

# editor's shelf by Larry Shea *Editor's Shelf*

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, or CD-ROM; 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*

Adoff, Arnold. *Black Is Brown Is Tan*. New York: HarperCollins/Amistad, 2002. 32 pp. Illus. by Emily Arnold McCully. ISBN 0-06-028776-4, \$15.95.

This joyous celebration of "all of the colors of the race" as experienced by a strong, loving family, originally published in 1973, was the first children's book to feature an interracial family. It details the ordinary, everyday events in the lives of the parents and their son and daughter, whether they're reading a book or singing together, cutting wood for the fire, or cooking.

Using poetic, rhyming text, Adoff mixes fun, colorful words and descriptions to describe skin colors and features. Momma is the color of chocolate coffee pumpkin pie, while daddy's white, but not like snow or the color of milk, but "light with pink and tiny tans."

Caldecott medalist McCully illustrated both versions. For the original edition she used her country home as the setting. In the newer version, which features colorful pastel watercolors, she uses her house in upstate New York. While the text for both editions remains the same, the illustrations have been updated. In the first book, for example, father and son sat near a typewriter. In the current version, the computer has replaced the typewriter. The afterword points out that Adoff's 1960 marriage to award-winning children's book author Virginia Hamilton violated segregation laws in 28 states.

A new generation of children of all races is sure to enjoy *Black Is Brown Is Tan*.

—Valerie A. Canady  
Johnston, R.I.

Brooker, Peter. *A Concise Glossary of Cultural Theory*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2002. 312 pp. Second edition. ISBN 0-340-80700-8, \$21.95.

The first edition of this glossary of several hundred terms in cultural theory and philosophy was published in Great Britain in 1999. The present edition is copublished in Britain by Arnold and in the United States by Oxford University Press (it retains British spelling and punctuation); it includes about 20 completely new terms (such as "Ecology" and "Psychogeography") and some expansions and updates of others.

Brooker, a professor of modern literature and culture at University College Northampton in England, provides discussions of about a page in length for many common ("Modernism" and "Narrative") and some more obscure ("Permativity" and "Suture") concepts employed in cultural and literary analysis. For each term he gives a definition, some background on the term's origins, and a discussion of various opinions and arguments the concept or field has raised. Each entry includes references by author and date to the extensive list of works in the bibliography as well as cross-references to other entries in the glossary.

This glossary presents a number of often difficult-to-understand concepts in a relatively clear and straightforward way—probably much clearer than most of the original sources the glossary cites. Students would not be likely to encounter most of these terms before the college or postgraduate level. For such students—or for anyone reading works of theory who may have a shaky grasp on the actual meaning of terms such as "Formalism" and "Hermeneutics"—this work would serve as a useful and fairly thorough guide to the terminology and controversies in cultural theory.

He Liyi, with Claire Anne Chik. *Mr. China's Son: A Villager's Life*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 2002. 336 pp. Second edition. ISBN 0-8133-3978-2, \$85.00 (cl); 0-8133-1730-4, \$36.00 (pb).

For He, a member of the Bai Chinese ethnic minority living in a remote area of the Yunnan Province in southern China, "Mr. China" is a personification of the Chinese Communist government that has tried as hard as it could since 1949 to control his life and those of his fellow villagers. What is remarkable about this autobiography is that He wrote it himself in English in the late 1980s and early '90s, even though he had not studied English since going to university in the early 1950s and has lived in rural China since then. He had previously published in 1985, in England and the United States, a collection of Chinese folk tales titled *The Spring of Butterflies*.

He provides a peasant's perspective on the upheavals of Chinese history, from the Japanese occupation and Communist takeover of the 1940s through the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and the opening up of China to outside influences since the late 1970s. This is not a political story, however; its impact derives from the plain-spoken and determined way in which He tells of his daily life and struggles, his two marriages, and the effort it takes for individuals and communities to survive through such times.

The updated information for this edition seems to be the concluding chapter, which takes He's story into the 1990s, when he opens up "Mr. China's Son Cultural Exchange Café," serving traditional Bai as well as Western food to villagers and tourists. The book includes eight pages of black-and-white family photos, chapter notes, and an index.

Hecht, Michael L.; Jackson, Ronald L., II; and Ribeau, Sidney A. *African American Communication: Exploring Identity and Culture*. Mahwah, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2003. 342 pp. Second edition. ISBN 0-8058-3994-1, \$74.95 (cl); 0-8058-3995-X, \$34.50 (pb).

This study of self-identity and modes of communication begins with a short summary of the state of African Americans culturally and economically. The authors then discuss the framework in which they examine cultural communication, which is defined as a combination of conversation, code, and community.

Succeeding chapters explore African-American cultural identity and self-concept; "communication competence" as a measure of the difficulties faced in communication within and among communities; and African-American language and communication styles. The fifth chapter, on African-American relationships—personal, family, dating, and marital—has been added for this second edition. Throughout the book, references to works as recent as 2001 indicate that other sections have been updated. Frequent references to other studies make the book a well-grounded survey of this wide-ranging field. The book concludes with a list of references and indexes for both authors cited and subjects.

Hiro, Dilip. *War without End: The Rise of Islamist Terrorism and Global Response*. New York: Routledge, 2002. 552 pp. ISBN 0-415-28802-9, \$17.95 (pb).

Hiro first published this study in 1988. At that time it consisted of two parts: a history of Islam and its modern manifestations, and an examination of Islamic ideologies in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Afghanistan. For this edition, a third part—about two-fifths of the total text—has been added to describe the response of America and the rest of the world to the rise of Islamic terrorism. This section begins with the bombing of American embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in 1998 and tells a detailed story right up until late spring 2002. The entire book is extensively endnoted

to sources such as newspapers, journals, and other books. At times the most recent history, such as the September 11 attacks, is presented more in detailed recapitulation than in historical analysis. As further events occur, this section may soon not be up-to-date enough to tell the whole story. But the book does succeed in combining historical background with recent events in a clear, well-sourced record. Hiro's interpretations of events do become apparent at times, as, for example, when he writes of spring 2002: "After fifteen months in office, Bush had failed to demonstrate an assured grasp of foreign affairs, especially in the Middle East."

