love Me*. New York: Scholastic, 2002, 2007. 162 pp. Series: Bluford High. ISBN-13 978-0-439-90486-5, \$3.99 (pb).

The Bluford High Series, designed for students in grades six through nine, focuses on the lives of a group of high school students and their families. The series is set in the contemporary urban United States, at the fictional Bluford High School. The school was named after Guion "Guy" Bluford, America's first African-American astronaut. Each novel focuses on topics significant to the lives of today's African-American youth, but in its universality has appeal to all young people. These topics include family, friendship, trust, isolation, violence, and peer pressure.

Some examples can be seen in *The Bully*. Darrell Mercer learns

how to deal with a bully rather than living in fear. In *Payback*, Tyray Hobbs, one of the bullies at Bluford High, faces his own introspection and growth when Darrell stands up to him. The book was originally titled *The Gun*, referring to the weapon Tyray is tempted to use on Darrell.

Teens learn how to deal with their interpersonal problems, as shown in *A Matter of Trust*; Darcy Wills and Brisana Meeks are in conflict, even though they used to be good friends.

The first volume of the series, originally published by Townsend Press in 2002 and reissued by Scholastic, is *Lost and Found*, a story of sibling bonds. Darcy Wills notices that her sister Jamee is hanging with a bad crowd and coming home with cuts and bruises from an abusive relationship, and she vows to take action to help her sister. And in *Secrets in the Shadows*, a character's efforts to impress a girl lead him into ever more dangerous acts.

The reissues have appealing photorealistic covers. The original series proved popular with young readers, and the Scholastic editions will make these short novels available through its book clubs to an even wider audience.

Meyer, Carolyn. *White Lilacs*. San Diego: Harcourt, 1993, 2007. 244 pp. ISBN 0-15-205851-6, \$6.95 (pb).

Originally published in 1993, this award-winning story set in the 1920s, during the era of Jim Crow, is tender and poignant. The main character, Rose Lee Jefferson, is shocked when she learns that the White residents of Dillon, Texas, intend to raze her Black community, Freedomtown, and build a park in its place. Based on real events, the novel conveys the helplessness the Black residents of Freedomtown feel in the face of White mob violence and official racism. Even well-to-do Blacks and World War I heroes find themselves at the mercy of the powers that be.

The novel contains a map of Freedomtown, Rose Lee's family tree, and a reader chat page.

NEW VOLUMES IN SERIES

African American Biography Library

Ford, Carin T. *Duke Ellington: "I Live with Music."* Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2007. 128 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN-13 978-0-7660-2702-2, \$31.93 (list), \$23.95 (schools and libraries).

Ford, Carin T. *Paul Robeson: "I Want to Make Freedom Ring."* Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2007. 128 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN-13 978-0-7660-2703-9, \$31.93 (list), \$23.95 (schools and libraries).

Litwin, Laura Baskes. *Zora Neale Hurston: "I Have Been in Sor-row's Kitchen."* Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2007. 128 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN-13 978-0-7660-2536-3, \$31.93 (list), \$23.95 (schools and libraries).

Schuman, Michael A. *Louis Armstrong: "Jazz Is Played from the Heart."* Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2007. 128 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN-13 978-0-7660-2700-8, \$31.93 (list), \$23.95

(schools and libraries).

Three musicians and one author, all of whom lived in roughly the same era (1890s to 1970s), are the subjects of this series for the secondary level. Ford's biography of Ellington focuses on the jazz pianist's emphasis on doing things his own way—from skipping out on piano lessons as a child growing up in a middle-class Black neighborhood of Washington, D.C., to his innovative style of music and his belief that African Americans should fight for equal rights by being a positive example rather than speaking out politically (though Ford highlights those times when Ellington did offer support to the civil rights cause). In contrast, Paul Robeson spent his entire life fighting for racial and economic justice, and he paid the price for his efforts. His political involvement grew in large part out of his personal experience, as the book points out. He wanted to be a lawyer, but his race prevented him from rising to the level to which his intelligence and work ethic qualified him. When he became an actor and musician, his travels and performances were constrained by prejudice and legal discrimination—constraints he didn't experience in Europe or in the Soviet Union, which gave Robeson a special welcome and embraced the civil rights cause. One of his greatest disappointments was the way other African-American leaders refused to support him when he was blacklisted and his passport revoked for eight years, thus denying him a livelihood in Europe, where he remained popular.

Ellington's musical career, particularly his efforts to change his music to accommodate changing tastes and television, stands in contrast to Armstrong, who pioneered Dixieland Jazz and remained true to his artistic roots despite having lived most of his life outside his native New Orleans. Schuman devotes several chapters to Armstrong's harsh childhood in the poorest and most crime-ridden neighborhood of the Big Easy, which included a stint in a boys' reformatory. The book describes Armstrong's complicated personal life (four marriages, for instance) and his career in the context of segregation and the early years of the civil rights movement; though not given to political statements, Armstrong denounced efforts to stop school desegregation in Little Rock.

