

reviews

GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWS: Reviews are arranged under broad subject categories, with subcategories where appropriate (for example, age-group categories for children's books). The categories are arranged roughly by field in the following order: humanities, biography, history, religion, education, social sciences, reference, juvenile works, and nonprint materials. Within each subject category, reviews are arranged in alphabetical order by author surname. Each review is prefaced by a three-part numbering system: a two digit volume number, with the first year of publication designated as 01; a one-digit issue number; and a four-digit review number that runs consecutively within each individual volume year. For example, 04-1-0024 refers to review number 24 in volume 4, issue 1. Individual review entries begin with a headnote, which indicates the review number and a full bibliographic citation. Audio materials, videocassettes, and computer software are reviewed in separate categories. The review section is followed by author, title, and subject indexes keyed to the review numbers described above. Thesaurus citations in the author index indicate relevant ethnic groups, races, religions, and, where appropriate, geographic regions. The review section concludes with a directory of the publishers cited in a particular issue. The cumulative index for each volume year appears in the December issue of that year.

Literature

General Anthologies

13-2-0130

Gillan, Jennifer; Gillan, Maria Mazziotti; and Guinta, Edvige, eds. *Italian American Writers on New Jersey: An Anthology of Poetry and Prose*. Piscataway, N.J.: Rutgers Univ. Press, 2003. 288 pp. ISBN 0-8135-3316-3, \$60.00 (cl); 0-8135-3317-1, \$21.95 (pb).

This anthology—a combination of fiction, poetry, memoirs, oral histories, and journalistic pieces by both men and women—reaches far beyond New Jersey's borders. Exploring Italian-American identity as part of America's literary and historical culture, authors address themes of dislocation and generational differences, capturing moments of humor, heartbreak, and grace under pressure.

The book chronicles various aspects of the Italian-American experience. Gay Talese, for example, focuses on his father during World War II, juxtaposing letters from relatives fighting in the Italian army with the patriotism visible in his father's popular speeches to the Rotary Club. Jennifer Guglielmo writes about "Rebel Girls," especially Maria Roda, an immigrant weaver who protested in 1897, calling for

women "to be free, to be equal."

There are engaging stories like "Race Riot" by Tom Perrotta, a mix of racial conflict, parent-child conflict, and a coming-of-age first kiss, and Daniella Gioseffi's "Dorissa," a moving account of a five-year-old blond girl who walked "through the Black ghetto next to the Italian one" and learned how to love a black best friend.

Carol Maso captures the identity theme in a powerful narrative about assimilation. In "Today Your Name Is Mary," Maso recounts her grandfather's orders to eliminate Italian names, language, and rituals from his home, because he was "American."

The majority of the narratives shape a rich and valuable microcosm of Italian-American experiences that reveal the complexities of becoming American for diverse immigrant groups.

—Elaine R. Ognibene
Siena College

13-2-0131

Lee, Anthony W., ed., with contributions by Paul Karlstrom and Li-lan. *Yun Gee: Poetry, Writing, Art, Memories*. Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 2003. 240 pp. Illus. Series: The Jacob Lawrence Series on American Artists. ISBN 0-295-98353-1, \$40.00 (cl); 0-295-98354-X, \$24.95 (pb).

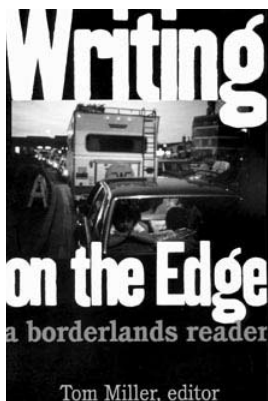
This volume is a tie-in with an exhibit of Yun Gee's art at the Pasadena Museum of California Art. It includes 17 color reproductions of Gee's paintings, as well as a dozen black-and-white sketches by and photos of the artist, who was born in China in 1905, came to San Francisco as an adolescent, and had two sojourns in Paris as a highly regarded young painter before living out the rest of his life in obscurity in New York. But Gee was a poet as well, though there is no evidence that he tried to have his work published. Editor Lee gives us 65 pages of poetry, along with nine short manifestos and letters, plus brief reminiscences by the artist's niece and daughter and several critical appreciations by Lee and others.

Gee's poetry is difficult to characterize in brief. Some of it is philosophical, with references to Lao Tze and Confucius; some seems to be a nearly pure play of alliteration and other sound patterns. As for the visual art, the book's plates suggest the influence of Synthetic Cubism and German Expressionism, with a distinctive color palette. In his later years, Gee developed a system he called Diamondism, but evidently had few disciples.

Lee's introduction to the poetry is excellent, while Paul Karlstrom's essay on the paintings is disappointing, focusing as it does on the fact that Gee's paintings exhibit "personal-

ism" as well as modernism. Other essays by Lee raise important questions about the relation of Gee's art and poetry to the virulent anti-Chinese racism of America in the 1920s and '30s. A valuable introduction to a neglected artist.

—Joseph Milicia
Univ. of Wisconsin–Sheboygan



13-2-0132

Miller, Tom, ed. ***Writing on the Edge: A Borderlands Reader***. Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 2003. 360 pp. ISBN 0-8165-2241-3, \$19.95 (pb).

Collecting writings from one border of the twentieth century to the other, this volume brings together Mexican-U.S. border literatures from over 80 people in various genres, including songs, essays, poems, historical fictions, cartoons, performance pieces, transcriptions of word sculptures, political tracts, and more. They paint a fairly coherent picture with four main strands: a history of contestation and exploitation regarding the actual border and terms of crossing; the indeterminacy and pain of enforced liminality; the vulnerability to continued exploitation; and also, puzzlingly, a surfeit of stereotypes, some of "gringos," many of Mexicans. One section heading states that "stereotypes are born, not made," and the text itself reproduces stereotypes, both in irony and in earnest.

The editor writes: "The glue that binds the two sides is made of symbiosis, not bitterness, vitality, not repulsion, though you might be hard-pressed to persuade these writers of that." It seems the coherent themes must, to some degree, reflect editorial choices, yet these choices, by the editor's own admission, belie his analysis. Still, it's an outstanding collection, packed with a range of highly creative, informative, and evocative works, including some, such as "On U.S.-Mexico Relations" by Guillermo Gomez-Peña, that complicate and query the basis of the collection, enhancing its value rather than denying it. It's a good source text for both border studies and literature classes.

—Menoukha Case
State Univ. of New York at Albany

13-2-0133

Nissen, Axel, ed. ***The Romantic Friendship Reader: Love Stories Between Men in Victorian America***. Boston: Northeastern Univ. Press, 2003. 286 pp. ISBN 1-55553-591-7, \$55.00 (cl); 1-55553-590-9, \$22.50 (pb).

Although popular stereotype portrays Victorian culture grounded in repression and strict gender division, *The Romantic Friendship Reader* stretches conventional concepts of Victorian love, friendship, and eroticism, as well as Victorian

cultural mores of manly love.

Nissen's anthology comprises 15 short stories and novel excerpts from some of the era's most recognizable names, such as Henry James, Herman Melville, and Mark Twain. The body of scholarship surrounding passionate friendship has centered on the female experience—Lillian Faderman's groundbreaking work *Surpassing the Love of Men* (1981) and Janice Raymond's *A Passion for Friends: Toward a Philosophy of Female Affection* (1986). Researchers have begun to study Victorian love friendships between men. As Nissen reveals, "passing the love of women" was one phrase that celebrated such bonds.

By illuminating a nineteenth-century dominant culture that both validated and idealized passionate (and ostensibly platonic) love between men, *The Romantic Friendship Reader* exposes a remarkable contrast. Unlike contemporary attitudes toward gender and sexuality, a nineteenth-century frame of thinking permitted men to express love for members of their own sex without being considered effeminate, perverse, or contrary to the laws of nature. It should be noted that some scholars consider the possibility that these Victorian homo-relational experiences and worldviews are racially and economically marked. They were the privilege and purview of young white men from the middle and upper classes. Recommended for large public libraries, and academic libraries supporting humanities and social sciences research and curricula.

—Elsa Bruguier
Union County (N.J.) College

13-2-0134

Rice, Anne P., ed. ***Witnessing to Lynching: American Writers Respond***. Piscataway, N.J.: Rutgers Univ. Press, 2003. 325 pp.. Foreword by Michele Wallace. ISBN 0-8135-3329-5, \$65.00 (cl); 0-8135-3330-9, \$21.95 (pb).

This anthology is rich with works about lynching and its impact on our culture. The "lynching era," 1889–1935, is documented through short stories, essays, magazine/newspaper articles, and poetry. The works capture the brutality and shame of this mob violence perpetrated against African Americans and whites, particularly in the South. The punishment of lynching was introduced as a way to protect white women from the aggression and sexual prowess of black men. However, as the works detail and as research proved, very few men who were lynched had in fact even been accused of rape, let alone proven guilty.

The works are grouped into significant time periods spanning five decades, from post-Reconstruction struggles to Jim Crow laws to the controversy surrounding the Scottsboro Boys in the 1930s. The anti-lynching works include writings by Ida B. Wells, Frederick Douglass, Paul Laurence Dunbar, W. E. B. Du Bois, James Weldon Johnson, Claude McKay, Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, and Richard Wright, as well as lesser-known contributors. Each piece details the horrific and unjust treatment of the victim and attempts to educate, protest, or mourn in spite of a social order that

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punished such outspokenness. The legacy of this barbaric behavior on our society influenced activism, charged race relations, and continues to impact issues of gender, politics, and race in America.

—Lillian Lewis
Gary, Ind.

Fiction

13-2-0135

Arias, Arturo. *Rattlesnake*. Willimantic, Conn.: Curbstone Press, 2003. 245 pp. Trans. from Spanish by Sean Higgins and Jill Robbins. ISBN 1-931896-01-1, \$16.95 (pb).

Ramos, Manuel. *Brown-on-Brown: A Luis M3nchez Mystery*. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2003. 178 pp. ISBN 0-8263-3169-6, \$21.95.

Cops, crooks, connivers, kidnappers, bottom feeders, and people who aren't who they seem to be drive two books by Latino writers. One is a traditional whodunit and the other a novel of international intrigue. However, both weave threads of ethnic pride and community into the narrative.

Spanish dialogue sprinkled throughout the stories is easily translated and lends texture to the dynamics that propel both thriller and mystery to conclusion. In *Rattlesnake*, Arias, author of several novels in Spanish and English, and the coauthor of the screenplay for *El Norte*, has written a thriller that immerses the reader in a world of spies, suspicion, distrust, suspense, and sensuality against the exotic yet frightening landscape of Guatemalan politics. When CIA agent Tom Wright is sent to Guatemala to rescue an Australian businessman allegedly kidnapped by guerrillas, he faces an assignment that includes everyone from terrorists and military madmen to a former girlfriend who married into a powerful, corrupt family. In this complex novel the reader needs a scorecard to record betrayals, coups, kidnappings, torture, and assassinations in an ongoing war of decent people against institutionalized corruption. In spite of the tragic elements, Arias manages to relieve some of the tension with occasional humorous dialogue, particularly the foibles of an American embassy flunky with a thick lisp. The author captures the pulse of Guatemala, "where the cold, cruel smell of death is even stronger than its lustful beauty." Rather than conveniently casting key players as good or evil, he carefully probes their lives both critically and sympathetically. Arias paces the story with cinematic movement and tension while exploring the underlying issues in a country that is known for its brilliant bold colors, but where nothing is as it appears to be.

Brown on Brown is Denver attorney Manuel Ramos's fifth Luis M3nchez murder mystery. The novel opens with M3nchez waking up from a snooze in a law library, dusting off his shabby suit and listening to the plea of a low-life con man who hires him to defend a cousin accused of arson and murder. The plot thickens when the murder is linked to a water rights battle dating back to old Mexican land grants. When the accused is murdered in a prison riot, the roller coaster ride begins. M3nchez, a throwback to a 1940s film noir fig-

ure, is an older, jaded, alcoholic attorney saddled with two ex-wives and a few kids. While he pursues clues and takes a break for some steamy sex with the double-dealing wife of the dead con, he runs into galoots galore who try to stop him from finding out the truth. This mystery is thick with twists, turns, and mounting corpses as M3nchez finds himself on the hit list of several goons. After a car chase, repeated beatings, and some support from police and the DA, who happens to be his ex-sister-in-law, he begins to wonder if the battle over water, money, and power is a smokescreen for more sinister dirty tricks.