The book includes notes, lists of abbreviations and foreign terms, two United Nations resolutions related to the September 11 attacks, a select bibliography, and an index.

Raider, Mark A., and Raider-Roth, Miriam B., eds. *The Plough Woman: Records of the Pioneer Women of Palestine*. Hanover, N.H.: Univ. Press of New England, 2002. 380 pp. ISBN 1-58465-183-0, \$24.95 (pb).

This work has been published for Brandeis University Press as part of its series of works on the lives of Jewish women in various time periods and societies. *The Plough Woman* was first published in Yiddish in 1931 (and then in English in 1932), and it is composed of mostly first-person accounts of the lives of some 40 Jewish women struggling to live in Palestine in the early part of the last century.

For this edition, the editors have contributed essays on the original composition and publication of the book and on the history of women in Palestine. The book also includes extensive footnotes, a map of Palestine and 10 pages of black-and-white photos, biographical notes on the contributors and other figures of the period, glossaries of terms and places, a selected bibliography, and an index. These stories of ordinary people in their own words give a close-up view of the little-known history of Jews in Palestine in the period well before the establishment of Israel in 1948.

### *Reissues of Out-of-Print Works* —

Cardenal, Ernesto. *Cosmic Canticle*. Willimantic, Conn.: Curbstone Press, 2002. 490 pp. Trans. from Spanish by John Lyons. ISBN 1-880684-93-4, \$21.95 (pb).

Poet, priest, and revolutionary, Cardenal has published more than 35 books in Spanish and several in English (a bibliography in this volume lists them all); from 1979 to 1985, he served as Nicaragua's minister of culture for the Sandinista government. Originally published in Nicaragua in 1989 as *Cántico cósmico*, this work is an epic poem of 41 cantos written over a 30-year period. A U.S. translation appeared in 1993 in hardcover; this is the first paperback edition in English.

Cardenal sets out to write an all-encompassing examination of the universe and man's place in it as well as of Latin American and revolutionary history. Echoing the

Bible, many of the cantos start off “In the beginning.” The first canto (or *cantiga*, as they are called here) is titled “The Big Bang,” and it contains a synthesis of the scientific and mythical in its account of the world’s origins.

This work is unusual in its combination of the metaphysical and the political. In Cantiga 23 (“Room 5600”), for example, Cardenal excoriates the damage that businesses controlled by the Rockefellers—from the 56th floor of Rockefeller Center—have inflicted on the people of Nicaragua and other Latin American countries. The book has no footnotes or historical summaries, so an acquaintance with Latin American history would be necessary to fully appreciate this wide-ranging work.

Carlsson, Janne. *Camel Bells*. Toronto: Groundwood/Douglas & McIntyre, 2002. 120 pp. Trans. from Swedish by Angela Barnett-Lindberg. ISBN 0-88899-516-4, \$6.95 (pb).

This short novel, written in language accessible to middle-school students, tells of a 12-year-old boy named Hajdar who is struggling to lead his mother and sister to the Pakistani border from war-torn Afghanistan. Much of his story is told in flashbacks beginning two years earlier, when, as a boy who had never before left his small village, he went to Kabul with a friend to make his way selling flowers and other items in the street.

What is unusual about this novel is that all this action takes place in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and the war Hajdar is trying to escape is that caused by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979. Furthermore, the book was first published in Swedish in 1987 and then in English in 1989. The reprint edition opens with a historical note about the history of Afghanistan from the 1970s to the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001. Hajdar’s perspective in the book makes the upheaval of the late 1970s and its impact on the common people of Afghanistan very believable. Of particular interest is Carlsson’s portrayal of a boy from a poor Muslim village trying to understand the ways of urban and Western-influenced life. This novel could serve as a good starting point for a discussion of different cultures and of the effect that political and military actions have on those caught up in them.

Cherry, Kittredge. *Womansword: What Japanese Words Say About Women*. New York: Kodansha, 2002. 160 pp. ISBN 4-7700-2888-1, \$16.00 (pb).

Cherry first published this collection of short essays explicating the true meaning of some 80 Japanese words related to women in 1987. The title of her book, like many of the Japanese terms in it, is meant to encompass a double meaning: both “woman’s word,” for language specific to women, as well as “woman sword,” for a way to cut to the heart of the contradictory position of women in Japanese society.

The terms sometimes have surprising literal meanings (one term an adult male may use for his mother, *ofukuro*, means “honorable bag”), and many reflect the still closely guarded roles for women and men. Even words for women

that may sound positive, such as *otoko masari* (“male-surpassers”) have the negative connotation of a woman rising above her expected place. Cherry does include words that speak from a woman’s point of view, such as this term for retired husbands who serve no useful function in the homes they rarely saw during their working days: *sodai gomi*, or “giant garbage.”

A 2002 foreword by Janet Ashby describes some of the changes and constants in the experiences of Japanese women since the book was first published. The references within the book are only to the 1980s (when the author lived in Japan), so some of these terms may have been replaced by newer expressions. Indexed.

Hudson, W. H. *The Purple Land*. Madison: Univ. of Wisconsin Press, 2002. Illus. by Keith Henderson. Introduction by Ilan Stavans. ISBN 0-299-18224-X, \$19.95 (pb).