Litwin's biography of Zora Neale Hurston captures the writer's sensibility, rooted in the folk tradition of her Florida African-American community and in her desire to live life on her own terms. The first chapter describes her ruse to infiltrate a seedy lumber camp to collect workers' stories by posing as a bootlegger during Prohibition. Hurston also lied about her age, knocking off ten years, in order to be able to finish high school and attend college. The book discusses Hurston's major works, mostly produced during the decade of the 1930s, and challenges the African-American critics—all male and all from the North—who failed to appreciate masterpieces such as *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. A final chapter assesses the writer's literary place and her influence on later African-American women writers such as Alice Walker.

All four books feature a chronology, chapter notes, "For Further Reading," Internet addresses, and an index. Ellington and Armstrong's biographies also contain a discography.

African-American Heroes

Feinstein, Stephen. *Will Smith*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2007. 24 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN-13 978-0-7660-2765-7, \$21.26 (list), \$15.95 (schools and libraries).

Feinstein, Stephen. *Wynton Marsalis*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2007. 24 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN-13 978-0-7660-2766-4, \$21.26 (list), \$15.95 (schools and libraries).

These short biographies for younger elementary readers are heavily illustrated with color photographs, both of the subject and of children today taking part in the subjects' chosen pursuits. In addition to the straightforward information, which focuses on the subjects' childhoods and best-known achievements, the books contain inspirational quotes, a glossary, a time line, a bibliography geared to young readers, and an index.

The biography of Smith covers his childhood in a middle-class home in the Philadelphia suburbs, his friendship with Jeff Townes (later known as DJ Jazzy Jeff), his rap career, his major acting roles (especially in science-fiction films), and his life as a husband and father. His inspirational quote focuses on his desire to be a good role model for young people, as he had good role models growing up.

Wynton Marsalis describes the trumpeter's upbringing in a musical family in New Orleans. Feinstein tells how young Wynton didn't like to practice when he was young; he preferred to play with friends. Nonetheless, he came back to the instrument when he was ready and ended up getting into the highly competitive Juilliard School for Music. Other themes include his Grammy Awards, his founding of the educational program Jazz for Young People, and his efforts to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. His inspirational quote tells young people to be serious about their pursuits.

Artists of the American Mosaic

Hallmark, Kara Kelley. *Encyclopedia of Asian American Artists*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2007. 282 pp. ISBN-13 978-0-313-33451-1, \$85.00.

This volume for high school age and up profiles 75 prominent Asian-American artists, living and deceased. Each entry lists the artist's date of birth (and death, if applicable), media, country of origin or heritage, critical works about the artist, and places where his or her work may be seen. Entries are organized alphabetically and text, usually two to three pages, describes the artist's background, major works, materials and techniques employed, themes of the works, awards, and involvement with galleries and organizations. The media in which the artists work are quite diverse and include architecture, sculpture, painting, installations, performance art, photography, filmmaking, and computer-generated art. Most of the artists trace their roots to China or Japan; other nationalities with significant representation are Cambodia, Korea, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Several of the artists, like Kip Fulbeck (of mixed-race ancestry) have distinguished themselves

as novelists as well.

Black-and-white illustrations or photos of the artist at work are included in most of the entries, and a center section of full-color reproductions highlights some of the more unique or interesting works. Following the text is a glossary of artistic terms, one page of selected readings, and an index.

Asian Folktales Retold

Sakairi, Masao, ed. *Vietnamese Fables of Frogs and Toads*. Berkeley: Stone Bridge Press/HEIAN, 2007. 32 pp. Illus. by Shoko Kojima. Trans. from Japanese by Matthew Galgani. ISBN-13 978-0-89346-947-4, \$16.95.

Sakairi, Masao, ed. *Vietnamese Tales of Rabbits and Watermelons*. Berkeley: Stone Bridge Press/HEIAN, 2007. 32 pp. Illus. by Shoko Kojima. Trans. from Japanese by Matthew Galgani. ISBN-13 978-0-89346-948-1, \$16.95.

Sugiura, Kuniko, ed. *Indonesian Fables of Feats and Fortunes*. Berkeley, Calif.: Stone Bridge Press/HEIAN, 2007. 32 pp. Illus. by Koji Honda. Trans. from Japanese by Matthew Galgani. ISBN-13 978-0-89346-950-4, \$16.95.

Sugiura, Kuniko, ed. *Indonesian Tales of Treasures and Birds*. Berkeley, Calif.: Stone Bridge Press/HEIAN, 2007. 32 pp. Illus. by Koji Honda. Trans. from Japanese by Matthew Galgani. ISBN-13 978-0-89346-951-1, \$16.95.

Originally published in Japan, this series presents two to three folktales on the given themes, unfortunately without source notes. What the books do have are lavish watercolor illustrations (more so in the two Vietnamese titles), a page about the creation of each book (including biographical information about the storyteller and what brought him or her to present the story), and a page of information about the country along with a map.