—Gloria Sananes Stein
Holtwood, Pa.

13-2-0136

Bell, Andrea L. and Molina-Gavil3n, Yolanda, eds. *Cosmos Latinos: An Anthology of Science Fiction from Latin America and Spain*. Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan Univ. Press, 2003. 364 pp. ISBN 0-8195-6633-0, \$70.00 (cl); 0-8195-6634-9, \$24.95 (pb).

Cosmos Latinos makes a groundbreaking contribution to the expanding field of science fiction studies. Bell and Molina-Gavil3n have brought together 27 stories from a number of Spanish-speaking countries, ranging from nineteenth-century speculative fiction to postmodern quantum reality and cyberpunk. Not only are these excellent stories, but the anthology is set up to introduce English-speaking readers to the wealth and variety of Latin American and Spanish speculative fiction.

One revelation is the early stories contemporary with those of Poe, Verne, and Wells, stories that provide similarly astounding extrapolated futures. Another pattern noticeable throughout the collection is that many stories offer commentary on regional culture, history, and politics, from the Spanish Civil War to the consequences of political repression and authoritarianism in Latin America. All the familiar themes of science fiction are represented: space travel, time travel, cybernetics, post-nuclear-holocaust, alien contact, alternate history; a number of the stories show the influence of Latin America's magical realism. A well-written introduction examines the development of Spanish and Latin American science fiction and offers theoretical analysis. The editors also provide a thorough bibliography and helpful, though not intrusive, notes. This is an important, enjoyable collection of high-quality stories set in a coherent cultural framework.

—Pamela Clements
Siena College

13-2-0137

Cerda, Carlos. *An Empty House*. Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2003. 245 pp. Trans. from Spanish by Andrea G. Labinger. ISBN 0-8032-1524-X, \$50.00 (cl); 0-8032-6425-9, \$20.00 (pb).

The occasion of a housewarming and the return of Andr3s,

a Chilean exile living for the past 12 years in East Germany, provide the locus for a powerful yet poetic exploration of the results of tyranny on all segments of society. Through the thoughts of multiple narrators, we learn what life has been like for those who profited from the illegal regime and those who suffered from it, those who remained in Chile and made accommodations with their conscience and those who held fast to their ideals and were forced to flee.

Cecilia and Manuel's desperate attempts to renovate the house given to them by her father mirror their futile attempts to preserve a failed marriage. Andrés and his brother Sergio, the original occupants of the house, return only to realize that indeed, you can't go home again, for reasons that become apparent when Julia, a lawyer who takes depositions from victims of Pinochet's nefarious secret intelligence service, the DINA, uncovers the ghastly truth about the refurbished house. Once beautiful and elegant, then turned into a clandestine site of torture, and finally, an empty shell once more devoid of life, the house becomes a metaphor for the entire country.

The thirtieth anniversary on September 11, 2003, of the overthrow of democratically elected Socialist president Salvador Allende of Chile has stimulated the production of a growing corpus of literature detailing the coup by Pinochet, the ensuing dictatorship, and its repercussions. *An Empty House* is a valuable, well-crafted, and compelling addition to the field.

—Roberta Gordenstein
Elms College, Chicopee, Mass.

13-2-0138

Correa, Arnaldo. *Cold Havana Ground*. New York: Akashic Books, 2003. 320 pp. Trans. from Spanish by Marjorie Moore. ISBN 1-888451-52-1, \$22.95.

The jacket of *Cold Havana Ground* notes twice that this book is an example of Cuban Noir. Readers expecting something akin to American fiction noir may be disappointed—this book is closer to semi-hardboiled contemporary detective fiction with a twist. Retired police investigator Alvaro Antonio Molinet is brought out of retirement by his former chief to investigate the politically sensitive case of a cadaver stolen from Havana's Chinese cemetery. Intertwined with this is another plot: a local Santera believes her brother, himself a religious leader, is possessed by an evil spirit. The Santera investigates her brother's recent suspicious activities while also trying to rid him of the evil spirit.

Three Afro-Cuban religions are central to this novel: Santería, Palo Monte, and the Abakuá Secret Society. The rituals and other traditions of each are treated matter-of-factly and with respect. Aware that many readers will be unfamiliar with these religions, Correa has included an end-of-the-book glossary of the names of gods and other deities, as well as definitions of common words. Everyday details of Cuban life such as food shortages—olive oil is a welcome gift—are incorporated into the storylines. There is a brief history of the Chinese in Cuba, including their ill treatment

as manual labor imported from China and the United States in the nineteenth century.

Following *Spy's Fate* (Akashic, 2002), *Cold Havana Ground* is the author's second novel published in English. Recommended.

—Catherine Crohan
Siena College Library

13-2-0139

Fortune, Gwendolyn Y. *Family Lines*. Gretna, La.: Pelican Publishing, 2003. 288 pp. ISBN 1-58980-146-6, \$21.00.

Rosamund is a brilliant African-American widow, successful in the corporate world and blessed with an intriguing "family line." She comes to Atlanta from Cleveland in order to work for a Fortune 500 Company. She then brings her mysterious Aunt Pet from Louisiana to help her with caring for Caryl, her charismatic daughter.

Life is blissful for Rosamund for a short period of time, then all hell breaks loose. Aunt Pet gets hit by a car and dies. Rosamund stumbles on some damaging information regarding her prestigious company engaging in shoddy, dangerous business. She and some of her friends become whistle blowers and their lives are in danger. In the midst of the suspense, Rosamund meets a series of colorful, culturally diverse people: Shuggs, a Caucasian male from the mountains; a wealthy Egyptian corporate tycoon; and a handsome teacher.

Fortune depicts the myriad strengths of the African-American community, with Ma Bella, a bewitching matriarch from Louisiana, and P.B., a very light-skinned African-American minister, who provide protective solace and support. The author also skillfully weaves in how Rosamund's deceased ancestors are still watching out for the living family members.

The mystery ends predictably with Rosamund and her associates safe from the bad guys. Surprisingly, after constructing a genogram, she discovers that she and Shuggs, the Caucasian mountain man, are relatives.

—Maxine M. Agazie
Albany State (Ga.) Univ.

13-2-0140

Hagedorn, Jessica. *Dream Jungle*. New York: Viking, 2003. 328 pp. ISBN 0-670-88458-8, \$23.95.

Hagedorn, one of today's most acclaimed Asian-American writers, has produced a thematic follow-up to her highly successful *Dogeaters*. Readers of that work, as well as those drawn to exotic postcolonial fiction, will find her new effort just as rewarding.

The story centers around four characters who connect in the Philippines in the 1970s: a wealthy landowner, an impoverished girl forced into prostitution, a morally bankrupt American, and a Filipino-American journalist. Two events more or less bring these persons together—the finding of a Stone Age tribe and the filming of a Vietnam War

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movie. Obviously, Hagedorn has used the Tasaday story and *Apocalypse Now* as inspiration. Brief references to Mr. President anchor the book to the Marcos dictatorship.

Like *Dogeaters*, this is a markedly postmodern novel, with an alternating and interwoven narrative thread. Readers will find lush, sensual images that propel standard themes in postcolonial fiction: the decayed patriarchal ruling class and the naïve but exploitative Americans contrasted against the resourceful poor. Adding to this are items also found in her earlier work, such as sexual tourism, the concussion of Hollywood around the world, and confused cultural identities.

Hagedorn is a superb storyteller. However, some audiences might find the novel heavy-handed. The characters and plot are so obviously concocted to cite Philippine history and social ills that they nearly become clichés. Consequently, the work seems to strain against its own end, and, for some readers, the final impact is probably less than the author hoped.

—Joseph McCallus
Columbus State (Ga.) Univ.

13-2-0141

Johnson, Shawne. *Eden, Ohio*. New York: Dutton, 2004. 288 pp. ISBN 0-525-94810-4, \$23.95.

In 1860, twelve families flee slavery in North Carolina and settle in a town they claim as their own paradise: Eden, Ohio. From the beginning, the men, women, and babies of two families are forever linked. For four generations, women named Eliza have blessed and cursed their firstborn daughters with a common burden. The women have been raised to know about their legacy and each has assumed her position.

The first Eliza brought escaped slaves to the town and possessed a magic that had been passed down to her. When white men burned down houses and killed two families, the men of Eden, led by a former slave, Jeremiah Baker, took revenge and killed all the white people. The second Eliza helped conceal their crime. Her daughter, Eliza, witnessed the town change when the Sweet Cake Factory opened. The sugar consumption and assault on all of the senses caused the residents to become lazy and addicted to confections. The last Eliza raised her baby sister, Aspasia, when their mother died. Jeremiah's descendants have all had weak constitutions and died at an early age. So when the great-grandson, Jeremiah, returns from New York with a life-threatening illness, the whole town awaits. His belief in Eliza's magic offers peace for himself, the town, and their intertwined and collective past.

—Lillian Lewis
Gary, Ind.

13-2-0142

Jones, Edward P. *The Known World*. New York: HarperCollins, 2003. 389 pp. ISBN 0-06-055754-0, \$24.95.

In the antebellum South, it is an accepted truth that whites owned blacks, but there is also the untold reality that free blacks enslaved other blacks.

The world of a freed couple, Henry and Caldonia Townsend, living on a farm in Manchester County, Virginia, included house servants and field slaves. As a young boy before gaining his freedom, Henry had become the trusted companion of his master, William Robbins, who taught him many privileged ideals, including how to be master of slaves. Years later, after Henry's untimely death, Caldonia is immediately thrust into the management of their 33 slaves—13 women, 11 men, and 9 children. Her conflicting opinions about slavery in the midst of her grief leave her relying on her husband's first slave, Moses, to oversee the daily operations.

Jones moves back and forth in time, helping the reader to see the full humanity of his characters, and although the census records are fictional, the data and dates intensify the sense that the people and places are real. The many characters are woven together in such a way that they are all central to the real story—slavery. Jones has done a remarkable job of being compassionate and insightful about a very unfortunate period of American history. He eloquently describes what slavery did to people, both black and white.

—Lillian Lewis
Gary, Ind.

13-2-0143

Karasu, Bilge. *The Garden of the Departed Cats*. New York: New Directions, 2003. 240 pp. Trans. from Turkish by Aron Aji. ISBN 0-8112-1551-2, \$15.95 (pb).

Karasu's novel is an extraordinary example of a Turkish postmodernist novel. He practices a "deconstructive" style of writing, expressing a view in which narrative is not pinned down to an underlying essential meaning. We can approach his strategy of narrative not singly but from "various angles." Within these, Karasu is thoroughly free of any conventions or tradition, but tests out narrative possibilities allowing for different conceptions of self and the world.

The "various angles" of narrative strategy in Karasu's work undermine the stability of traditional characterization, and of reality itself, because they emphasize multiple perspectives of the self. What is postmodernist in Karasu's novel is its multiplicity of meanings, voices, and views that subvert the fixity of coherent perspective, so that meaning is always in the process of construction: "As though surrounded by mirrors that multiply endlessly," in the words of the novel's narrator. The self becomes "vague specks of color flickering in the distance," or, again, "a piece of thread, a nail, a bottle cork, a piece of paper, a rag, a bit of dust, a few nothings."

Karasu's novel is ambitious and, as such, most valuable in terms of the debate about postmodernism. It not only represents Karasu's insight into the nature of humanness as undetermined, but also opens up a new imagination and understanding of the future.

—Ali Gunes
Kafkas Univ., Kars, Turkey

13-2-0144

Kelley, Norman. *A Phat Death: Or, the Last Days of*

Noir Soul. New York: Akashic Books, 2003. 236 pp. ISBN 1-888451-48-3, \$14.95 (pb).

A *Phat Death* is the third novel in the author's mystery/action series featuring former prosecutor and private investigator Nina Halligan. Halligan has survived numerous personal and professional tragedies, including the murders of her husband and children. Her recent investigation of a friend's death uncovered international political intrigue, resulting in Nina's key role in the overthrow of a Caribbean dictator. Although more than a bit of a superwoman, she is nonetheless emotionally exhausted.

Newly married to musician and journalist Glen Sierra, Nina hopes for a less violent life. But Glen's journalistic investigation into the deaths of two controversial hip-hop artists requires Nina's professional expertise. After the bombing of their apartment, resulting in the death of another singer, the couple hides from the police and infiltrates a music industry event. There are subplots, but the focus of *A Phat Death* is the exploitation of African-American musicians and black music by record companies.