Hudson (1841-1922) was born in Argentina to American parents, emigrated to England in 1870, and is best known for his novel *Green Mansions*, as well as for several volumes of writing about nature in South America. His novel *The Purple Land* was first published in 1885 and revised by Hudson for a second edition in 1904. The current publication is a facsimile of that edition, and it includes woodcut illustrations of the main characters and of many birds and animals native to Argentina. Hudson’s 1904 preface is included, as is a new introduction that analyzes Hudson’s intentions in writing the work.

The novel is narrated by Richard Lamb, an Englishman in his late twenties who has eloped with a young Argentine girl, Paquita, and is trying to avoid the wrath of her protective father. According to an appendix from the 1904 edition, the action takes place in the late 1860s and early 1870s. Besides a vengeful father, Lamb must contend with the political strife and civil war of the period. Although he experiences separation from his new wife and a period of imprisonment, he remains optimistic and confident (and at times verbose), and the novel has a more comic than tragic tone throughout.

*The Purple Land* is an interesting view from the perspective of a partial outsider (both the narrator and the author) of nineteenth-century Argentina, as well as an action-filled yarn. It would have been helpful if this edition had included more specific background on the unfamiliar period and author, however, as Stavans’s introduction is more of a literary analysis, and the historical note of the appendix is written from the perspective of 1904.

Killens, John Oliver. *The Cotillion, or One Good Bull Is Half the Herd*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Coffee House Press, 2002. 264 pp. ISBN 1-56689-119-1, \$14.95 (pb).

This 1971 novel is the fourth title in Coffee House Press’s series that reprints hard-to-find or overlooked works from the Black Arts Movement period of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Killens (1916-1987) cofounded the Harlem Writer’s Guild and taught at Columbia and Howard, among other universities. *The Cotillion* was the fourth of his seven novels

(others include *Youngblood* and *'Sippi*).

The novel, set in the Harlem of the late 1960s, concerns the Lovejoy family: the father, Matthew, who is proud of his blackness; the mother, Daphne, a West Indian black whose main wish is to join white society; and their daughter Yoruba, who, as part of her mother's social-climbing ambitions, is about to join a select social club known as the *Femme Fatales*. The entire family is eventually shaken up and changed when Yoruba falls for a young black nationalist writer, Ben Ali Lumumba.

Killens satirizes many aspects of black and white life of the period, most particularly the desire of the black middle class to leave their blackness behind in the struggle to get ahead. The colloquial, jazzy narration pushes the satire at every point. In the foreword for this edition, Alexis Pate points out that the novel may not have received the enduring attention it deserves, partly because the black nationalist questions it raises have not remained common concerns and some of the satire, such as that involving insulting names for homosexuals, would not be considered proper today. However, the novel does present, as Pate terms it, "one of the most intensely complex narrative voices in contemporary African American literature," as well as a lively, take-no-prisoners portrait of a tumultuous period.

King, Thomas (Cherokee). *A Coyote Columbus Story*. Toronto: Greenwood/Douglas & McIntyre, 2002. unpaginated. Illustrated by William Kent Monkman (Cree). ISBN 0-88899-1555-X, \$15.95.

This picture book originally appeared in Canada in 1992 because no publisher in the United States would touch it with a 10-foot pole. Ten years later it remains the only children's book about the Columbus "encounter" written from a Native perspective.

It all starts because what Coyote loves to do better than anything else in the world is play ball. It was Coyote who fixed up this world, you know. She is

the one who did it. She made rainbows and flowers and clouds and rivers. And... prune juice and afternoon naps and toe-nail polish and television commercials. Some of these things were pretty good and some of these things were foolish.

The problem is that when Coyote is bored, she sings her song and dances her dance and in the process of calling up someone to play ball with, she gets beavers, moose, turtles, and finally, Native people. And that would be okay, except that she keeps changing the rules, so the people won't play with her anymore. The next time she sings her song and dances her dance, she's also thinking about changing the rules and doesn't pay attention. What she gets is "three ships and some people in funny-looking clothes carrying flags and boxes of junk." And the rest, as they say, is history.

This is a very funny book. Probably a full appreciation of

it depends on a certain knowledge of history—and not necessarily the kind we learned in school. It is also a very good illustration of the way in which Coyote continues to live in Native storytelling, and it is worlds away from most of the "retellings" to be found in children's literature. The illustrations are zany and satirical and suit the text perfectly.

For those who have said about this book that genocide is not funny, remember this: Humor has been our salvation. If we couldn't laugh, sometimes at really awful stuff, there wouldn't be any of us here.

You can't put a grade level on this.

— Doris Seale (*Santee/Cree*)

Lee, Dong-ha. *Shrapnel and Other Stories*. Buffalo, N.Y.: White Pine Press, 2002. 176 pp. Edited and translated from Korean by Hyun-jae Yee Sallee. ISBN 1-893996-53-0, \$16.00 (pb).

Lee, born in 1942, has published both short stories and novels, and he is currently a professor at Choong-ang University in Seoul. As part of its Korean Voices series, White Pine Press has published this collection of five stories of life in contemporary South Korea. At several points in these realistic stories of everyday life, people come to realize how deeply the Korean War and the division of the homeland has affected their own lives or the lives of those around them. In the story "Perspiration," for example, a friendless old man dies in an apartment completely alone, except for his faithful dog. His neighbor, who narrates the story, eventually learns that the man fled North Korea for the South in 1949, leaving a four-year-old son who grew up to become a high official in the North Korean government and was able to see his father only once in the rest of his life.

The translation of these stories is occasionally awkward, with some constructions that are unlikely to be used in English ("A sense of deep bafflement crept into his every fiber") and colloquialisms that sound odd in a Korean context ("what in tarnation?" and "Jiminy Cricket!"). It would also have been helpful had this edition indicated the years that the different stories were written and given information about other titles by Lee. However, the stories themselves provide a plainspoken and affecting glimpse into the lives of ordinary Koreans.