The two volumes by Sakairi contain two stories apiece for a total of four. Three are animal tales, “The Frog Bride” and “The Toad Who Brought the Rain” from *Vietnamese Fables of Frogs and Toads* and “The Rabbit Who Always Got Away.” “Mai An-Tiem and the Watermelons,” the longest of the stories, is about a servant, banished by the king as a result of a false rumor, who plants mysterious seeds from a magic pheasant and gets watermelons. The afterword describes how a Vietnamese refugee woman in Japan approached folklore researcher Keiko Nomuro with the idea of a collection of tales about her homeland, because she wanted to teach her children about their heritage.

Because three tales rather than two appear in each of the Indonesian volumes, the pages are more crowded with text, in a smaller font, and the illustrations are sparser. *Indonesian Fables of Feats and Fortunes* contains three tales of animals with supernatural powers whose actions are designed to teach a lesson: “The Mischievous Mouse Deer, Kanchil,” “Panji Kuraras and His Champion Rooster,” and “The Water Buffalo That Saved the Nation.” “Panji Kuraras and His Champion Rooster” depicts the brutal sport of cockfighting, once popular in Indonesia but now, as the author

states within the story, “cruel . . . and in many countries . . . against the law.” (The enchanted rooster in the story wins without razor blades.) Women with special powers are featured in the three stories of *Indonesian Tales of Treasures and Brides*: “The Goddess-Bride,” “The Best Gift of All,” and “The Pumpkin Treasure.”

The Au Pairs

De la Cruz, Melissa. *Crazy Hot*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007. 280 pp. ISBN-13 978-1-4169-3961-0, \$16.99.

Despite their plans to get on with their lives, a multiethnic trio of young women encounter further drama in the Hamptons, caring for Eliza’s precocious stepsiblings. Blond Eliza, who just finished her first year at Parsons and is starting a boutique in the Hamptons, discovers that her mother rented out the family’s summer house to get back at her ex-husband; thus, Eliza has no place to stay except her stepmom’s with the kids. Jacqui, from Brazil, needs her nannying job with the Perrys to afford college; when the Perrys suddenly move to London, Eliza and stepmom come to Jacqui’s aid. Their friend Mara has a great internship with a travel magazine but loses it when she forgets to renew her passport, leading her to share the au pair position.

Like the other books in the series for teenage girls, this one features a tempting array of mansions, money, pool parties, clothes, and celebrities. Not to mention boys, boys, boys, including an Australian photographer promising Jacqui fame and fortune as a supermodel. Jacqui wants to be appreciated for her brains rather than her looks, but the money is hard to refuse. Problems with boys, distracted au pairs not doing their share, and genius children turning neurotic and demanding are among the tribulations of the friends’ latest summer together.

Biography

Krohn, Katherine. *Vera Wang*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2007. 112 pp. Illus. ISBN 0-8225-6612-5, \$29.27.

The noted fashion designer, whose parents immigrated to New York City from China, is the subject of this glossy biography for middle grades and up. The book begins with a pivotal event in Wang’s career—her wedding in 1989 to Arthur Becker, a businessman, and her inability to find a gown she liked. After years of experience as a fashion editor at *Vogue*, she decided not only to design her own gown but also to open a store, and then a design firm specializing in bridal gowns and other *haute couture* (defined in a special box). The biography describes Wang’s business successes and the many celebrities—Nancy Kerrigan, Karenna Gore, Vanessa Williams, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and more—who have worn her creations. Krohn also looks at Wang’s personal life—growing up in a wealthy immigrant family that could afford trips abroad and top-notch education for the talented youngster, her marriage to Becker and adoption of two daughters, and her homes around the world (most recently in China, where she has expanded her business). Though the biography also mentions

some of the challenges that come with Wang's achievements, the tone is upbeat and readers, especially girls, will be fascinated by this storybook tale of fabulous wealth, style, and success.

The book contains interesting informational sidebars on such diverse subjects as hot New York City discos in the 1980s, Wang's interest in the sport of ice-skating, and her favorite designers. There are source notes, a bibliography, additional books and web sites, and an index.

Chronologies of the American Mosaic

Figueredo, D. H. *Latino Chronology*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2007. 160 pp. ISBN-13 978-0-313-34154-0, \$45.00.

The history of Latino people in the United States, as well as the peoples of the Spanish Caribbean, Mexico, and Central and South America, is the subject of this reference title for middle school and up. Early chapters, up to the sixteenth century, focus on the migration of American Indians and developments of Aztec, Maya, Inca, and Taíno civilizations. With the arrival of the Spanish *conquistadores*, the chronology describes military, political, and religious milestones. The births and deaths of key historical figures are also included.