Throughout the book, Nina is assisted by her support group—close women friends collectively known as Bad Girls International. Lesbian, straight, and bisexual, these women let the reader explore issues related to sexuality and gender-bending.

A Phat Death, like the other books in the series, provides an enjoyable, yet somewhat violent, read with a social conscience. Sexual situations are frequent and explicit. Nina Halligan is an intelligent and likeable protagonist.

—Catherine Crohan
Siena College Library

13-2-0145

Lemus, Felicia Luna. ***Trace Elements of Random Tea Parties.*** New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003. 249 pp. ISBN 0-374-27856-3, \$23.00.

Lemus's first novel is about the experiences of a young woman, Leticia, growing up in California. Losing her parents in an accident, she becomes an orphan at a young age. Nana, her grandmother, raises her and teaches her Mexican traditions. Among the latter is the Weeping Woman, who becomes something of an alter ego, a moral voice within Leticia. Lemus weaves an intricate relationship among these three female characters: Leticia, the young woman who searches for love, friendship, and identity; her Nana, the overprotecting "mother" who never ceases loving her; and the Weeping Woman, a fictional figure very real in Leticia's mind, who controls her emotionally. Narrating the story, Leticia tells of her heartbreaking sexual experiences by depicting the lesbian life in bars in Los Angeles.

The narration's effectiveness lies in its technique. Past and present overlap, bringing the characters to life. The descriptions and dialogues enhance the depiction of Leticia's emotional upheaval and that of her friends, arousing pathos in the reader. Other important themes are loneliness and infidelity. Even though Leticia is loved by her family, she

seeks enduring love unsuccessfully. After Nana's death, Leticia realizes that her grandmother was the only true love in her life. Immersed in Nana's stories, Leticia emerges from her inner crisis to find some stability.

—Rosita Chazarreta-Rourke
Duquesne Univ.

13-2-0146

Luntta, Karl. ***Know It by Heart.*** Willimantic, Conn.: Curbstone Press, 2003. 336 pp. ISBN 1-880684-95-0, \$15.95 (pb).

This is a very enjoyable novel about racial intolerance and an adolescent's coming of age. On one level it is about what happens when a racially mixed family moves into an all white neighborhood. Things get bad, with a cross burned on a lawn and general intolerance, but there are also positive signs of tolerance. On another level, the book is about a youth growing up and facing the various problems of adolescence, from figuring out who he is to dealing with a bully to racial conflict. It is very well written and enjoyable to read. It would be useful in middle and high schools for showing different ethnic groups relating to each other.

Luntta uses a realistic approach, which makes the reader feel that things really occur as described. On the other hand, the reader who wants everything to end well, with the good guys coming out fine and the bad guys getting their deserved punishment, may not be so happy. Real life does not always feature happy endings; the realism makes for good stories, but some may prefer a simplistic view of life.

The author does a good job of showing us how the characters feel, about where they are coming from. We even have some feelings for the bully, as we come to understand him better.

—Russell Eisenman
Univ. of Texas—Pan American

13-2-0147

Major, Marcus. ***A Family Affair.*** New York: Dutton, 2004. 304 pp. ISBN 0-525-94768-X, \$24.95.

Like Major's previous bestsellers, this novel chronicles a book full of relationships among its African-American characters. Here, Major illustrates how family connections can affect romance in multiple ways.

The most obvious example is the story's protagonist, Leonard Moore, whose affair with the friend of a relative is blown by an in-law who catches the two entering a motel room after Leonard had made a typically lame excuse to leave a family gathering. The subsequent revelation by the relative through the grapevine eventually winds up being one of the first of many last straws that Moore's wife Peggy puts up with before divorcing him.

On the other hand, Jasmine (Leonard's niece) experiences her first real romance with Darius, a young man who has been in trouble with the law throughout his life and is now on probation, living in a group home run by two women. One of these women is married to Jasmine's cousin. Despite

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this and other revelations of mistruths, their romantic attraction for each other flourishes and fizzles. And when Peggy rebuffs Leonard's attempt at reconciliation in the novel's last chapter, she soon afterward learns her son's wife is pregnant.

Indeed, as in real life the tragedies mix with the joys for the Moore family throughout Major's latest novel.

—Sam Cacas
San Francisco, Calif.

13-2-0148

Manicka, Rani. *The Rice Mother*. New York: Viking, 2003. 448 pp. ISBN 0-670-03192-5, \$24.95.

This is a magnificent first novel spanning four generations of a family in Malaysia. It is a saga of survival in the face of poverty, war, and inexorable fate. Manicka writes with a visceral understanding of humanity and its capacity for forbearance and malevolence. Her prose is as rich and textured as the blend of the Sri Lankan, Malaysian, and Chinese cultures it portrays.

Born in Sri Lanka, Lakshmi, a beautiful wisp of a girl, is married to an ungainly older man in Malaysia for his ostensible wealth. Her resentment at her inconsequential husband is compounded by his actual poverty. But she has high aspirations for her new life and determinedly sets about maximizing the meager assets of her household.

Her beautiful twins Lakshman and Mohini seem to share one spirit and understand each other instinctively. The golden-haired Mohini becomes the family's talisman, embodying their hope for a better life. However, the harmony of their home is shattered by the advent of the Second World War. As fate would have it, on the last day of the war, Mohini is discovered and taken away by the Japanese through an inadvertent slip by Lakshman.

Utterly fascinating characters appear in the narrative. Nightmarish and dreamlike events unfold. There is deep-seated familial antagonism, guilt, and unbounded tenderness. From the first to the last word, this novel is a fascinating read about the universal human paradox—the divergence between hope and reality. The narrative reverberates with passion, poetry, and powerful myths that refuse to die.

—Jaswinder Gundra
Coral Gables, Fla.

13-2-0149

Murakami, Ryu. *In the Miso Soup*. New York: Kodansha International, 2004. 240 pp. Trans. from Japanese by Ralph McCarthy. ISBN 4-7700-2957-8, \$22.95.

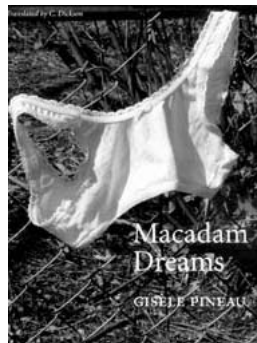
This is not a novel for the weak of stomach or faint of heart. Kenji, young and jaded, has a business of hiring himself out to show tourists Tokyo's nightspots. Right before New Year's, Japan's biggest holiday, Frank, an American, hires Kenji for several nights to show him around the numerous sex clubs.

Then people turn up dead and mutilated. Kenji, because of his line of work, thinks that he has seen it all, but he soon realizes that he hasn't. Frank knows his way with knives, plus he has several remarkable tricks that allow him to get away with his gory deeds. Kenji wants to get away, but Frank, a "gaijin," a foreigner, knows too much about him.

Murakami's novel is more than a "cut 'em up." Although morally ambivalent, Kenji still has plenty of concern for Japanese materialism, consumerism, and acceptance of an explosion of prostitution, even by high school girls from affluent families.

Frank is a cold-blooded killer if there ever was one, yet Murakami makes him not only fascinating but also paradoxically sympathetic. Toward the end, Frank confides to Kenji that he saw miso soup as the essence of Japan. Kenji says that it can be had at any restaurant; Frank replies that he doesn't need to order it now that he is in it, as he awaits his moment of purification.

—Al Hikida
Seattle Central Community College



13-2-0150

Pineau, Gisèle. *Macadam Dreams*. Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2003. 215 pp. Trans. from French by C. Dickson. ISBN 0-8032-3730-8, \$50.00 (c); 0-8032-8773-9, \$20.00 (pb).

Born in Paris in 1956 of Guadeloupean parents, Pineau is both a prize-winning novelist and a psychiatric nurse of long standing. Her fiction centers primarily on the violence inflicted on women in the Caribbean.

Set in twentieth-century Guadeloupe, *Macadam Dreams* focuses on Éliette Florentine, a twice-widowed, childless woman living in the small town of Savane Mulet. As Hurricane Hugo approaches the island in 1989, the 68-year-old uncovers many repressed memories of suffering that she has felt and observed throughout her life, including the cyclone of 1928 and the fighting, killing, infanticide, and incest among certain members of her community. Like most other people, Éliette "sees nothing and hears nothing" with regard to the human cruelty in town. All react with fear, solitude, silence, and cowardice when confronted with evil. The distress of her 16-year-old neighbor Angela, however, finally provokes the older woman's maternal instincts and drives her to act.

The engaging narrative, written in alternating first and third persons, proceeds in a non-linear fashion. The recurring bestial imagery, referring to the savagery of both people and nature, is especially artistic and effective, as is the leitmotif of Bob Marley's reggae song "No Woman No Cry."

—Jayne Boisvert
Russell Sage College

13-2-0151

Ravel, Edeet. *Ten Thousand Lovers*. New York: Harper Collins, 2003. 284 pp. ISBN 0-06-056562-4, \$12.95 (pb).

This semi-autobiographical novel by an Israeli Canadian is both an intense love story and an astute, disquieting commentary on Israeli-Palestinian relations and the occupation. It is 1976 and 20-year-old Lily, who, like the author, was born in Israel and raised on a radical left-wing kibbutz, returns after 13 years in Canada. While at the university in Jerusalem, she meets Ami, a handsome, captivating Israeli who is an army interrogator. Despite misgivings about his work, she is smitten. Ami is politically a radical, outspoken in condemning the mistreatment of Palestinians, yet seemingly unaware of the inconsistency between his beliefs and his job. Lily's unease about this aspect of Ami intensifies after she becomes pregnant and they decide to marry. She urges him to quit, but it is only after a Palestinian is beaten to death by other interrogators that Ami angrily resigns.

Soon after, he dies in a tragic accident, and Lily moves to London where she gives birth to a daughter. Over 20 years later, Lily tells their story in the form of this book. Interspersed throughout the narrative are brief discussions of the biblical Hebrew origins of modern Hebrew words, which are interesting but overdone. The distrust and paranoia that pervaded the political scene in those years is convincingly portrayed and portends the moral quagmire created by Israel's domination of another people and their land.

—Elka R. Frankel
Princeton, N.J.

13-2-0152

Sakamoto, Kerri. *One Hundred Million Hearts*. San Diego, Calif.: Harcourt, 2004. 288 pp. ISBN 0-15-101037-4, \$23.00.

Vaswani, Neela. *Where the Long Grass Bends*. Louisville, Ky.: Sarabande Books, 2004. 288 pp. ISBN 1-889330-96-5, \$13.95 (pb).

Vaswani's distinctive stylistic quality as a poet is carried over into her debut collection of short stories. She draws skillfully from the cultural and oral traditions of her Indian and Gaelic ancestry to create her own particular landscape, imagery, and language. Dreamlike thoughts emerge and dissolve effortlessly in the stories. A forlorn orphaned child of mixed parentage with yellow hair and black skin roams through murderous mobs in India seeking a like image; a young girl nurtured in the wilderness discovers the rush of grass seed underfoot at springtime and then the violence of love; a lame boy momentarily feels the freedom of a bird in flight in a swinging hug. Violence and tenderness are interwoven in stories that are at once intriguing and elusive.

Sakamoto's engrossing new novel delves into the past of a tight-lipped widowed father living in Toronto. After his demise, Miyo, his disabled daughter, returns to Japan only to discover a stepsister. She also learns other surprising truths

about her father's past and his role in the war. It's an intimate story that uncovers uncomfortable family secrets. In learning about her father, his conflicting guilt and his sense of duty, Miyo also embarks on her own interior journey. Sakamoto offers a compelling story full of nuances and understated tensions with themes that remain relevant to world events today.

—Jaswinder Gundara
Coral Gables, Fla.

13-2-0153

Sanders, Brett Alan. *A Bride Called Freedom/Una novia llamada libertad*. Fair Haven, N.J.: Ediciones Nuevo Espacio, 2003. 182 pp. Bilingual (English-Spanish) ed. Spanish translation by Sebastián R. Bekes. ISBN 1-930-879-31-8, \$14.95 (pb).

Sanders tells the story of the nineteenth-century figure Dorotea Bazán, immortalized in the Argentine folk song "Dorotea the Captive"; he interweaves the narrative with Lucio V. Mansilla's *Visit to the Ranquel Indians* from the same period, which used the account of Dorotea to question the stereotype of indigenous people as barbarous.