Pachen, Ani, and Donnelley, Adelaide. *Sorrow Mountain: The Journey of a Tibetan Warrior Nun*. New York: Kodansha, 2002. 288 pp. ISBN 1-56836-323-0, \$17.00 (pb).

Pachen (1933-2002) grew up as the daughter of a powerful Tibetan chieftain who died just as Communist China took over Tibet in the 1950s. For years, she struggled against Chinese oppression as a freedom fighter; eventually she was captured by the Chinese and imprisoned for 21 years before being released in 1981. In 2000, she published this account of her life up to the time of her release, written in collaboration with Donnelley. This is the first paperback edition.

Pachen's story carefully traces the dramatic historical events she took part in, but this is largely a personal and spiritual story, particularly in the earlier sections, with events

from her life interspersed with the dreams and visions that accompanied them. Made very clear throughout is her devotion to the Dalai Lama (who contributes a foreword to the book). Her dedication to her people and religion seems never to have wavered even in the face of imprisonment, beatings, and torture. Incredibly, not long before her eventual release, she was allowed to leave prison to visit her village for two months, and she then returned on her own to prison as agreed on, believing that she had no other option. After her release, she achieved her dream of meeting the Dalai Lama, at which point she declared that she is finally free.

Donnelley, her coauthor, remarks in an author's note that she has incorporated some background elements from other sources into this story. This may be one reason why Pachen's story appears here in a way that is accessible to Western readers.

Richie, Donald. *The Inland Sea*. Berkeley, Calif.: Stone Bridge Press, 2002. 256 pp. ISBN 1-880656-69-8, \$16.95 (pb).

Richie has lived in Tokyo since 1947 and written more than 40 books, including many on Japanese culture and film. *The Inland Sea* is a novel first published in 1971 that in many ways resembles a nonfiction travel book. Richie's narrator relates his encounters and journeys through the little-traveled region of Japan where three major islands enclose a lake-like body of water. The narrative frequently detours into descriptions and discussions of various aspects of Japanese life, such as religion, where the narrator states of the Japanese, "I know of no people more lacking the religious sense than they." Shaping this material into a novel does allow Richie to explore the main character's growing awareness of the true meaning of his outsider status in Japan and why he is driven to live and travel there.

This edition includes 16 still photos from a PBS documentary narrated by Richie that was also entitled *The Inland Sea*, a new introduction by Pico Iyer, and a 2002 afterword by Richie on changes to Japan since he wrote the original work.

Suh Ji-Moon, ed. and trans. *Brother Enemy: Poems of the Korean War*. Buffalo, N.Y.: White Pine Press, 2002. 236 pp. Trans. from Korean in collaboration with James A. Perkins. ISBN 1-893996-20-4, \$16.00 (pb).

Also part of the Korean Voices series (see *Shrapnel and Other Stories* by Dong-ha Lee, above), this collection of work from 21 different poets includes a wide assortment of elegies, battlefield descriptions, and reflections on the Korean War from the perspective of direct participants in the conflict. A few of the writers in the collection went on to become well-known poets in Korea (and are represented by one or two dozen poems here); others have contributed a single poem charged with their wartime experiences that may be one of the few poems they ever published.

The book's effect is heightened by the immediacy of the poems, most of which seem to have been written during the war itself. The translations are in straightforward language that appropriately does not change the meaning of the lines in an attempt to preserve meter or rhyme. One limitation to this collection is that none of the poems, except for a selection from Yu Ch'un-do, were written by poets who were from the North or Communist sympathizers. (Yu, a doctor, worked for both sides at different points in the war.) The final set of poems, in fact, are laments on the war written by South Korean President Syngman Rhee. In any case, these personal poems strike universal notes and are not simply propagandistic versions of the South's side.

An introduction from the translator gives context for the role of poetry in the war and for specific poems. A few pages of notes explain some of the references in the poems. More information on the lives of some of the poets would be welcome, but as the introduction states, given the disinclination of Koreans to dwell on this period, it is fortunate that these artistic documents are available at all to give a sense of how the Korean War felt to those who lived through it.

Timerman, Jacobo. *Prisoner without a Name, Cell without a Number*. Madison: Univ. of Wisconsin Press, 2002. 182 pp. Trans. from Spanish by Toby Talbot. ISBN 0-299-18244-4, \$17.95 (pb).

Timerman (1923-1999) first published this widely praised account of his arrest, imprisonment, and torture in Argentina in 1981. (It was later chosen as one of the *New York Times'* Books of the Century.) The present edition is part of the University of Wisconsin Press's The Americas series (as is *The Purple Land*, above), and it includes a new introduction by Ilan Stavans and a new foreword by Arthur Miller.

Timerman was best known before his imprisonment for his work as a journalist and commentator and as publisher of the newspaper *La Opinión*. After his arrest in 1977, he spent 30 months in prison, frequently undergoing torture. What makes his story particularly effective is the clearheaded analysis he brings to every part of his experience, even to such topics as contemplating suicide in such extreme situations. What also comes through clearly is his unwillingness to accept dishonesty or oppression as acceptable from any part of the political spectrum. His refusal to back down from what he believed to be the correct and honest course, and his unbending defense of his Jewish heritage (this was another reason for his arrest and imprisonment) are inspiring still.

## *New Volumes in Series* \_\_\_\_\_

AFRICAN-AMERICAN BIOGRAPHIES

Litwin, Laura Baskes. *Fannie Lou Hamer: Fighting for the Right to Vote*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2002. 128 pp. ISBN 0-7660-1772-9, \$20.95.

Westen, Robin. *Richard Wright: Author of Native Son and Black Boy*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2002. 128 pp. ISBN 0-7660-1769-9, \$20.95.

The latest entries in this series of biographies for students at the middle school level concern Hamer (1917-1977), who worked unceasingly for the political rights of blacks from 1962 until her death; and Wright (1908-1960), whose influential novel *Native Son* (1940) was the first best-selling novel by an African American.