Beginning with the twentieth century, the categories of events broaden, with artistic, literary, scientific, business, media, and sports achievements dominating the chronology. Figueredo highlights key events within each year, though when a trend (such as the emergence of Latino literature) or controversy (such as illegal

immigration) spans many years or even decades, he chooses a single year to list the event; 1990, for instance, is a big year for listing Latinos in literature and popular music. Special boxes offer more in-depth information about major themes, trends, and events. The more visible groups and their countries of origin dominate the chronology, but the entire region is in general well covered. The categories of literature and the media are especially strong. One major omission involves Central America in the 1970s and 1980s—the Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua (1979), civil wars in El Salvador and Guatemala, and the sanctuary movement in the United States in the 1980s. The book concludes with a glossary, a bibliography, and an index.

Drama High

Divine, L. *Drama High: Jayd's Legacy*. New York: Dafina Books, 2007. 218 pp. ISBN-13 978-0-7582-1637-3, \$9.95 (pb).

The third volume in the Drama High series for young adult readers promises more intrigue and heartache, as Homecoming is getting near and there's a chance that Nellie may be the first African-American Homecoming Queen in the multiethnic school's history. Jayd Jackson, the novel's 16-year-old narrator and Nellie's friend, worries that Nellie will become too stuck-up if she wins, and she also worries that the campaign might get too ugly for her naive friend. Jayd also has to deal with hot quarterback Nigel and her old flame, Raheem, who are transferring to Drama High. Will Nigel and Raheem disrupt Jayd's blossoming relationship with

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the handsome and well-to-do white boy, Jeremy Weiner?

Jayd's grandmother, of Haitian heritage and with roots in New Orleans, is said to possess magical powers. Can Jayd harness the power of her ancestors to protect Nellie and, ultimately, to protect herself from the negative energy of the boys in her life?

Following the story is a list of discussion questions, a preview of the next title in the series, and advice on starting a book discussion club.

Fabric Folios

Paine, Sheila. *Embroidery from Afghanistan*. Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 2007. 88 pp. Illus. ISBN-13 978-0-295-98661-6, \$22.50 (pb).

Weir, Shelagh. *Embroidery from Palestine*. Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 2007. 88 pp. Illus. ISBN-13 978-0-295-98660-1, \$22.50 (pb).

Two regions in conflict are the subjects of the most recent books in this heavily illustrated series for students, middle school and up, and interested readers. Each book begins with an essay describing the origins of the embroidery (or other textile art form) from that area, how it was taught and to whom, how the embroidery is worn or used, materials, regional differences, and the contemporary state of the textile art. The 20 or so pages of text are followed by many more pages of stunning photos of embroidered works with captions.

In both Afghanistan and Palestine—predominantly, if not exclusively, Muslim regions—women are the creators of the embroidery, and much of it has been used as body covering, including long dresses and veils. In Afghanistan, women have embroidered the world-famous Kandahar shirt as well as vests, head coverings, and other accessories. Children's clothing has also been embroidered, as have storage bags, wall hangings, saddles for animals, and in this often-violent society, pistol holsters. The designs possess symbolic significance, representing fertility or protection against evil spirits, natural disasters, disease, and human predators. Today, most Afghans prefer purchasing Western clothing, and traditional embroiderers are refocusing their work to sell abroad.

In Palestine before 1948, women embroidering together created a strong multigenerational community. Much of their work focused on the wedding trousseau and was closely tied to this important rite of passage. There were significant variations among regions—Southern Palestine, Bethlehem, and the Galilee, for instance. After the displacement of the Palestinians after 1948, these regional designs became symbols of identity and the desire to recover place. Nowadays, young Palestinian women wear Western clothing every day but dress in traditional embroidered garments for demonstrations against the occupation.

Each book concludes with a glossary, a further reading section, and an index.

The Global School Room

Gupta, Amita, ed. *Going to School in South Asia*. Westport,

Conn.: Greenwood, 2007. 210 pp. ISBN-13 978-0-313-33553-2, \$65.00.

The first in a series for students in education at the undergraduate and graduate levels, this volume summarizes the structure, goals, and challenges of educational systems in nine nations of South Asia. All chapters are written by area specialists; editor Gupta is the author of the India chapter, by far the longest and, in her words in the introduction, the “anchor” of the book. However, the country chapters are arranged alphabetically, so that readers who wish to understand the most developed and influential educational system in the region will have to read the chapters out of sequence. Besides India, the countries covered are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Because all the chapters have separate authors, the topics covered vary somewhat, but the major ones (in all or almost all of the chapters) include the history of the country's educational system before, during, and after colonial rule; schooling at the various levels (early childhood, primary, secondary, postsecondary); and the role of the government, religious groups (especially in the Muslim countries), and nongovernmental organizations. Each chapter contains its own references, but a bibliography for the entire volume includes books and web sites. Indexed.

Greenwood Guides to Historic Events of the Ancient World

Hayes, Christine Elizabeth. *The Emergence of Judaism*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2007. 200 pp. ISBN 0-313-33206-1, \$45.00.