In the narration, young Dorotea was captured from her village in the Pampas by raiding Indians. After several years, she was "rescued" by Captain Rivadavia and Colonel Mansilla, to whom she narrates her experiences in both the white and Indian worlds. She pleads with them to let her go back to the Ranquel camps, to her Indian husband and children. She is no longer a "winca" or a white woman; she has found love and understanding among the Ranquel tribe of indigenous people.

By expanding the song's lyrics and including the broader Argentine literary and historical background, Sanders writes a love story with political and social connotations in defense of women and Indians. The recreation of Dorotea is an important contribution to the understanding of the peoples of the New World. The author includes a bilingual rendition of the lyrics of "Dorotea the Captive." Moreover, the translation of this novella into Spanish makes excellent use of the Argentine dialect of that period.

—Rosita Chazarreta-Rourke
Duquesne Univ.

13-2-0154

Taraghi, Goli. *A Mansion in the Sky: Short Stories by Goli Taraghi*. Austin: Univ. of Texas Press, 2003. 160 pp. Trans. from Farsi by Faridoun Farrokh. ISBN 0-292-70226-4, \$14.95 (pb).

Taraghi's compelling themes of revolutionary Iran and the experience of exile in France mirror her own emotional journey as an Iranian woman robbed of her sense of home. The deeply traditional and often conflicted characters allow the reader to gain profound insights into the repressive period following the removal of the Shah of Iran. Many stories

▼ continued fiction

explore the harsh tragedies of social displacement and exile among members of the secular middle and upper classes.

One of Taraghi's most dynamic stories, "The Maid," reveals the complex life of an affluent urban family confronted with confusion after the disappearance of their entire household staff following the outbreak of the Islamic revolution. The family struggles to explain the absence of these longstanding employees, until several of them reappear as revolutionary committee henchmen looking to reverse the power structure. Unable to identify who can be trusted, the family members' daily lives become dominated by the attempt to avoid denunciation.

Taraghi's title story is equally intriguing and deeply moving. It explores the extreme heartache experienced by an elderly Iranian woman who fails to find a permanent home abroad. Bounced around by her own adult son and daughter, who appear unwilling and perhaps financially unable to reconcile Iranian traditions with expectations of modern urban life in exile, the old woman reaches a point of complete despair. In the end, social and cultural dislocation, extreme grief, and the clear sense that she has become nothing but a burden to her own children lead to her seemingly inevitable demise. Taraghi's excellent collection gives a strong voice to victims of forced exile.

—Vera Eccarius-Kelly
Siena College

13-2-0155

Tórrez, Everardo. *Narco*. Houston, Tex.: Arte Público Press, 2003. 169 pp. ISBN 1-55885-416-9, \$12.95 (pb).

When crime boss Mexicali Rose offers Nando Flores an opportunity for a big score, he jumps at the chance to get out of a world mired in smuggling cars, drugs, and people. His assignment—the smuggling of Xiomara, the wife of drug lord Carlos Arquimedes-Savon, to safety in Ciudad Juárez—could reap a cool \$100,000 and a dream ticket to a peaceful and better life. Xiomara's rendezvous with an El Paso reporter to reveal the workings of her husband's cartel is fraught with danger as Flores drives through treacherous desert territory pursued by assassins.

In this first novel by the Mexican-born Tórrez, the author attempts to describe the nightmare of drug trafficking as well as the mood, ambience, fear, and uncertainty of life on the border. However, digressions written in florid narratives are distracting to this thriller genre and often interfere with the momentum of the story. Xiomara, a child bride and victim of heroin addiction, abuse, and privation at the hands of her cruel husband, magically emerges from her nightmare full of courage, fully equipped with advanced self-defense skills. She and Flores are assisted by the poor souls who inhabit the barrios of every town, including a mystic, a street urchin, and a family living in a deteriorating tunnel. Tórrez evidently has talent as a writer but has obscured his storytelling with too much fantasy as well as gratuitous social and political commentary in a voice that fails to capture the spirit of his homeland.

—Gloria Sananes Stein

Holtwood, Pa.

13-2-0156

Trouillot, Lyonel. *Streets of Lost Footsteps*. Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2003. 115 pp. Trans. from French with an introduction by Linda Coverdale. ISBN 0-8032-4443-6, \$45.00 (cl); 0-8032-9450-6, \$16.95 (pb).

Born in Port-au-Prince in 1956, Trouillot is a poet, novelist, essayist, and a professor of literature in his native Haiti. This 1998 novel was recently translated from its original French. Its title expresses the "zone of utter oblivion," where no route is safe for the Haitian people.

The story describes the unspecified "night of the Abomination" in the Haitian capital. Three narrators—an old madam running a brothel, a self-proclaimed "lazy revolutionary" post office worker, and a taxi driver—relate their experiences in a confused manner that reveals the chaotic violence surrounding them. The reader learns of the greed, hatred, and spying of a poverty-stricken populace and the atrocities committed by Haitian soldiers. We observe the unspeakable: from people living on garbage dumps to soldiers forcing fathers to rape their daughters. Yet because of rampant fear, no one risks uttering a word. In wishing for "a more lifelike life," the post office worker perhaps speaks for all his countrymen.

The vague, impressionistic style of the novel underscores the centuries of violence suffered by the inhabitants of the island nation. For here "terror goes on and on, changing sides, targets, speeds." Because of its violent content, this novel is difficult to read, but important for anyone wanting to know why Haitian boat people risk their lives trying to escape their country.

—Jayne R. Boisvert
Russell Sage College

Drama

13-2-0157

Savigliano, Marta Elena. *Angora Matta: Fatal Acts of North-South Translation*. Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan Univ. Press, 2003. 262 pp. Bilingual (Spanish-English) ed. ISBN 0-8195-6598-9, \$70.00 (cl); 0-8195-6599-7, \$24.95 (pb).

This bilingual, intercultural work uses performative writing to explore the contemporary global politics of culture, focusing on Argentina. Combining a variety of genres, from drama to drawing to scholarly essays, the book's core is an operatic libretto that situates the complex lives and identities of contemporary Argentines. Part I is a double introduction offering two versions of how the book came to be. Part II is the libretto for the musical drama. Angora Matta, the protagonist's name, is the femme fatale—an ex-Argentine guerrillera—who is hired in Beverly Hills to commit a crime in Buenos Aires. Here she meets two women: Manuela Malva, a foreign-film critic who attempts to demystify superficial

images of the Argentine tango world and its relationship to national identity, and Elvira Díaz, an ethnographer. Part III contains scholarly essays authored by these characters that call attention to cross-cultural misunderstandings and to the dangers of cultural globalization.

This Argentine reviewer enthusiastically endorses the book's central theme, which is to criticize the representational practices of ethnography, performance, and film that have "fetishized" Argentine culture as sorrowful and tangoesque while isolating it from contemporary history and politics. Moreover, Savigliano brilliantly portrays the new empire of globalization "as one in which very few Argentines will have a say about the kind of history or the myths that will explain our past or guide our future."

—Rosita Chazarreta-Rourke
Duquesne Univ.

13-2-0158

Tedlock, Dennis. ***Rabinal Achi: A Mayan Drama of War and Sacrifice***. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2003. 361 pp. ISBN 0-19-513974-7, \$35.00.

As the only surviving text of a pre-Conquest Native American performance piece, *Rabinal Achi* is long overdue for canonical status in the pantheon of world literature. Tedlock's meticulously glossed yet poetic and playable English translation must be heralded as a major contribution to that end. It not only broadens the availability of a work hitherto published only in French, Spanish, and a transliteration of the original K'iche' language, but it also stands as an impressive literary achievement.

While Tedlock's translation is the centerpiece of this book, his contribution extends to authoritative analyses of the drama's geographical, historical, linguistic, and religious contexts. Drawing on aspects of the *Popol Vuh*, which he has also translated, and on iconographic evidence, Tedlock offers plausible interpretations of the most hermetic passages of *Rabinal Achi*.

Beyond its literary and ethnographic value, the book has much to offer in the field of performance studies. Tedlock witnessed and documented (video, audio, still photography, interviews with participants) two performances of *Rabinal Achi* in the Guatemalan town of Rabinal. He even provides oscillographic readouts of a performer's vocal patterns to convey a sense of the phrasing, intonation, and volume.

Extensive notes anchor the scholarship of the work. An index would have usefully supplemented the excellent bibliography and glossary, and might have helped the author spot many redundancies in content.

—Felicia Hardison Londré
Univ. of Missouri–Press

Poetry

13-2-0159

Berssenbrugge, Mei-Mei. ***Nest***. Berkeley, Calif.: Kelsey St. Books, 2003. 72 pp. ISBN 0-932716-63-6, \$14.00 (pb).

These poems are composed of spaced-out, single-sentence lines that delineate negotiations between negative and positive physical and linguistic space configured to accommodate a multiplicity of ideas, ambiguities, and adventurous readers. Conflations of concrete imagery and metaphysical rumination create a weird tension between intimacy and abstraction—a heightened sense of reality that approaches the surreal.

The work questions the roles of desire, memory, language, physical structures, and institutions in constructing notions of home and family; myths and metaphors, while powerful, are also ultimately fallible. The poems examine not only how we negotiate relationships with each other and construct identities and meaning from language and experience, but also the ways meaning becomes attributable to signs, symbols, and icons—the relationships among perspective, experience, signification, and representation. In doing so, they also expose the fallacy of equations of stability with strength and flux with vulnerability—the polarization of strength and vulnerability. In subverting the apparent attachment and stability of meaning imposed by and encoded in structures and institutions, *Nest* articulates a post-9/11 sense of yearning for what survives and transcends them.

—Lori Tsang
Washington, D.C.

13-2-0160

Ca Dao Việt Nam: Vietnamese Folk Poetry. Port Townsend, Wash.: Copper Canyon Press, 2003. 74 pp. Trans. from Vietnamese by John Balaban. ISBN 1-55659-186-1, \$15.00 (pb).

Ca Dao Việt Nam is a new edition of a translation (originally published in 1974) of 49 of the 500 oral folk poems John Balaban recorded during his journeys throughout the countryside of southern Vietnam in 1971-72. This edition includes a new introduction that offers additional historical, cultural, and linguistic contexts of a singing tradition that is thousands of years old and whose formal characteristics have become part of written traditions as well.

Ca dao are brief, lyrical poems sung in first person without instrumental accompaniment. The forms are often characterized by metered couplets and internal rhyme schemes linked to the tonal qualities of the language that distinguish the various meanings held by a particular syllable; the tonal patterns set up by the word choices shape the melodies of the songs. The sophisticated linkage among meter, rhyme, meaning, and melody serves as a mnemonic device that has allowed these poems to be carried through centuries, not on paper, but on human voices.

Ca dao may be children's game songs, lullabies, or riddles; subjects may also include love, work, religion, or politics. Because the tradition values elliptical meanings over overt ones and particularity of references and allusions over universality, the impact and value of the poems are not easily conveyed across cultures. Nor can the musicality of the tonal patterns that emerge from the ca dao forms be adequately conveyed by the English language. Nevertheless, the trans-

▼ continued poetry

lations presented here manage to impart a sense of the familiarity, as well as the beauty, of this ancient yet thriving tradition through their use of rhyme meter and imagery.

—Lori Tsang
Washington, D.C.

13-2-0161

Delgado, Juan. *A Rush of Hands*. Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 2003. 85 pp. ISBN 0-8165-2255-3, \$15.95 (pb).

This is a compelling, beautifully crafted collection that reveals powerful moments, feelings, and histories of the lives of urban Chicanos and Mexicanos. The title is from "Birthday Party," where a "half-blindfolded boy" manages to break open a lovingly chosen piñata—the successful blow incites a "rush of hands" for the glittering candy. Likewise, Delgado's poetry connects the reader to an array of experiences—some harrowing and haunting, and always superbly conveyed with striking imagery and metaphors. "Atcale" (Canoe), for example, describes soldiers who arrive and camp on a beach of the New World and mistake a giant turtle in the sea for a canoe coming ashore. They tip it over and hack off its feet. The last three lines of the poem powerfully convey an ominous foreboding: "In a distant country deeds were being drawn up,/Machetes were being forged, and the banks/Of rivers darkened in the ink of new maps."