The remarkable element of Hamer's story (well established by the opening chapter here) is that before she tried to register to vote in Mississippi in 1962 for the first time at the age of 44, she was a sharecropper who had never considered the possibility of participation in the political process. The fierce efforts of whites to deny her and other blacks the vote (through intimidation, difficult tests, poll taxes, and threats of being fired from jobs) caused Hamer to work to gain her rights at any cost. This biography does a good job of depicting both her personal story, full of many difficulties, and the almost incredible hatred she had to overcome. The conflicting roles of such organizations as SNCC and the NAACP, and the struggles within the Democratic Party regarding black

political participation in the South, are also set out clearly.

Wright was also born in Mississippi, but he soon moved to Tennessee, and later Chicago, New York, and then Paris in his journey to becoming a world-renowned writer. His biography does not shy away from personal difficulties and professional failures, as well as his participation in the Communist Party in the 1930s. His successes with *Native Son* and *Black Boy* are recounted, along with the impact his life and work had on other black writers. The writing in this biography does sometimes stray into clichés or forced effects, as when he moves to New York and the "energy of the city, radiating sparks of possibility, burned into Wright's soul."

Each volume includes black-and-white illustrations and photographs, a chronology, chapter notes, lists of further reading and web sites, and an index. The book about Wright also includes a bibliography of his published works.

#### AROUND THE WORLD IN...

Ashby, Ruth. *Around the World in 1800*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark Books, 2003. 96 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1084-8, \$19.95.

George, Linda S. *Around the World in 800*. Tarrytown,

N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark Books, 2003. 96 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1085-6, \$19.95.

Schomp, Virginia. *Around the World in 1500*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark Books, 2003. 96 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1082-1, \$19.95.

Service, Alexandra F., and Service, Pamela F. *Around the World in 1200*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark Books, 2003. 96 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1081-3, \$19.95.

Service, Pamela F. *Around the World in 300 B.C.* Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark Books, 2003. 96 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1080-5, \$19.95.

This new series for students in the middle elementary grades takes a different approach to presenting world history and culture. The five volumes, full of color illustrations, each cover a specific time period and are divided into sections for Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Each section has two to four chapters on particular nations, people, historic sites, art movements, or other developments from that region. For example, the section on Europe in 1500 has chapters on the arts in Florence, Columbus's voyages from Spain, and the Russian empire built by Ivan the Great; the Americas section recounts the culture and history at that time of the Iroquois, the Aztecs, and the Incas.

The brief introductions to the volumes compare reading this series to taking trips in a time machine, and they point out the value of taking a broader, bird's-eye view of history. The obvious limitations of this approach are that gaps of several centuries are left between the volumes, and within each volume the history of a continent cannot be encompassed in three short chapters. The books do not spell out the many connections and distinctions between different cultures and eras, but leave that to the students reading them (or to their teachers). A particular value of this series, though, is that its strongest chapters give the reader an idea of what it was like to live in a very specific place and time.

Each volume has a page listing world events from around that time, a glossary, lists of books and web sites for further reading, and an index.

## BLACK STARS

Haskins, Jim, ed. *Black Stars of Colonial and Revolutionary Times*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2002. 128 pp. ISBN 0-471-21151-6, \$12.95 (pb).

Haskins, Jim, ed. *Black Stars of the Harlem Renaissance*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2002. 128 pp. ISBN 0-471-21152-4, \$12.95 (pb).

Each volume in this series for middle school students is composed of about 20 four- to six-page biographical profiles of significant figures in African-American history and culture. The profiles are arranged chronologically by birth date, and each includes a full life story accompanied by black-

and-white photos and illustrations and occasional sidebars. Most of the persons included in the Colonial series (which actually extends into the early 1800s) are little known today, with a few exceptions such as Crispus Attucks and Benjamin Banneker. The Harlem Renaissance volume includes popular figures from a variety of arts, including Louis Armstrong, Langston Hughes, and Paul Robeson. Each book contains a chronology, chapter notes, and a bibliography.

The biographies in the *Colonial and Revolutionary Times* volume were written by Jim Haskins, Clinton Cox, and Brenda Wilkinson. Those on the Harlem Renaissance were written by the above along with Eleonora Tate. In both volumes, the biographies are adapted from those published in an earlier series of books, also from Wiley, with titles on African-American entrepreneurs, teachers, musicians, and women writers. (Those four books were each written by one of the four authors above.) The chronological emphasis of the present series may make it a better choice for those studying a particular historical period, while the subject division of the earlier series would serve better to illustrate the impact of African Americans in particular fields.

## A CHILD'S DAY

Alatalo, Jaakko. *A Child's Day in a Nordic Village*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark Books, 2002. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1411-8, \$15.95.

Eldash, Khaled, and Khattab, Dalia. *A Child's Day in an Egyptian City*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark Books, 2002. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1410-X, \$15.95.

Fajardo, Sara Andrea. *A Child's Day in a Peruvian City*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark Books, 2002. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1408-8, \$15.95.

Holmes, Jim, and Morgan, Tom. *A Child's Day in a Vietnamese City*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark Books, 2002. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1409-6, \$15.95.

Wulfsohn, Gisèle. *A Child's Day in a South African City*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark Books, 2002. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1407-X, \$15.95.

Each book in this series, geared to students in grades two to four, follows in words and color photos a typical day in the life of a boy or girl (all are about seven years old) in a different country. Emphasis is given to food, family, school, and an after-school activity. In the Vietnamese volume, for example, we learn that like many Vietnamese the twin boys Huy and Vinh usually have a breakfast of rice noodle soup that their mother buys for them from a stand because it would take too long in the morning to make this traditional meal at home. In the South Africa volume, we follow a boy named Bongani who lives with his aunt and uncle and two cousins and who wears his hair in the dreadlocks-on-top, shaved-on-sides style

of his favorite South African soccer player.