Judaism's origin and early history is the subject of this overview for high school and introductory college students, as well as interested adults. Hayes begins with a chronology of important events from 2000 B.C.E. to the seventh-century creation of the Babylonian Talmud. Chapters are organized both thematically and chronologically. The first chapter gives an overview of Jewish history from the origins of the religion to its practice after the emergence of Christianity. The second and third chapters discuss Biblical Israel and other themes of Biblical literature. The fourth chapter describes the influence of Hellenistic philosophy on Second Temple Judaism, and the fifth chapter examines the impact of the destruction of the Second Temple and the role of the rabbis during the Diaspora. Later chapters address topics in Rabbinic Judaism and how the rabbis' writings during the early years of the Diaspora have affected the practice of Judaism today. Black-and-white photos, maps, brief biographies of major figures, and a section of primary documents follow the main text. A glossary, an extensive annotated bibliography, and an index conclude the book.

Greenwood Guides to Science and Religion

Iqbal, Muzaffar. *Science and Islam*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2007. 234 pp. ISBN-13 978-0-313-33576-1, \$65.00.

Rather than providing a mere overview for the college-level

and interested adult reader, this series title takes sides in scholarly debates related to Islam and science. Iqbal challenges Western views of religion and science as separate entities, arguing that in the Koran science and nature are seen as extensions of the divine. In this sense, Islam has more in common with Buddhism, for instance, than with Christianity despite their common origins. He also takes issue with Western scholars who have declared that medieval Islam contributed nothing new to science but merely maintained and disseminated the developments of the ancient Greeks.

In presenting the contributions of individual scientists as well as the academies centered in Baghdad, Iqbal describes Islamic achievements in the fields of cosmology, geography, astronomy, mathematics, physics, and other fields in the premodern era. These achievements were intertwined with the practice of Islam (the need to locate and pray to Mecca, for instance) and the military and economic hegemony of Muslim civilizations in the Middle East, Africa, and Central and South Asia. He also chronicles the decline of science in the Islamic world, which coincided with both the Enlightenment and the European colonization of Muslim lands. A concluding chapter explores issues facing Muslim scientists today.

The book includes a time line, primary sources, an annotated bibliography, and an index.

Greenwood Introduces Literary Masterpieces

Sternlicht, Sanford. *Masterpieces of Jewish American Literature*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2007. 140 pp. ISBN-13 978-0-313-33857-1, \$49.95.

Sternlicht offers background information, historical context, extensive plot summaries, and some discussion of theme, style, and characters for ten key works of Jewish-American literature of the twentieth century. The chapters are arranged chronologically. After a very brief introduction restricted to the history of Jewish immigration, the Holocaust, and whether or not the writers addressed anti-Semitism in their work, the volume examines the following: Abraham Cahan's *The Rise of David Levinsky*, Anzia Yezeirska's *The Bread Givers*, Michael Gold's *Jews Without Money*, Henry Roth's *Call It Sleep*, Meyer Levin's *The Old Bunch*, Saul Bellow's *The Adventures of Augie March*, Bernard Malamud's *The Assistant*, Chaim Potok's *The Chosen*, Philip Roth's *Portnoy's Complaint*, and Cynthia Ozick's *The Messiah of Stockholm*.

No more than a basic introduction, the book is best for high school students. The titles are well chosen, making this a good starting point for young people (and their teachers) who are just beginning to read Jewish-American fiction. Each chapter includes other secondary sources, most of which are on a fairly basic level as well. Indexed.

Greenwood Milestones in African American History

Rodriguez, Junius P., ed. *Encyclopedia of Slave Resistance and Rebellion*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2007. 2 vols., 816 pp. ISBN 0-313-33271-1, \$199.95.

Signed entries ranging from a half page to more than two pages describe slave revolts in the United States, throughout the Americas, in Africa and Asia, and in the ancient world, as well as other forms of resistance, such as arson, civil disobedience, infanticide, poisoning, theft, and the Underground Railroad. The encyclopedia also covers resistance leaders, key abolitionists, films and books about slavery and resistance, religious beliefs and expressions among enslaved people, and the historiography of slave resistance and rebellion.

At the beginning of Volume I is a list of entries arranged alphabetically, as well as entries grouped by theme. Many of the entries cover more than one theme. An introduction offers a concise history of slave resistance that also addresses trends in interpretations of this resistance, both on the part of historians and in popular culture. A chronology after the introduction includes revolts in the ancient world, key events during the period of modern slavery, release dates of films on the subject, and publication dates of historical studies like Herbert Aptheker's classic *American Negro Slave Revolts* (1943) and novels like Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind* (1936) and Toni Morrison's *Beloved* (1987). The entries themselves are arranged alphabetically and include a short list of sources for further reading.

In addition to entries from O to Z, Volume II contains 65 primary documents, a lengthy bibliography, and an index. Like the other titles in the series (*Encyclopedia of Antislavery and Abolition*, *Encyclopedia of the Great Black Migration*, *Encyclopedia of American Race Riots*, and *Encyclopedia of the Reconstruction Era*), this set is recommended for high school, college, and university libraries and public libraries with large reference collections.