Delgado also captures a stark sense of dislocation—such as the moving poem "The Ward's Roosters," about a father hospitalized with mental illness. Or, as in "The First Day They Searched for a Mailbox," about mistaking a container marked "litter" for a letterbox (mailbox). Poems such as "Diapers," about an INS raid at a diaper laundering service, and "Hiding Under a Bus," about a brutal border-crossing attempt, intimately show scenes of harsh realities privileged society prefers not to see. Delgado also shares tender, intensely personal poems of love and family life. This is an excellent, wide-ranging, and stunning collection.

—William Kelly
Albany, N.Y.

13-2-0162

Glancy, Diane. *The Shadow's Horse*. Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 2003. 70 pp. ISBN 0-8165-2328-2, \$15.95 (pb).

Glancy (Cherokee/German/English) is one of the most prolific American Indian writers working today. This poetry collection is yet another example of her lyric voice and vivid imagery. Drawing on the multiplicity of her indigenous, rural, and Christian heritages, Glancy interweaves metaphors to present a vision of contemporary American life.

Several images unify the collection. Glancy responds to a number of paintings from museums across the country. Leaf-raking is a recurring metaphor that suggests the need for gathering and wholeness. Glancy uses a number of Biblical references as starting points. In a powerful cycle, "Remuda," she compounds Christian structures of "Rapture," "Processional," "Crucifixion," "Resurrection," and "Afterlife," with

"Bronc" and images of a slaughterhouse. In addition to the images of bloody sacrifice, the major actor in these poems is a father, perhaps both God the Father and a mortal father whose killing occupation finally weighs down his life.

While almost all the poems are thoughtful, suggestive, and revealing, the final poem, "Squaw," is a puzzle. Although Glancy affirms, "I can say how to take the language," her use of the problematic term is not adequately illuminated for my understanding. Nevertheless, this collection is keen and reflective and would be quite teachable.

—P. Jane Hafen
Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas

13-2-0163

Hu, Tung-hui. *Book of Motion: Poems by Tung-hui Hu*. Athens: Univ. of Georgia Press, 2003. 60 pp. ISBN 0-8203-2568-6, \$16.95.

The poems in this collection generally move with a flawless rhythm and flow in an assured and direct voice. The book is divided into three sections anchored by the middle one—a group of prose poems entitled "Elegies for Self." The best are haunting and evocative, characterized by an intriguing use of imagery that transcends metaphor.

Some are reminiscent of Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities* in how they penetrate the surface of actions, gestures, and attitudes; traverse the boundaries between the familiar and the unfamiliar; and pierce through layers of perception and experience to describe a psychic landscape that is eerie in its familiarity. Some are more like journal entries of a sojourner through a post-apocalyptic society—descriptions of ordinary people trying to survive life in a world of devastation and alienation, of both passion and detachment.

They may be about rage, power, or exile. Others may be about war and weariness, security and opportunism, decay and regeneration. Still others are about the loss of innocence, the impossibility of home, the fragility of love, or the precariousness of life. They are mostly gentle and often whimsically insightful, imparting an innocent and sometimes profound kind of wisdom.

—Lori Tsang
Washington, D.C.

13-2-0164

Mistral, Gabriela. *Selected Poems of Gabriela Mistral*. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2003. 406 pp. Trans. from Spanish by Ursula K. LeGuin. ISBN 0-8263-2818-0, \$34.95.

A distinguished contemporary writer, poet, and translator captures the Chilean poet's original voice and soul. Mistral (1889-1957) was the first Latin American writer to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. In this remarkable meeting of minds, LeGuin emerges as the perfect translator for Mistral's profound reflections about life, nature, the world, social concerns, and society, along with Mistral's intense aesthetic and mystical life.

The book has 164 of Mistral's poems, including selections from *Desolation, Tenderness, Clearcut, Winepress, and Poem of Chile*. All poems are printed in both Spanish and English. V. B. Prince's foreword is helpful in drawing connections between LeGuin's and Mistral's literary accomplishments. LeGuin's own introduction illustrates her personal subjective approach in selecting and translating Mistral's poetry and provides valuable references about the poet's life and works.

A unique feature in this translation is LeGuin's brief introduction to each of the six sections, relating her views and craftsmanship on the poems and bringing to light important biographical and critical information about Mistral. LeGuin remarks on the poems' themes, images, language, diction, tone, style, and content. Through these translator's commentaries, the reader gains a better understanding of the inspirational quality of Mistral's openness to world social concerns as well as her loving attention to the profound simplicity of life and nature.

This is a valuable book to be enjoyed by anyone who loves poetry and will be an excellent addition to any library collection.

—Alva Cellini
St. Bonaventure Univ.

13-2-0165

Salazar, Dixie. *Blood Mysteries*. Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 2003. 101 pp. ISBN 0-8165-2237-5, \$15.95 (pb).

Salazar's poems reveal voices and emotions that to one degree or another have been silenced, unheard, or ignored. The inner lives of struggling, sometimes forgotten people come into sharp focus. Consequently, the sound of her beautifully rendered, lyrical poetry is compelling—as is the stark, powerful imagery. In "The Lost Underwear of Central Park," a homeless woman masturbates while being watched by a can-collecting old man. The encounter connects the old man to vague, faded, but still moving memories of intimacy still within the reaches of his dulled mind. The fleeting images linger with surprising intensity, even as he continues stabbing at cans on the sidewalk.

This book is full of surprising intensities. There are personal glimpses and stunning insights into the brokenness of people—especially women, like Marilyn Monroe in "For Norma Jean," and the incarcerated woman artist in "Drawing Lesson/Negative Space." But there is also a sense of strength and vitality in these lives, captured in moments and able to be felt because of the stunning empathy in Salazar's wonderful poetry.

—William Kelly
Albany, N.Y.

13-2-0166

Wei, Shao. *Pulling a Dragon's Teeth: Poems by Shao Wei*. Pittsburgh, Pa.: Univ. of Pittsburgh Press, 2003. 80 pp. ISBN 0-8229-5835-X, \$12.95 (pb).

Shao Wei's *Pulling a Dragon's Teeth* consists of four sections of poems that are both whimsical and devastating, and that

journey between oceans and continents, from the imagination and desires of childhood to the insight and passions of adulthood. Her poems generally have a strong narrative arc occasionally characterized by moments that seem strangely surreal, and are told in a voice that is direct and innocent.

The first part is composed of childhood vignettes of alienation, loneliness, and desire told with childlike imagination—fables of cutting pumpkins, eating apples, combing hair, playing with rocks in a river, chasing a peach-seed-stealing rooster, hiding in a rice jar, and reading fairy tales. The next section chronicles the tumultuous coming together of two disparate parts—the sojourns of a transplanted heart told in fish, bird, and plant metaphors that echo the feelings of loss, loneliness, alienation, and desire that permeate the first.

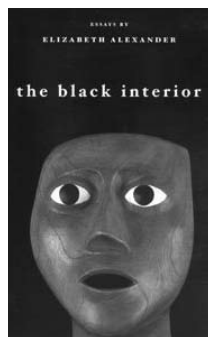
The third section is a family history of sorts—stories of the author's young mother, dead grandfather, naughty auntie, and absent father that reflect a longing that transcends nostalgia. The last section is comprised of tales of love and hate, strength and passion, absence and desire, and something like reconciliation.

—Lori Tsang
Washington, D.C.

Criticism

13-2-0167

Alexander, Elizabeth. *The Black Interior*. St. Paul, Minn.: Graywolf Press, 2004. 240 pp. ISBN 1-55597-393-0, \$15.00 (pb).



Alexander has organized several essays that critique and celebrate icons of African-American culture. She ranges from a consideration of the poetry of Langston Hughes and Gwendolyn Brooks to the movies of Denzel

Washington. Alexander's essays themselves should be critiqued as art. They are poignantly written. As works of art, they are beautiful; as academic works, they are invaluable. Alexander provides a thread of dissimilarity among the artists she considers, a sense of continuity and a sense of disparity. She allows the reader to understand that African-American artists contribute both to American artistic history and to their individual sense of self and well-being. In this way, Alexander achieves what she sets out to do.

She writes that she is "interested in African American creativity...as an inner space in which black artists ...go...far beyond the limited expectations and definitions of what black is, isn't, or should be." This endeavor enriches everyone. The book is a wonderful companion piece to courses on African-American history or literature; it is also a wonderful piece for use in cultural studies courses.

—Leslie Antonette
East Stroudsburg Univ. of Pennsylvania

13-2-0168

Dick, Bruce Allen. *A Poet's Truth: Conversations with Latino/Latina Poets*. Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 2003. 240 pp. ISBN 0-8165-2275-8, \$40.00 (c); 0-8165-2276-6, \$17.95 (pb).

This is a very interesting compilation of conversations with 16 Latino and Latina writers. It reads like a good conversation would go, smoothly and quickly. At times it is as if these writers were addressing the reader personally. Both the questions and the answers are pertinent and insightful. What each and every poet reveals in these interviews is in the title: the truth as well as their truth. Miguel Algarín not only recounts the beginnings of the Nuyorican Poet's Café in New York City, but also underlines his poetics while speaking about his poetry and finally reveals to the interviewer what it is that he really teaches. In Algarín's own words, "I teach white people their culture!" The same goes for Sandra Maria Esteves, who describes her background, as well as who she was as a person and a poet and how she has evolved through the years.

Carolina Hospital's and Carlos Medina's personal and intellectual journeys are equally as insightful. As for Gustavo Pérez Firmat, he speaks from the heart, the very personal heart, about his poetic persona, his experiences in academia, and love, of course! Other poets interviewed include Judith Ortiz Cofer, Virgil Suárez, Martín Espada, Pat Mora, and Ricardo Pau-Llosa. For readers familiar with these poets, this book is a chance to meet them again from a new perspective.

—Beatriz Rivera-Barnes
Penn State Univ.

13-2-0169

Martín-Rodríguez, Manuel M. *Life in Search of Readers: Reading (in) Chicano/a Literature*. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2003. 256 pp. ISBN 0-8263-3360-5, \$35.00.

This is an interesting, insightful, intelligent, and original work of literary criticism. The main hypothesis is that Chicano/a literature has been defined by its readers as well as by its texts. This idea dawned on the author at the reading of the end of Tomas Rivera's *...y no se lo tragó la tierra* when the young protagonist climbs a tree and waves to someone perched on another tree. "To me," Martín-Rodríguez writes, "that represented the ultimate poetics of silent communication: reading."

From that premise the author goes on to research how writers and readers of Chicano/a literature have interacted in different periods, from colonial times to the present. One of the findings is that the audiences have been diverse from the onset. Just as a reader has never limited himself or herself to one specific type of literature, a particular literature has always had more than one unique readership, no matter how regional or minor this literature may be.

Martín-Rodríguez begins with the Chicano/a movement

of the 1960s and '70s, proceeds with the discourses on reading found in Chicano/a literature, and analyzes Chicana writers' approaches to the text, either woman-centered or didactic, and consequently their audiences. He then delves into the textual strategies involved in addressing a multicultural and national readership. The last chapter takes us back to the past and the recovery efforts.

This work is destined for the specialist and the nonspecialist, for this is a book on readers and must therefore take all readers into consideration.

—Beatriz Rivera-Barnes
Penn State Univ.

Visual and Performing Arts

13-2-0170

Ryerson, Marjorie. *Water Music*. Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 2003. 208 pp. Illus. with photos by the author. ISBN 0-472-11338-0, \$35.00.

Water Music is comprised of 100 of Ryerson's photographs, together with the thoughts of world-renowned musicians—each expressing a deep relationship to water. She has taken great care in orchestrating a stirring balance of images, words, and musical notations. In one instance, water flowing over rocks, rippling streams, and turbulent oceans are suggested by notes on a sheet of music, while an accompanying photograph suggests an acoustic dance of refracted light patterns on water. Photographs that appear by themselves are similar to interludes in a musical score.

Given rising concerns over our planet's environmental problems, this book is a timely reminder of the beauty and respect that water has engendered, and of our responsibility for ensuring its viability for present and future generations. As a practical approach toward this laudable goal, Ryerson, a wonderfully gifted photographer, will donate the net royalty income from book sales to the United Nations Water Music Fund.

As we journey through the pages of this heartfelt and thought-provoking symphony of beautiful images and culturally diverse perspectives on the subject of water, we are gently reminded of how intrinsic water is to our very existence, and we are invited to determine our place in the larger context of life by considering humanity's responsibility to the natural environment. *Water Music* is an exquisite example of love and respect for the timeless universality of water and music, and for the beauty and power of the written word.