Foreign terms are explained in italics below the short text that accompanies each photo. Each book concludes with three pages on the history, people, and language of the country; a glossary; a short list of other books on the country; and a brief index. This is the second set of books to be published in this series, which provides a glimpse into the lives of children in other cultures that elementary students will find easy to understand and relate to their own experiences.

#### THE COLLECTED WORKS OF LANGSTON HUGHES

Hughes, Langston. *The Collected Works of Langston Hughes, Volume 13: Autobiography: The Big Sea*. Columbia: Univ. of Missouri Press, 2002. 284 pp. Edited with an introduction by Joseph McLaren. ISBN 0-8262-1410-X, \$29.95.

Part of a complete 17-volume set of the varied achievements of the great African-American writer, *The Big Sea* is the first volume of Hughes's autobiography; it was published in 1940 and covers his life up until 1931, when he was 29 years old. (A second volume of autobiography, *I Wonder as I Wander*, comprises another volume in the series.) As McLaren notes, this volume "re-creates the past with creative embellishments." The work is in three parts: "Twenty-One," "Big Sea," and "Black Renaissance." The first part depicts Hughes's upbringing and the beginning of his development as a poet. The middle section begins with his journey to Africa in 1923 and continues with numerous other travels. In the last section, Hughes describes the rising fortunes of his literary career as part of the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s.

This autobiography may not match more precise biographical studies of this inventive writer, but it details the events that influenced his views and works about the racial and social issues of the time. Like the other volumes in the series, the book includes a chronology of Hughes's life; it also features notes that explain some of the people and events Hughes refers to and an index.

#### CULTURE AND CUSTOMS OF AFRICA

Asante, Molefi Kete. *Culture and Customs of Egypt*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2002. 184 pp. ISBN 0-313-31740-2, \$45.00.

This volume in a series for secondary students and general adult readers provides a thorough survey of the history, culture, and people of Egypt. The first chapter gives a quick overview of the country's geography and people, followed by a fairly detailed summary of its history. Succeeding chapters concern government, the economy, education, tourism, religion and worldview, architecture and art, social customs, and the media and the arts. The information is presented in a clear, straightforward way that appears authoritative, though not likely to encourage casual browsing. Occasionally, intriguing facts and statements pop out, such as that Egypt's rail system is second to none, or that possibly "no modern society, with the

exception of France, has such a preoccupation with the purity of language as the Egyptian society does." The volume begins with a historical chronology and a simple map of Egypt, and it ends with a bibliography, a glossary, and an index. It also contains about 30 black-and-white photos of the country's people and places.

#### ENDANGERED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD

Hitchcock, Robert K., and Osborn, Alan J., eds. *Endangered Peoples of Africa and the Middle East*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2002. 312 pp. ISBN 0-313-30437-8, \$45.00.

The latest volume in this series for college students and general readers compiles chapters from different scholars on 14 peoples ranging from southern Africa to Afghanistan. Some of the peoples included—such as the Afghans, the Palestinians, and the Kurds—have frequently been in the news. Others, such as the Ogoni of Nigeria and the Qashqa'i of Iran, are much less known.

For each people, a chapter begins with a cultural overview, followed by an analysis of the various threats to their physical and cultural survival, and a consideration of the response of the people to these threats. The variety of threats described here include civil war, political oppression, cultural suppression, difficult living conditions, and overpopulation. In a sense, the word "endangered" may seem an overly broad term in that any range of problems, some of which have existed for many years, can cause a people to be included in this volume. However, the book does clearly set out the great challenges the various groups face.

Each chapter concludes with "Food for Thought," a short summary of the topic followed by study questions, as well as a resource guide listing relevant books, films, web sites, and organizations. Although it is admittedly difficult for such a book to keep up with changing political realities, the middle of the section on the Afghans speaks of the Taliban "currently" in power before a later paragraph discusses the changes that have occurred in that country since September 11, 2001.

#### FACETS

Felder, Cain Hope. *Race, Racism, and the Biblical Narratives*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2002. 64 pp. ISBN 0-8006-3578-7, \$6.00 (pb).

This short volume in a Biblical studies series is a revised version of an essay that Felder published in a 1991 collection he edited, *Stony the Road We Trod: African American Biblical Interpretation*. Felder seeks here to examine the ways in which Biblical texts have been interpreted as justifications for racist or ethnocentric thinking. He describes two processes by which this may occur: "sacralization," where an ideological concept is converted into a religious tenet to support the agenda of a particular group; and "secularization," where powerful religious beliefs are weakened by social pressures.

Felder closely analyzes Biblical texts to show how the concepts that caused racism and slavery in later centuries

did not even exist in the same way during Biblical times. In a discussion of the section of Genesis regarding “the curse of Ham,” which has historically been used at times to demean black people, Felder points out that it is later interpretations of the passage that have associated Ham’s sin with blackness.

This book would be best appreciated by someone with a strong understanding of Biblical texts and of the ethnic and racial controversies that have arisen from some of them. Such a person will find much to appreciate in Felder’s well-reasoned arguments, though it seems unlikely that many reading the work will need to be convinced of the emptiness of any justifications of racial prejudice in the Bible.

#### GREAT JOURNEYS

Bial, Raymond. *The Long Walk: The Story of Navajo Captivity*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark Books, 2002. 96 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1332-7, \$21.95.

Dolan, Edward F. *The Irish Potato Famine: The Story of Irish-American Immigration*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark Books, 2002. 112 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1323-5, \$21.95.

Perl, Lila. *Behind Barbed Wire: The Story of Japanese-American Internment during World War II*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark Books, 2002. 112 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1321-9, \$21.95.

Perl, Lila. *To the Golden Mountain: The Story of the Chinese Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark Books, 2002. 112 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1324-3, \$21.95.