History Maker Bios

Aller, Susan Bivin. *Madam C. J. Walker*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2007. 48 pp. Illus. ISBN 0-8225-6582-X, \$26.60.

Students in the middle elementary grades are the audience for this simply written series with large print and copious visuals. Some of the black-and-white photos have captions in bubbles above and beside the picture in the style of comic books.

Aller tells the story of Sarah Breedlove Walker, the first in her family to be born in freedom after the Civil War. Breedlove worked as a laundry woman and raised her daughter in poverty. Her situation improved little even after she married Charles J. Walker. Hardship, stress, poor nutrition, and harsh hair care products caused her hair to fall out. Aller describes how she first began selling a hair care product that improved the condition of her hair and after moving to Denver invented and marketed her own products. Her success in this area made her the wealthiest African-American woman ever and the first to own a major business.

Sidebars describe the life in the late nineteenth century for Blacks in the urban North, who encountered much poverty and discrimination; hair care challenges for Blacks living in slavery; Madam C. J. Walker's mansion in upstate New York; and the contributions of Booker T. Washington, whom Walker confronted at a convention because he at first refused to recognize the achievements of Black women like herself. Included are a time line, a list of books and web sites, and an index.

Holidays Around the World

Heiligman, Deborah. *Celebrate Easter with Colored Eggs, Flowers, and Prayer*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Books, 2007. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN-13 978-1-4263-0020-2, \$15.95.

Heiligman, Deborah. *Celebrate Passover with Matzah, Maror, and Memories*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Books, 2007. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN-13 978-1-4263-0018-9, \$15.95.

Large, glossy color photos and first-person narratives in an unnamed child's voice present aspects of religious holidays for students in the primary grades. *Celebrate Easter* takes an ecumenical and international approach to this important holiday, describing customs, in text or illustrations, from Ghana, the Philippines, New Orleans, Cuba, Peru, Hawaii, Russia, and Greece, among other places. *Celebrate Passover* presents the history of Passover, the parts of the Seder, and the significance of each part and of the holiday itself. There are pictures of Jewish families in the United States, Canada, Uganda, Morocco, Hungary, and Israel. A map in each book shows where the photos were taken.

A six-page section of facts, activities, songs, recipes, and books and web sites for further study follow the text. *Celebrate Easter* includes two Easter hymns, while *Celebrate Passover* lists the contents of the Seder Plate and their significance and the Ten Plagues. Messages from a pastor and a rabbi are directed to adults using the books with young readers.

Just the Facts Biographies

Doeden, Matt. *Will Smith*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2007. 112 pp. Illus. ISBN 0-8225-6608-7, \$27.93.

Golus, Carrie. *Tupac Shakur*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2007. 112 pp. Illus. ISBN 0-8225-6609-5, \$27.93.

African-American rapper/actors are the subjects of these two middle-grade biographies. Although Shakur and Smith shared professions, their images and career trajectories couldn't be more different. Shakur, the son of Black Panthers, was raised in poverty by a single mother struggling with a crack addiction; he lived the gangster life and was shot to death in 1996 at the age of 27. Smith, who grew up in a middle-class family in a Philadelphia suburb, maintains a clean-cut image. Actor Jada Pinkett, Smith's second wife and the mother of two of his three children, attended the Baltimore School of the Arts with Shakur and considered herself a close friend.

As Golus points out, his years in the Baltimore School of the Arts were Shakur's happiest, and when his mother's addiction forced him to leave for an aunt's home near Oakland, his life began to spiral downward. While his talents led to career success, his personal problems and compulsion to live the life he chronicled in his songs and films led to professional disputes, fights with severe injuries, eleven months in prison on a sexual assault charge, and his death in Las Vegas. The book makes clear the intellectual and

artistic gifts that Shakur possessed, which in Golus's view made his early demise all the more tragic.

Doeden writes that Smith's career success results in large part from his decision never to use drugs. Most of the biography describes his successful recordings and the various movies he has made, along with his life with Pinkett. Although he has had several flops, Smith's resilience, charm, work ethic, and popular appeal have allowed him to recover and become one of Hollywood's biggest stars today.

Both books include a glossary, a discography, a filmography, a list of books and web sites, and an index. An interesting sidebar in *Tupac Shakur* lists the rapper's favorite books, mostly classic works of world and African-American literature.

Kids Around the World

Freland, François-Xavier. *We Live in Brazil*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2007. 48 pp. Illus. by Sophie Duffet. ISBN-13 978-0-8109-1221-2, \$15.95

Messenger, Alexandre. *We Live in Japan*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2007. 48 pp. Illus. by Sophie Duffet. ISBN-13 978-0-8109-1283-0, \$15.95.

This is a series for late elementary to middle school students, although the information is worthy of early high school students as well. The books start out with some general facts on each country. The books' design is well thought-out and appealing. Each book uses three children from different regions of the country to allow the reader to see the country through their eyes. Each child gets his or her own section, which describes various aspects of life for an average citizen as loosely based on the life of that child and his or her family.