—Stephen J. Tyson
Siena College

Biography/Autobiography

13-2-0171

D'Emilio, John. **Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin**. New York: Free Press, 2003. 564 pp. ISBN 0-684-82780-8, \$35.00.

Bayard Rustin was an important figure in the modern civil rights movement, but his sexual orientation forced him to adopt a behind-the-scenes role. Jervis Anderson's 1997 biography was a serious but limited examination of Rustin's career. Now readers can gain a more complete picture of this remarkable individual.

D'Emilio covers the same ground as Anderson but portrays his subject with more humanity and greater sensitivity. Drawing on scores of interviews with associates, friends, and former lovers, he deals with Rustin's homosexuality frankly and with compassion.

Rustin, the illegitimate son of a teenage mother, was raised in Pennsylvania by his Quaker grandparents. D'Emilio describes his struggles with sexual identity as a college student and a leftist activist in New York City. In 1947 he organized an interracial group that traveled through the upper South to test compliance with a Supreme Court decision forbidding segregation in interstate transportation. Rustin's low point came in 1953 with his California conviction on a morals charge. This record was cited frequently by enemies of civil rights and would sharply circumscribe his role in the movement. When the Montgomery bus boycott began in 1955, Rustin advised Martin Luther King, Jr. on the philosophy and tactics of Gandhian nonviolent resistance. His public career peaked in August 1963 when he was the principal organizer of the March on Washington. Ironically, as the movement became more radical in the late 1960s, Rustin moved toward the political center. D'Emilio does an excellent job of placing Rustin in the context of his times and describing the events and organizations in which he participated.

—Paul T. Murray
Siena College

13-2-0172

Farred, Grant. **What's My Name? Black Vernacular Intellectuals**. Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2003. 288 pp. ISBN 0-8166-3317-7, \$18.95 (pb).

Robinson, Randall. **Quitting America: The Departure of a Black Man from His Native Land**. New York: Dutton, 2004. 246 pp. ISBN 0-525-94758-2, \$23.95.

Throughout history in general, and academe in particular, there have been very limited and refined definitions pertaining to the term "intellectual." However, in *What's My Name?* the author, who serves as associate professor of literature at Duke University, seeks to introduce the reader to a new paradigm, the black vernacular intellectuals.

This concept represents an amalgamation of popular culture, political impact, and social justice. Farred explains and examines his theories in detail, utilizing a critical review of the lives of four disparate subjects: boxer Muhammad Ali, musician Bob Marley, West Indian Marxist critic C. L. R.

James, and British cultural theorist Stuart Hall.

Based on Italian Marxist Antonio Gramsci's concept of the organic intellectual, Farred's theory is that the vernacular intellectual is one who excels without regard to common academic arenas. Ali's moral convictions and Marley's lyrical and political messages of song have shaped and influenced the masses worldwide. James and Hall also represent political thinkers, but in a more academic and traditional sphere.

The juxtaposition of these social, cultural, and political icons and their respective influences on popular culture are complex, but they are worthy of inclusion in this text.

Robinson is most widely recognized as the founder and former president of TransAfrica. This organization has lobbied internationally for democracy, human rights, and foreign policy for persons of African descent since 1977. *Quitting America* represents a chronology by Robinson of departure from the United States, his native country, to his newly adopted homeland St. Kitts and Nevis, a small twin island nation in the Caribbean where his wife was born.

The text begins with the author's personal and philosophical observations of the social and political constructs that are the fiber of American society. European influences on colonial America, Columbus's expedition in the West Indies, and other "White Crimes" against persons of color and society are reviewed in detail.

Robinson continues with his interpretation about the decline of democracy due to the policies of this country that have resulted in the war in Iraq, media suppression, racial and economic inequality, and the lack of affordable health insurance for American citizens. He is particularly critical of Presidents Bush and Clinton, Colin Powell, and the systematic historical and political disregard that the United States has displayed toward Haiti for over 200 years.

Robinson has left America, but the country and its myriad of problems weigh heavily on his mind. He will say, however, that America is no longer close to his heart.

Both texts are recommended for academic and large public libraries, as well as for serious students and scholars of linguistics, politics, social justice, and human rights.

—Anthony Todman
St. John's (N.Y.) Univ. Library

13-2-0173

Johnson, Calvin, Jr., with Greg Hampikian. **Exit to Freedom**. Athens: Univ. of Georgia Press, 2003. 286 pp. Afterword by Barry Scheck. ISBN 0-8203-2559-7, \$24.95.

In 1983, Georgia resident Calvin C. Johnson Jr. received a life sentence for rape and other crimes that he said he did not commit. Sixteen years later, with the help of the Innocence Project, Johnson was a free man due to the new science of DNA evidence testing. His remarkable tale, written in association with Clayton College and State University associate professor Hampikian, is the only first-person account of a wrongful conviction overturned through DNA testing. Although the prose is a bit too formal at times, especially in the prison conversations, Johnson's narrative of his early

▼ continued biography/autobiography

criminal activities and years of incarceration makes for occasionally fascinating reading, particularly when he discusses his Christian awakening in prison and his refusal to hold a grudge against those who stole almost two decades of his life.

The brief concluding sections by Hampikian and the Innocence Project's Barry Scheck explain the problems of DNA testing, but the main focus here is one man's struggle against injustice. An interesting companion to the growing library of nonscholarly CSI books, including Evans's *Casebook of Forensic Detection* (Wiley, 1998). Recommended for all current events and criminal justice collections.

—Anthony Adam
Library, Prairie View A & M Univ.

13-2-0174

Kraut, Alan M. ***Goldberger's War: The Life and Work of a Public Health Crusader.*** New York: Hill & Wang, 2003. 314 pp. ISBN 0-374-13537-1, \$25.00.

The story of the scourge of pellagra, a fatal niacin deficiency characterized by a severe skin rash, diarrhea, and dementia, has faded into obscurity in this country. With a mortality rate of upwards of 30 percent, it plagued the southern United States as late as the 1940s, claiming the lives of hundreds or thousands of impoverished Southerners every year.

Joseph Goldberger's family, Hungarian Jews, emigrated to New York City in 1883 when he was nine years old. He became a scientist working in the U.S. Public Health and Marine Hospital Service. An occasional victim of the pathogens he studied, Goldberger made great strides in helping to determine how to avert infection.

Goldberger's success led him to be assigned to work on the perplexing cause of pellagra, which was thought originally to be infectious in origin. Over the years, Goldberger and his associates narrowed pellagra's cause to a component of the B vitamin complex. This was a highly unpopular conclusion because of the implicit indictment of the South's inability, due to poverty, to nourish its citizens. Goldberger pressed his cause and recommended simple diet modification to abate the tide of grave discomfort and death that pellagra brought. Goldberger died at the age of 54 of a renal tumor before niacin (nicotinic acid) was named as the substance responsible for preventing pellagra.

This well-written, well-researched, readable book would be good for young adults and college students to learn about a medical pioneer who successfully navigated the political landscape of epidemiology, and who wanted to make a real difference in the world.

—Sue Ann Gardner
Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln

13-2-0175

Lundgren, Gunilla and Taikon, Alyosha. ***From Coppersmith to Nurse: Alyosha, the Son of a Gypsy Chief.*** Chicago: Univ. of Hertfordshire Press; dist. by IPG, 2003. 152 pp.

Trans. from Swedish into English and edited by Donald Kenrick. ISBN 1-902806-22-0, \$29.95 (pb).

The publication of this book devoted to Gypsies (Romani) in Sweden is a kind of *rara avis* addition to the not so numerous titles in American libraries dealing with Gypsies in various countries, including the United States. The book consists of two parts: a biography of a Swedish Gypsy (Alyosha) and his rise from a coppersmith and a member of a family circus to a trained male nurse, departing from old ancestry occupations; and typical Romani short stories told by Alyosha's father.

The bilingual text (Romani and English) is narrated in an optimistic and humorous spirit, with joy of love, music, and dance, and is accompanied by numerous original photos and a glossary of Romani words translated into English. A useful introduction offers a short history of Gypsies in Sweden (about 2,500 people, originally descendants from the Kalderash clan in Romania during the nineteenth century), their culture and traditions. The publisher is the principal publisher of books on the Roma (Gypsies) in the English language.

—Vladimir F. Wertsman
New York, N.Y.

13-2-0176

Manjiro, John. ***Drifting Toward the Southeast: The Story of Five Japanese Castaways.*** New Bedford, Mass.: Spinner Publications, 2003. 160 pp. Trans. from Japanese by Junya Nagakuni and Junji Kitadai. ISBN 0-932027-59-8, \$70.00.

Manjiro's remarkable odyssey began in the mid-nineteenth century, when he was a 14-year-old castaway on a small fishing boat, and ended 11 years later as "John Mung," fluent in English, an experienced seaman, navigator, whaler, and a wealthy California gold miner. Surviving his return to Japan (most castaways were executed on their return by the fanatically isolationist samurai rulers) marked the beginning of an equally remarkable career, rising from poor fisherman to samurai, diplomat, and foreign policy advisor and professor. Manjiro was truly larger than life.

This is the first complete English translation of Manjiro's account based on his yearlong interrogation by the Tokugawa Shogunate. Because the samurai rulers knew almost nothing of the world, Manjiro's tales of steamships and railroad trains were incomprehensible, so they assigned a noted samurai artist and scholar to transcribe and illustrate his account. Since the manuscript was completed a year before Commodore Matthew Perry and the American fleet forced Japan in 1853 to open its ports, the ruling class sought copies to glean knowledge of the West. They also realized that Manjiro was invaluable for his knowledge of English and Western culture and technology. They rewarded him by making him a samurai and advisor to the Shogunate, and he served on the first diplomatic mission to America. He finished his career as a professor at Tokyo Imperial University and a staunch proponent of Japan's intellectual and technological development. This is a fascinating account of a young man's perceptions

of the world beyond his sheltered existence and also how the man became the cornerstone of the modernization of Japan.

—Al Hikida
Seattle Central Community College

13-2-0177

McCabe, Nancy. ***Meeting Sophie: A Memoir of Adoption.*** Columbia: Univ. of Missouri Press, 2003. 176 pp. ISBN 0-8262-1495-9, \$19.95 (pb).

What makes this memoir so fascinating is that McCabe skillfully weaves a number of stories together to create a multifaceted commentary on the meaning of family and work in the modern world. What begins as a story about McCabe's adoption of Ni Qiao Qin, or Sophie, becomes a wrenchingly honest meditation on McCabe's relationship with her father as well as an equally honest description of the process of tenure in a conservative academic environment. The author's prose is evocative and her characters, especially her parents, are realistically drawn; her attention to detail and honest depictions of painful moments in her life make this memoir highly readable.

McCabe's choice to adopt a Chinese baby as a single parent was motivated by a desire to raise her own child and to mend her relationship with her own parents. Thus, it is as a mother and a child that McCabe makes peace with her family. In the process, she creates a new professional life of herself and comes to terms with the joy and exhaustion that is parenthood. Whether she is watching Sophie's first steps, listening to her father's last breath, or reading a letter that denies her tenure, McCabe structures her narrative so that each moment informs another and becomes a poignant meditation on the meaning of courage and self-confidence in the face of a hostile world.

—Laurie J. C. Cella
Univ. of Connecticut

13-2-0178

Murphy, Claire Rudolf; Sayres, Meghan Nutall; Farrell, Mary Cronk; Conover, Sarah; and Wharton, Betsy. ***Daughters of the Desert: Stories of Remarkable Women from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Traditions.*** Woodstock, Vt.: Skylight Paths, 2003. 178 pp. ISBN 1-893361-72-1, \$19.95.

Women have always excelled and triumphed in difficult situations. *Daughters of the Desert* introduces the reader to stories of great women from the Hebrew and Christian Bible and the Quran. These 18 uniquely told stories bring to light the history and heritage of selected women and the critical roles they have played in the development of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The authors breathe life into familiar as well as unknown female characters. From strong leadership roles to simple stories of everyday life and relationships, each character stands tall as a leader to be emulated.

Subject matter and traditions of faith provide the organizational structure of the book. The authors explain how

each of the stories has been passed down from generation to generation. Even though the religions are different, the reader is able to see the commonality of the human spirit. The authors have collectively researched the women's lives, loves, personalities, and what makes each woman's contributions unique in spite of their limited educational opportunities and humble environments.

This book is bound to become a classic of early religions and women's studies because it serves as a much-needed bridge to understanding, and illuminates the importance of religion in our lives.