Each volume in this series for students at the middle school level presents a different historical migration or movement. Although the series title is Great Journeys, some of the selections focus more on the destination than on the journey itself.

*To the Golden Mountain* tells the story of the Chinese who migrated to California from the 1850s to the 1880s. The book contains chapters on the history leading up to the nineteenth-century migration, and on the Chinese who worked constructing the intercontinental railroad and in the gold fields, fishing, or agriculture, and others who settled in districts that became known as Chinatowns in California cities. A final chapter discusses Chinese Americans in World War II and the replacement of the exclusion laws with quotas after the war.

*Behind Barbed Wire* stretches the theme of the series in covering the Japanese-American internment. However, author Perl writes competently about this sensitive subject. The book begins by telling of the emigration of Japanese to

Hawaii and the U.S. mainland in the 1800s, along with their poor treatment in California and other places, where they were frequently the target of racist attacks. Perl then describes the post–Pearl Harbor transfer of Japanese Americans, first to assembly centers and then on to relocation camps, and also covers what life was like in the camps.

The straightforward narrative in *The Irish Potato Famine* is enhanced by sidebars on shipwrecks, an excerpt from a speech by John F. Kennedy during his presidential campaign, lyrics and music to a song called “No Irish Need Apply,” Ellis Island, and a poem called “Farewell to Skibbereen.” Dolan describes the history of the famine and the voyages of the immigrants to America and Canada (including diseases, storms at sea, and steerage passengers). When the Irish reached the Americas, they settled into neighborhoods that turned into slums and found work in textile mills and as household help, but they were discriminated against because of their religious beliefs.

Topics covered in *The Long Walk* include the relationship of the Navajo to their land and a description of their homes. The government decided to relocate the entire tribe living in New Mexico when U.S. settlers in the territory came into conflict with the indigenous population fighting for its homeland. A scorched earth policy was adopted to subdue the Navajo, and in 1864 those rounded up were forced to march 300 miles across New Mexico to an area called Bosque Redondo.

Each book contains black-and-white photographs and period line drawings, notes, a bibliography, suggestions for further reading, and an index.

#### HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Cooper, Jason. *Kwanzaa*. Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke Publishing LLC, 2003. 24 pp. ISBN 1-58952-220-6, \$19.27.

Walsh, Kieran. *Chinese New Year*. Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke Publishing LLC, 2003. 24 pp. ISBN 1-58952-215-X, \$19.27.

Walsh, Kieran. *Cinco de Mayo*. Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke Publishing LLC, 2003. 24 pp. ISBN 1-58952-221-4, \$19.27.

Walsh, Kieran. *Ramadan*. Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke Publishing LLC, 2003. 24 pp. ISBN 1-58952-223-0, \$19.27.

In this series for students in the lower elementary grades, full-page color photos of people celebrating the traditions of various holidays are accompanied by a paragraph of explanatory text in large type. Most of the photos give lively depictions of ordinary people and their cultures, though those in the volume on Kwanzaa rely more on depictions of symbols associated with the holiday. The text, written in a string of short sentences, can seem stilted at times, but it should be easy to follow even for younger students. Unusual terms are written in bold type, and these terms are defined in a short glossary

at the end of each volume. Each book ends with a short list of related books and web sites, as well as an extremely short index.

As it happens, both the Cinco de Mayo and the Ramadan books end with a photo of President George W. Bush participating in the first White House celebration of those holidays. It may be that White House traditions for celebrating Chinese New Year and Kwanzaa date back to earlier presidents, or perhaps they have not yet been established.

#### LOST AND FOUND

Bernardin de Saint-Pierre, Jacques-Henri. *Journey to Mauritius*. Northampton, Mass.: Interlink, 2003. 298 pages. Trans. from French with an introduction and notes by Jason Wilson. ISBN 1-56656-447-6, \$15.00 (pb).

Bernardin (1737-1814) achieved lasting success as the author of the best-selling 1787 novel *Paul et Virginie*, a love story set on the French colony of Île de France, now Mauritius. His first book was a nonfiction travel account published anonymously in 1773 as *Voyage à l'Isle de France par un Officier du Roi*. This new translation of that work is part of Interlink's series of editions of neglected works of travel writing from a variety of periods and cultures.

*Journey to Mauritius* is written in the form of 28 letters dated from the period of Bernardin's stay in Mauritius from 1768 to 1770. In these letters, he describes the natural history of the island and the lives of the various peoples who inhabit it. Particular attention is paid to the horrific conditions slaves lived through in this colony. (This also later became a major theme of *Paul et Virginie*.) Bernardin was one of the earlier writers to draw the connection between the desire of Europeans for such items as sugar and coffee and the misery harvesting such products caused to millions of slaves. His travel account combines close natural and social observation with the natural philosophy of his friend Jean-Jacques Rousseau, which Bernardin embraced as well.

In an appendix, this edition also includes a short story entitled "La chaumière indienne" that Bernardin had intended to put into a never-published second edition of his travel account. This philosophical fable tells of an encounter between a learned English traveler and the wise men of India. The volume concludes with an extensive bibliography of works by and about Bernardin, and on Mauritius and its history.

#### MODERN WORLD NATIONS

Allport, Alan. *England*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003. 112 pp. ISBN 0-7910-7209-6, \$25.95.

Cooper, Catherine W. *Ukraine*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003. 120 pp. ISBN 0-7910-6783-1, \$25.95.

Crooker, Richard A. *Cuba*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003. 136 pp. ISBN 0-7910-6932-X, \$25.95.

Crompton, Samuel Willard. *Pakistan*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003. 112 pp. ISBN 0-7910-7098-0, \$25.95.

Gillespie, Carol Ann. *Bahrain*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003. 112 pp. ISBN 0-7910-6779-3, \$25.95.