In *We Live in Japan*, the three cities the kids live in are Tokyo, Kyoto, and Hiroshima. Some of the aspects of life discussed are schooling, religion, the Shogun and the Samurai, Japanese writing, the art of flower arranging, and the bombing of Hiroshima. In *We Live in Brazil*, Capoeira, cooking, the Amazon, dictatorship, rural depopulation, tropical fruits, soccer, and telenovelas are among the topics covered. The three cities and surrounding regions discussed are Salvador da Bahia in the country's poor, predominantly Black northeast region, Brasilia (from where the young "tour guide" takes the author into the Amazon), and Rio de Janeiro, with its active cultural life and its glaring divisions between rich and poor.

In addition to its unusual design, the series, which originates from France, features lively writing, in contrast to the dry narrative of the typical country series. However, the volumes contain neither a bibliography nor an index.

Derrick Lachmann
Emory University

The Praeger Singer-Songwriter Collection

Moskowitz, David. *The Words and Music of Bob Marley*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood/Praeger, 2007. 178 pp. ISBN-13 978-0-275-

98935-4, \$44.95.

Here is another “high school level and above” biography of arguably one of the most influential singer-songwriters of the twentieth century. The first chapter covers Marley’s early life in the slums of Kingston and with relatives in rural Jamaica. The second discusses Marley’s early work with the Wailers in the genres of ska and rock steady. From there, Moskowitz describes the development of reggae and its connection to Rastafarianism, and the course of Marley’s career until his death from cancer in 1981 at the age of 36. The seventh chapter discusses the many recordings released after Marley’s death. A final section includes a discography, notes, a bibliography, and an index. What distinguishes this biography is its extensive discussion of specific songs, including perennial favorites “Rastaman Vibration,” “Exodus,” and “Uprising.” Moskowitz, who has compiled several other reference works on Jamaican music, explores the meaning behind the words in relation to Marley’s life and the politics of the time.

Derrick Lachmann
Emory University

Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage

Castañeda, Antonia I. and Meléndez, A. Gabriel, eds. *Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage, Volume VI*. Houston: Arte Público, 2007. 220 pp. ISBN-13 978-1-55885-478-9, \$39.95.

The 12 essays in this scholarly collection grew out of the Fifteenth Annual Spanish and Portuguese Department Conference on Hispanic American Culture and Society at the University of New Mexico in November 2004. The editors categorize the selected essays into four parts: “Recalibrating the Local and Global: History as Region and Region as History,” “Voicing Dissent, Staging Identity, Speaking into Time,” “Translating Latinidad, Hispanismo in the World,” and “From Canton to Nation-State and Beyond, Transnational Authors and Activists.” Three of the articles are presented in Spanish, the rest in English, making this a collection for specialists. The authors featured in the essays are not necessarily the most well known, but have distinguished themselves in the way in which they express the themes of regionalism, transnationalism, and identity that are the major concerns of this book. Among those studied in depth are Américo Paredes, Thomas Smith Webb, Fray Angélico Chávez, María Cristina Mena, Josephina Niggli, and Sara Estela Ramírez.

Snapshots: Images of People and Places in History

MacLeod, Elizabeth. *George Washington Carver: An Innovative Life*. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2007. 32 pp. Illus. ISBN-13 978-1-55337-906-5, \$14.95 (cl); 978-1-55337-907-2, \$6.95 (pb).

This series for elementary school contains a page of text facing a page of illustrations with concise captions. Each page is meant to represent a chapter in the life of the subject.

George Washington Carver begins with a summary of Carver’s achievements. Other chapters cover slavery in the United States and the Civil War (one should note that this book was published in Canada); Carver’s childhood, in which he was separated from his mother and raised by strangers who took him in; his efforts to gain an education; his homestead after the Civil War; his advanced study of agriculture; Booker T. Washington and the Tuskegee Institute; Carver’s teaching experiences at Tuskegee; his research on the peanut; and his other scientific endeavors. The book concludes with a time line, monuments and museums that feature Carver’s life and work, and an index.

Survivor Stories

Sommers, Michael. *Tsunami: True Stories of Survival*. New York: Rosen, 2007. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN-13 978-1-4042-1002-8, \$26.50 (list); \$19.95 (schools and libraries).

This newest addition to the Survivor Stories series deals with tsunamis and is a great classroom book for older elementary school students. The book is short, the font is large, and the pictures are bright. While these attributes give the book appeal, they don’t take away from the quality of information. The book mixes survivors’ individual stories along with general facts about the catastrophe. An entire chapter is dedicated to the recent Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, with additional chapters focusing on both early tsunamis, as well as tsunamis in Asia, and twentieth-century tsunamis in Hawaii and Chile. The book is complete with a glossary, references, “For Further Reading,” and an index. The “true stories” are all narrated in the third person, with only a few brief direct quotes from eyewitnesses.