—Johnnie Love
Library, Texas A & M Univ.

13-2-0179

Ruiz Urueta, Ramón Eduardo. ***Memories of a Hyphenated Man.*** Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 2003. 250 pp. ISBN 0-8165-2332-0, \$29.95.

It is a given in contemporary American society that if you are born in America and are of an ethnic minority, you must carry a hyphenated moniker when it comes to identifying your race or ethnicity. For Ruiz Urueta it was Mexican-American. The culture that his parents carried with them became their son's, so the duality that Ruiz Urueta writes about in his memoir is the frame from which he constructs this autobiography.

He was born brown in America with a name and culture that attached Mexico to him forever. Even though his parents lived to some extent the American dream and offered a piece of that dream to their children, the powers that be in his homeland, America, treated him like a second-class citizen. He looked ethnic, spoke a foreign language, and embraced the culture of the Mexican people. However, he came into his intellectual prowess and earned the highest academic degree granted in the United States, the Doctor of Philosophy. This degree didn't guarantee his acceptance into the world of academe. Ironically, he found that acceptance at a northeastern college for women, Smith College. This was where he was free to interpret Spanish-American life and culture and not be marginalized. He became a prominent national scholar and is the only American of Mexican heritage to be conferred the National Medal of the Humanities for lifetime achievement.

This memoir is a welcome addition to the dialogue on race and ethnicity in the United States. It shows how one can live the American dream by embracing the ethnic portion of a hyphenated name and being the best that one can be in all endeavors.

—Anthony Edwards
Univ. of South Carolina

13-2-0180

Stillman, Larry, from the testimony of Morris Goldner. ***A Match Made in Hell: The Jewish Boy and the Polish Outlaw Who Defied the Nazis.*** Madison: Univ. of Wisconsin Press, 2003. 258 pp. ISBN 0-299-19390-X, \$29.95.

Zasloff, Tela. ***A Rescuer's Story: Pastor Pierre-Charles Tourelle in Vichy France***. Madison: Univ. of Wisconsin Press, 2003. 284 pp. ISBN 0-299-17500-5, 29.95.

Both titles have a common denominator. They focus on, among other things, Righteous Gentiles (the first in Poland, and the second in France) who saved Jews during World War II from the Nazi Holocaust under very different, complex, and unusual circumstances.

Zasloff's biography presents the life and activities of a prominent French pastor of Huguenot heritage, an anti-Nazi activist who rescued hundreds of Jews from deportation to Nazi extermination camps via a major refugee organization. Stillman's book deals with a little-known Polish criminal figure who sheltered a 16-year-old Jewish boy (from whose testimony the book is drawn) in the forest, and used the boy not only for common criminal activities, but also in reconnaissance and sabotage techniques against the German military in occupied Poland.

The books are well researched, Zasloff's being a fine scholarly work immersed in details regarding France during the 1930s and 1940s, the role of French Huguenots and their profound humanity, and the European network of spiritual resistance against inhumanity and injustice. In addition to the general extensive bibliography, each chapter is accompanied by bibliographic notes, and there is also a comprehensive index plus relevant photos. *A Match Made in Hell* is endowed with a captivating narrative, with details regarding the Jewish boy's underground life (accomplice to robberies and black market activities), changing hideouts, and friendship with his criminal protector. The book is suitable for both adult and juvenile readers, and there is a short bibliography.

Both books, moderately priced, are useful titles to collections on Holocaust and Righteous Gentiles subjects in public, academic, and special libraries.

—Vladimir F. Wertsman
New York, N.Y.

History

13-2-0181

Birns, Jack; Wakeman, Carolyn; and Light, Ken, eds. ***Assignment Shanghai: Photographs on the Eve of Revolution***. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2003. 144 pp. Illus. with photos by Jack Birns. Foreword by Orville Schell. ISBN 0-520-23990-3, \$34.95.

The late 1940s was a historical turning point for China. With poverty, corruption, social unrest, and repression rampant, the turbulent and chaotic period proved to be the prelude to a fundamental social change as a result of the civil war between the Communist and Nationalist troops. Birns, dispatched by *Life* magazine as a photographer/correspondent, was shocked by what he was seeing: During his

first seven weeks in China, he photographed 87 dead bodies, victims of poverty, starvation, exposure, riots, and warfare. Birns focused his camera on the grim daily life of a people who had endured a half-century of warfare: refugees, beggars, prostitutes, peddlers, soldiers, prisoners, street executions, and urban protests. Many of his photos made it into *Life* magazine, and he even set a record among *Life*'s photographers.

However, due to the fervent anti-Communism stance of Henry R. Luce, *Life*'s publisher, a large proportion of Birns's photos and stories, which reported the misery of the ordinary people, the repressive atrocities and corruption of the Nationalists, remained unpublished in *Life*'s archives for more than 50 years. Over 90 such unpublished photos, which are included in this volume, offer a stark pictorial record of a turning point in history. These valuable but startling images create a sense of why the misery, poverty, corruption, decadence, and chaos had provided fertile soil for the revolution and eventually paved the way for the Communist victory in 1949.

—Suping Lu
Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln

13-2-0182

Calloway, Colin G. ***One Vast Winter Count: The Native American West Before Lewis and Clark***. Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2003. 631 pp. History of the American West Series. ISBN 0-8032-1530-4, \$39.95.

A reader might be forgiven for hesitating before picking up Calloway's book—at almost three inches thick it is a formidable volume. To reject it, however, would be a mistake.

Calloway traces the history of the American West from the distant past to the time of the journey of Lewis and Clark in a lively and compelling way. Beginning with fact and speculation about the peopling of the Americas (laudably including Native American creation stories along with archaeological orthodoxy), Calloway moves on to the early Folsom and Clovis cultures. The rise and fall of the empires of Chaco, Cahokia, and the Caddoans are explored, as are the cultures of the Plains and Pueblo peoples. The coming of the Europeans and the intricate interplay of Native and European cultures is examined in all its complex and often tragic detail. The book is enhanced with illustrations and maps and is fully documented. Calloway closes with a warning based on lessons from history that citizens of imperial America would do well to heed: Any nation must be prepared for change and conscious of the wider world around it.

One Vast Winter Count is an accessible, readable, and important book on the history of the American West. Highly recommended.

—Andy J. Deering
Central Wyoming College

13-2-0183

Early, Gerald L. ***This Is Where I Came In: Black America***

in the 1960s. Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2003. 145 pp. ISBN 0-8032-1823-0, \$45.00 (cl); 0-8032-6749-5, \$15.00 (pb).

This Is Where I Came In consists of three short essays about African Americans prominent during the 1960s. Two of them, Muhammad Ali and Sammy Davis, Jr., were nationally and internationally famous, while the third, Philadelphia protest leader Cecil B. Moore, was relatively unknown beyond his home city. Ali first achieved fame as a superbly skilled boxer, then became a symbol of black militancy when he changed his name, joined the Nation of Islam, and refused to be drafted. His flamboyant personality won him a worldwide following that endures to this day. Although Davis was one of the most successful entertainers of the decade and a tireless supporter of African-American civil rights, his star has dimmed considerably in the intervening decades. Moore, the outspoken leader of the Philadelphia NAACP, organized demonstrations against the use of blackface in the Mummers parade and the whites-only admission policy of Girard College.

Early fails to explain what these diverse individuals have in common besides their era, race, and dissent. He advances no theses and draws no conclusions, leaving this reviewer frustrated and unsatisfied.

—Paul T. Murray
Siena College

13-2-0184

Hoffman, Eva. ***After Such Knowledge: Memory, History, and the Aftermath of the Holocaust.*** New York: PublicAffairs, 2004. 288 pp. ISBN 1-58648-046-4, \$25.00.

In a movingly sensitive and honest reflection, Hoffman revisits the forest of her life as the child of survivors. Shards of painful reality from densely packed feelings illuminate a path that leads Hoffman to greater understanding of the burden of her parents' legacy. As a child of the "Second Generation," Hoffman eventually locates a way to let go of the past and venture into a present—separate from the Holocaust/Shoah's trauma and tragedy. She concludes that she belongs to the "Hinge Generation" that swings between knowing and those who did not, cannot, or refused to know and acknowledge the Holocaust.

After her parents' deaths, she is drawn to Poland to explore their hiding places along with sites of mass destruction such as Jedwabne, in order to gain firsthand knowledge of terrors that had existed only in her imagination. Visiting the sites of horror also provokes ruminations on the righteous Poles who saved Jews. She examines the effect of postwar emigration and the dilemma of mourning while not forgetting her parents' stories. Horrified to confront 9/11 and the rise of anti-Semitism again on American shores, she feels helpless, fearful of a second Kristallnacht. Hoffman's is an eloquent plea, a call to justice, a rekindling of empathy, sympathy, and reawakening of moral passion to be replaced by moral thought: a beacon to find the way out of the tangled fabled landscapes of the Holocaust in post-Holocaust terrains.

Hoffman's fervent desire is for the restoration of principles that will assert societies' mutual respect and establish a "mainstay against eruptions of hatred." May it be so.

—Patricia F. Goldblatt
Toronto, Ont.

13-2-0185

Kashima, Tetsuden. ***Judgment Without Trial: Japanese American Imprisonment During World War II.*** Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 2003. 320 pp. ISBN 0-295-98299-3, \$35.00.

Kashima's systematic and comprehensive history calls internment in relocation centers what it was—imprisonment in concentration camps—and quotes memos from President Roosevelt (1936) and the War Department (1938) that used those words.

Kashima is at his best describing typically churlish bureaucratic delinquency that permeated relocation programs in places like Hawaii and Alaska, where the operations of policy toward Issei and Nisei were, by degrees, stupid, inane, and heartbreaking. None of this moronic officiousness had anything to do with defeating the Japanese empire.

As is now generally known, roundups of Issei and Nisei in 1942 were driven by the United States government's ignorance of the pacific nature of Japanese Americans, local fellow citizens' lusting after their often successful businesses and real estate (especially in California), profound race prejudice, and the government's urgent need to shift blame for the unpleasant surprise at Pearl Harbor from its own military incompetence.

However, Kashima's main thesis is not well founded. His claim that official American relocation policy toward Japanese Americans was "decades old" in 1942 is historically specious and is contradicted by his own conclusions that the American prewar intelligence apparatus was anemic and fitful at best and that the Justice and War Departments' accord on relocation of suspected citizens and aliens was not reached until June 1941—and even then foresaw arrest of perhaps 800 Japanese in the United States. Much of what he does say, while worth recalling and most interesting, has been said before.

—Leo J. Mahoney
Kafkas Univ., Kars, Turkey

13-2-0186

Konner, Melvin. ***Unsettled: An Anthropology of the Jews.*** New York: Viking, 2003. 512 pp. ISBN 0-670-03244-1, \$29.95.

Konner offers a balanced cultural account of the Jewish people. The Jewish experience can hardly be labeled monolithic. This becomes clear in Konner's thematic approach to Jewish cultural life, wherein he dispels a myth about Jews as a weak and studious people. Originating in ancient Israel, the Hebrews are a people even before they discover God and Torah. As monotheistic Jews, the community is immune to neither internal dissent nor the rule of autocratic monarchs

▼ continued history

and the threat of foreign invasion. Later, as a vibrant though small minority in the Diaspora (Babylon, Rome, Spain, Islam, Northern Europe), Jews are a highly adaptable and loyal people who fight in foreign armies and contribute to the art, entertainment, science, and intellectual life of the nations where they abide. But they also make their mark in American organized crime and “flawed utopian ideals” such as Communism.

Never far from Konner’s account is the tragedy of anti-Semitism and its various expressions in ancient Rome, Christian Europe, modern Europe, and Islam. In reaction to pogroms, inquisitions, and genocide, Jews find meaning in writing poetry, inspiring religious movements, and dreaming of a Jewish state, which, when it becomes the reality that is modern Israel, will also have its fair share of supporters and detractors, victims and perpetrators. In the final analysis, it is the obdurate meaning of Torah and its message of social justice that will continue to define the unique gift of the Jews to the world.

—Ronit Shemtov
Northampton (Mass.) Community College

13-2-0187

Meyer, Carl E. *The Dust of Empire: The Race for Mastery in the Asian Heartland*. New York: PublicAffairs, 2003. 272 pp. ISBN 1-58648-048-0, \$26.00.