Gillespie, Carol Ann. *Ethiopia*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003. 124 pp. ISBN 0-7910-6780-7, \$25.95.

Gritzner, Jeffrey A.. *Afghanistan*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003. 112 pp. ISBN 0-7910-6774-2, \$25.95.

Harper, Robert A.. *Saudi Arabia*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003. 112 pp. ISBN 0-7910-6935-4, \$25.95.

Horne, William R. *Germany*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003. 104 pp. ISBN 0-7910-6936-2, \$25.95.

Ishorho, Solomon A. *Kuwait*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003. 120 pp. ISBN 0-7910-6781-5, \$25.95.

Mance, Angelia L. *Iraq*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003. 112 pp. ISBN 0-7910-6931-1, \$25.95.

Hobbs, Joseph. *Egypt*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003. 104 pp. ISBN 0-7910-6931-1, \$25.95.

Pavlovic, Zoran. *Croatia*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003. 104 pp. ISBN 0-7910-7210-X, \$25.95.

Whiteford, Gary T. *China*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003. 144 pp. ISBN 0-7910-6930-3, \$25.95.

This series of country surveys for middle school students also includes, besides the 14 books listed above, eight other volumes on countries large (Russia) and small (Bermuda). A typical volume, such as the one on England, includes an introductory chapter followed by chapters on the country's geography, history, people, government, economy, daily life today, and future. Each chapter includes several color photos or illustrations. The volumes also include a historical chronology, a two-page "Facts at a Glance" section with numerous up-to-date facts, and an index. Each book has a bibliography and/or a reading list, and a few of them contain glossaries.

The text is straightforward, and more attention is given to subjects such as history and government than to everyday life and culture. Visually, the series is straightforward as well, with few sidebars or boxes and with informative but rarely dramatic photos. The strengths of the series include its evenhanded approach, particularly to countries much in the news such as Afghanistan and Iraq, and the very current information presented in the facts section and concluding chapters. Also, the roster of countries here includes some that are seldom seen in similar series, such as Bahrain and

(not reviewed here) the Republic of Georgia. Overall, the series provides an informative introduction and reference source for the countries included.

## PEOPLE'S HISTORY

Finlayson, Reggie. *We Shall Overcome: The History of the American Civil Rights Movement*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2003. 96 pp. ISBN 0-8225-0647-5, \$25.26.

Previous titles in this series for middle school readers have focused on such varied subjects as the history of American food, American whaling in the nineteenth century, the American conservation movement, and the working children's crusade. This latest addition is a well-written overview of the civil rights movement. The major people, places, and events are all carefully yet concisely described, in a tone that comes across as matter of fact but still manages to convey the racial tensions, the longstanding hat-reds, and the violent acts that pervaded the era.

The book begins with the story of how "We Shall Overcome" became an anthem for the movement. Most of the rest of the book covers the 1950s and 1960s. A final chapter, "Solving the American Problem," describes more recent developments such as affirmative action, the Bakke case, the Rainbow Coalition, and President Clinton awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to the Little Rock Nine in 1999.


Black-and-white photos accompany the text. The book concludes with a time line, *In Their Own Words* (excerpts

from two primary sources), a selected bibliography, suggestions for further reading, web sites, and an index.

## READINGS ON EQUAL EDUCATION

Brown, M. Christopher, II (ed.). *Volume 18: Equity and Access in Higher Education: Changing the Definition of Educational Opportunity*. New York: AMS Press, 2002. 228 pp. Pamela S. Angelle, managing editor. ISBN 0-404-10118-6, \$79.50.

This series was formerly known as "Educating the Disadvantaged." The present volume collects 10 articles by various scholars on ways to provide greater opportunity in postsecondary education for diverse disadvantaged groups. The first five articles explore what can be done at the college and university level. Later articles consider wider social initiatives and controversies such as the backlash against affirmative action.

In response to that challenge, the volume's editor states unequivocally in the introduction, "Should we treat people unequally in the pursuit of universal access? The answer is yes." In the view of the editor and, in general, of the contributors to this volume, reaching the goal of a just educational system does not require treating all people and groups with no distinctions whatsoever. The articles here attempt to uncover the best ways to define and create educational opportunities that are equitable for all. 

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▼ from the editor, continued from page 5

Our focus on children's books continues with Angela C. Leeper's article, "The 'Other America': Looking at Appalachian and Cajun/Creole Resources." Too often, the definition of multiculturalism in the United States excludes persons of European-American heritage; yet distinct cultures have developed and flourished in Appalachia and on the Louisiana Gulf Coast, areas with strong family and community ties and relatively little migration in or out. The article highlights a variety of children's books—picture books, fiction, folklore, and non-fiction—as well as resources for teachers and librarians.

"Selecting Children's Books with Positive Native American Fathers and Father Figures" is the fifth and last in Craig Heller's award-winning series on culturally diverse fathers and father figures in children's picture books. Heller passed away in August 2002 [see "Parting Words" in the December 2002 issue of *MultiCultural Review* for more information about his work and his life], and his wife, Hannah, along with his colleague Bruce Cunningham, completed the article on his behalf. While they include some well-known titles, their work high-

lights the wealth of books depicting Native American families that have been published by small Native presses in both the United States and Canada over the past 20 years.

Each December we publish Isabel Schon's annual roundup of recommended books in Spanish for children and teens. However, a library's ability to acquire quality books in Spanish is only one step in the process of meeting the needs of Spanish-speaking library users. These books must be made accessible through the catalog, and, as Bruce Jensen points out in "The Monolingual Cataloging Monolith: A Barrier to Library Access for Readers of Spanish," entries for Spanish-language materials tend to be less accurate and detailed than their English-language counterparts. Jensen interviews public and academic library administrators who have confronted this issue, and he suggests a number of solutions that can be applied with little monetary investment, an important consideration in today's difficult economy.