Derrick Lachmann
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Visual Geography Series

DiPiazza, Francesca Davis. *Chile in Pictures*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2007. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 0-8225-6587-0, \$27.93 (list), \$20.93 (library).

DiPiazza, Francesca Davis. *Kuwait in Pictures*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2007. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 0-8225-6589-7, \$27.93 (list), \$20.93 (library).

DiPiazza, Francesca Davis. *Mali in Pictures*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2007. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 0-8225-6591-9, \$27.93 (list), \$20.93 (library).

Doeden, Matt. *Laos in Pictures*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2007. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 0-8225-6590-0, \$27.93 (list), \$20.93 (library).

Waters, Bella. *Kazakhstan in Pictures*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2007. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 0-8225-6588-9, \$27.93 (list), \$20.93 (library).

Bright color photos depicting the varied geography, architecture, and lifestyles in each country distinguish this series for students in middle and high school. The five books share a similar structure, with sections on the land, history and government, the people, cultural life, and the economy.

Chile in Pictures focuses on the country's diverse and stunning landscape, its historic ethnic and class conflicts that led to the 1973 coup and 17 years of military dictatorship, and the country's political and economic successes after returning to democratic rule. The country's internationally known artists, writers, and musicians also receive attention. *Kuwait in Pictures* addresses the role of oil in the flourishing of this moderate Muslim state. However, its oil wealth has been a mixed blessing in that the nation has become a pawn in regional conflicts—leading, for example, to the Iraqi invasion of 1990 and the 1991 Gulf War—and must currently balance reforms such as women's suffrage with pressure from conservative Muslims. *Mali in Pictures* reveals the country's wealth and key role in transportation and trade in the eleventh through fifteenth centuries as well as the challenges this now poor and landlocked African nation faces today.

Like Mali, Laos is a poor, landlocked country that has served as a crossroads for many civilizations, leading to the ethnic diversity of the country today. One of the special sidebars talks about the Plain of Jars, a plateau region where dozens of mysterious containers ranging from three to ten feet tall are scattered; 2,000 years ago, these may have been used to store food or as funeral urns. *Kazakhstan in Pictures* maintains an optimistic tone when describing the history, current situation, and future of this newly independent Central Asian nation, though the author criticizes the current government's efforts to thwart democratic reforms.

All five books include informational sidebars, a time line, fast facts, brief biographies, sights to see, a glossary, a selected bibliography, and an index.

NEW EDITIONS IN OTHER MEDIA

Chabon, Michael. *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*. New York: Harper Audio, 2007. 10 CDs, 12.5 hours. Unabridged. Read by Peter Riegert. ISBN-13 978-0-06-082356-6, \$39.95.

The bestselling author and Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction creates a whodunit story about Jewish refugees who live in their own little world during the time of the Holocaust. They think the Federal District of Sitka is a safe haven for the time being. The soon realize that their freedom is threatened. The main character in this whodunit becomes overwhelmed due to a marriage that is falling apart and a murder committed right under his nose. He digs deep to find strength within while fighting off his demons.

Poitier, Sidney. *The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography*. New York: Harper Audio, 2007. 7 CDs, 8 hours. Unabridged. Read by the author. ISBN-13 978-0-06-135543-1, \$24.95.

The first African-American actor to win the Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance in *Lilies of the Field* in 1963

brings a powerful autobiography that not only inspires the listener but also cultivates introspection. Poitier said he began the book because he wanted to examine "how well I've done at measuring up to the values I myself have set." In his memoir, this American icon looks back on his celebrated life and career. Poitier explores the elements of his character and personal values as a husband, a father, and an actor, and how he came to be the person he is today.

Poitier feels that his upbringing on the tiny island in the Bahamas without television, radio, or material distractions gave him a strong sense of right and wrong and of self. In *The Measure of a Man*, he explores sacrifice and commitment, pride and humility, rage and forgiveness, and the price he has paid for artistic integrity.

Prothero, Stephen. *Religious Literacy*. New York: Harper Audio, 2007. 8 CDs, 10 hours. Unabridged. Read by the author. ISBN-13 978-0-06-123633-4, \$39.95.

Prothero, chair of the religion department at Boston University, presents a guide to religion and an argument for why it should be included in American education as the fourth R. He feels that it will help resolve the major civic problems we have in our country. The author addresses both the core tenets of the world's major religions and the real differences among them through stories drawn from Christianity, Islam, and other world religions.

Even though the United States is one of the most religious places on earth, Prothero notes that it is illiterate in religion. Only ten percent of American teenagers can name all five major world religions and 15 percent cannot name any. Two-thirds of Americans believe that the Bible holds the answers to all or most of life's basic questions. But only half of the adults can name even one of the four Gospels. Most Americans cannot name the first book of the Bible, although politicians and pundits continue to speak of public policy arguments in religious language. This lack of knowledge causes the meanings to be missed and/or misinterpreted by most Americans. *Religious Literacy* reveals what every American needs to know in order to confront the domestic and foreign challenges facing this country today. 🎧