This is a well-written and accessible work by a former *New York Times* and *Washington Post* journalist who is currently the editor of *World Policy Journal*. Meyer also has a doctorate in international relations. He thus brings the best of two worlds to his task: the world of academe and the world of journalism. His subject is a formidable one. Given the state of world affairs, there is understandable concern with and interest in this region, one not well known except to a few specialists.

Aside from prefatory and concluding material, Meyer’s book has seven chapters, the first two of which are devoted to comparing the imperial policies of Britain, the United States, and Russia. The other chapters are devoted to Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Russian expansion and attempted expansion into these regions has been a long affair and has not ended. Beginning in earnest in the mid-nineteenth century, it was cruel, costing millions of lives. British power attempted to limit this expansion. Meyer asks whether America will follow in the footsteps of its imperial predecessors; he notes that America itself has been described as an “informal empire,” nourished by economic, political, and military involvement all over the world. “The problem is that Americans tend to resent these simple truths being uttered and show small talent for empathetic reflection on how others, less favored, may view us.” A timely reminder to readers of this book in these times.

—Karl K. Barbir
Siena College

13-2-0188

Nadell, Pamela, ed. *American Jewish Women’s History: A Reader*. New York: New York Univ. Press, 2003. 326 pp. ISBN 0-8147-5807-X, \$70.00 (cl); 0-8147-5808-8, \$24.00 (pb).

The history of American Jewish women is a field that has only lately started to be explored, and what riches have been found already! We contemporaries are familiar with women’s gradual if grudging acceptance into the rabbinate, because this happened only recently, in our lifetimes. Their importance in commerce, the labor movement, Zionism, and politics is just beginning to be explored.

In Orthodox Judaism, women are given an inferior role in the synagogue; they are not allowed to ascend to the *bimah* (the pulpit); and they are literally segregated, sometimes behind a wall. Even a great leader like Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadassah, declared that “woman can best serve... by devoting herself to her home.” Fortunately, she did not follow her own advice.

Nor did any of these other brave, resolute women. They were breadwinners, labor leaders, political and community activists, religious leaders, Zionists and anti-Zionists. They breached the barriers of professions that did not want them, either as Jews or as women—education, law, medicine. This book does them honor and recognizes their contribution to both American and Jewish life.

—Miriam Sawyer
Rutherford (N.J.) Public Library

13-2-0189

Nafziger, George F. and Walton, Mark W. *Islam at War: A History*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood/Praeger, 2003. 278 pp. ISBN 0-275-98101-0, \$39.95.

At a time when the issue of whether Islam is a “religion of peace” continues to provoke debate in the West, this preliminary survey of Islam at war is highly useful. Nafziger is an established scholar of military history whose work focuses on the modern era; Walton is an independent researcher. They combine to present a military heritage beginning with Muhammad, a warlord as well as a religious leader, who initiated an unprecedented string of military conquests in the seventh and eighth centuries C.E.

While religious zeal played a part in the Muslim success, the exhaustion of their principal enemies, Persia and Byzantium, through internal strife and foreign wars, did even more to further the expansion of Islam in the Mediterranean basin. The Ottoman era, Islam’s second great military episode, was based on talented leadership, significant resources, and a lack of formidable opponents. Building on success and learning from experience, the Ottoman Empire became the world’s greatest military power between 1453 and 1571. The third period, Islam’s military decline, reflects European improvement as much as Ottoman decay. The Islamic world’s turning away from Western-inspired ideas and innovations, as described by Bernard Lewis in *What Went Wrong?* (2001), had a great deal to do with the change in military fortunes. *Islam at War* presents in its final chapters. But traditionalism

and corruption, educational defects, and cultural solipsism set the stage for decline as well.

—Dennis Showalter
Colorado College

13-2-0190

Nieto, Clara. ***Masters of War: Latin America and U.S. Aggression from the Cuban Revolution Through the Clinton Years***. New York: Seven Stories Press, 2003. 624 pp. Trans. from Spanish by Chris Brandt. Foreword by Howard Zinn. ISBN 1-58322-545-5, \$24.95 (pb).

This work originally appeared in 1999, entitled *Los amos de la guerra y las guerras de los amos* (The Masters of War and the Wars of the Masters). Nieto is a widely experienced Colombian diplomat, having served since 1960 with the UN and in Europe, Cuba, and the Caribbean. Posted in Cuba from the mid-seventies to the eighties, she makes that country the fulcrum of her examination of American intervention against the Cuban Revolution of 1959 and other Latin American “subversive” movements. She follows successive efforts from Dwight Eisenhower, John Foster Dulles, and John Kennedy through Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger, George Bush, and Bill Clinton against leftists, guerrillas, or drugs in Grenada, Haiti, Panama, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Bolivia, Chile, and Colombia.

Her book is unique as a contemporary perspective from a seasoned Latin American official who has closely experienced the region about which she writes. It is the more persuasive for the detail of its research in primary resources and its careful annotations and indexing. The tale it relates of relentless American subversion, mendacity, and hypocrisy is truly chilling as it follows corroding U.S. hemispheric policies country by country, president by president. The Organization of American States is categorized as a U.S. “Ministry for the Colonies.” The campaign against Castro unfolds as a tragic-comedy, mindlessly brutal and perennially bootless. The final lesson of this book may emerge from the unfolding events in the Islamic world. The masters of anything can become enslaved to it—and thereby to its next lord.

—Edward A. Riedinger
Ohio State Univ. Libraries

13-2-0191

Rosenberg, Jonathan and Karabell, Zachary. ***Kennedy, Johnson, and the Quest for Justice: The Civil Rights Tapes***. New York: W.W. Norton, 2003. 368 pp. ISBN 0-393-05122-6, \$27.95.

Imagine being a fly on the wall of the Oval Office, eavesdropping on all of the president’s private conversations. Now, thanks to the release of White House tapes and this book, readers can gain unprecedented insight into presidential decision-making and political maneuvering.

The volume opens in 1962 with Kennedy trying to negotiate a peaceful resolution to the crisis at the University of

Mississippi with Governor Ross Barnett. Two days later he is on the phone with federal marshals at the university who are besieged by an angry mob and anxiously waiting for the troops Kennedy has sent to rescue them. In May 1963, the president again is considering sending troops to the South, this time to quell unrest in Birmingham, Alabama. Instead, he sends his civil rights bill to Congress. In August, Kennedy meets with leaders of the March on Washington to enlist their support for his bill.

When Lyndon Johnson becomes president, passage of Kennedy’s civil rights bill is his top priority. Just two days into his presidency he calls top civil rights leaders to reassure them of his commitment to the bill. We hear him on the phone with congressional leaders, strategizing on how to steer the bill past opponents in the House and then how to break the Southern filibuster in the Senate. The book concludes when Johnson signs the bill into law on July 2, 1964.

Rosenberg and Karabell have done a great service in publishing this volume. Students of American history will be eternally grateful.

—Paul T. Murray
Siena College

13-2-0192

Tatz, Colin. ***With Intent to Destroy: Reflecting on Genocide***. New York: Verso, 2003. 220 pp. ISBN 1-85984-550-9, \$26.00.

This book opens with an autobiographical chapter narrating the author’s experience of growing up as a Jew in the racist society of South Africa during the Second World War and his eventual journey to Australia, where he founded a center for comparative genocide studies. Tatz’s life history, then, intersects with the three horrific crimes of the twentieth century: the Holocaust, apartheid, and the suppression of the Australian aborigines. Working with the definitions of genocide found in the 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Tatz wrestles with conceptual, historical, sociological, and philosophical questions concerning these atrocities. For example, he argues that while the South African state committed crimes against humanity, it was not genocidal because it did not seek to exterminate black Africans. In contrast, he holds that Australian society was genocidal with respect to the Aborigines because “Aborigines were killed, were the victims of bodily and mental harm, had birth-control measures imposed upon them and had their children forcibly transferred *because of who they were*.”

Although the somewhat choppy, conversational manner of this book prevents it from offering a sustained and lucid analysis of any particular aspect or instance of genocide, it is packed with up-to-date references to genocidal issues, especially with regard to Australian society. While one should go elsewhere to find substantial introductions to the Holocaust and South African apartheid especially, this book does have the moral power and expertise of its author to deserve a place as a decent secondary work in every library devoted to genocide studies.

—Paul Santilli
Siena College

13-2-0193

Torres, María de los Angeles. ***The Lost Apple: Operation Pedro Pan, Cuban Children in the U.S., and the Promise of a Better Future***. Boston: Beacon Press, 2003. 335 pp. ISBN 0-8070-0232-1, \$29.00.

An account of one of the least studied incidents of the Cuban revolution, the migration of 14,000 children who traveled unaccompanied to the United States, this book sheds light on the political and historical developments that prompted thousands of loving parents to part with their children. *The Lost Apple*, however, is not just mere history; it is also a memoir. For the author was one of those children.

Meeting in secrecy, the Catholic Church in Cuba and in the United States, the American government, and the anti-Castro underground devised a plan to transport the youngsters out of Cuba. The process meant securing a student's visa and a registration at a school in the United States. The objective was to let the revolutionary government believe that the children were going abroad to study for a short while. Simple as it sounds, it was a dangerous game. The secret operation was dubbed "Pedro Pan" (Peter Pan) and it lasted for over a decade, though the bulk of the migration took place in the 1960s and early 1970s. To understand how middle-class parents who were normally overprotective of their children were willing to send them alone to a foreign country, Torres reviews the climate of the Cold War era, the instances where children in communist countries in Europe had been taken away from their parents, and fears that Castro was planning to send children to Russia.

This book is well documented and highly recommended.

—Danilo H. Figueredo
Bloomfield (N.J.) College Library

13-2-0194

Watson, William E. ***Tricolor and Crescent: France and the Islamic World***. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood/Praeger, 2003. 296 pp. ISBN 0-275-97470-7, \$49.95.

This book explores the long-standing relationship between France and the Islamic world. Watson, a specialist in cross-cultural conflict, has read widely: Half the book consists of notes, bibliography, and translated documents ranging back to the early eighth century (the earliest being an account of the famous "battle" of Tours, in which the Franks defeated a Muslim raiding party). Watson pulls together much important material from his reading but lacks a substantive argument about what it means. He seems to be driven primarily by more recent concerns about the growing Muslim population of France, also rightly an important issue within the whole European Union. For example, he notes that "French intelligence agencies have managed to stave off September 11-type attacks on French targets. Much can be learned from the history of French contacts with Islam." The first sentence

reflects the current hysteria, the second the historical reality—a relationship deep, complex, and subtle.

The bulk of Watson's book treats the period from the nineteenth century onward, from France's embarkation on its *mission civilisatrice* to the end of French Algeria in 1962, probably the most notable part of decolonization because it ended the Fourth Republic. Despite this dramatic end to its imperial and colonial era, France has continued to project its power in Africa and the Middle East primarily. The relationship continues, fluid and undetermined.

—Karl K. Barbir
Siena College

Religion

13-2-0195

Chireau, Yvonne P. ***Black Magic: Religion and the African American Conjuring Tradition***. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2003. 222 pp. ISBN 0-520-20987-7, \$34.95.

The nature of African-American spiritual traditions has been the subject of several important scholarly books. Chireau has provided us with yet another well-researched and up-to-date text on the subject.

Chireau describes the centrality and the magical quality of the supernatural traditions in African cultures that the slaves brought with them to the New World. She focuses on the African-American practice of conjure and the related practices of hoodoo and rootworking, explaining how these were used for healing and harming as well as how these traditions converged with Christianity. Careful to note that conjure and Christianity are different from each other, she explains that conjure sometimes accommodated some Christian signs, symbols, and beliefs in its ministry. The author describes how the distinct and even contradictory belief systems of conjure and Christianity that deal with the supernatural, were at times interwoven by African Americans for purposes of empowerment. She discusses the hybrid nature of conjure today and mentions other such practices in the West Indies.

Black Magic is filled with rich historical accounts of African Americans as they relate their own experiences with conjure. Chireau's use of primary and secondary sources, which include folklore and autobiographical data from the 1800s to the late 1900s, make this title an interesting and scholarly work. Students and those interested in African-American spirituality, religion, and culture should place this text on their reading list as a valuable resource.

—Diana Budhai
College of St. Rose, Albany, N.Y.

13-2-0196

Goldberg, Harvey E. ***Jewish Passages: Cycles of Jewish Life***. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2003. 328 pp. ISBN 0-520-20693-2, \$27.50.

Rituals and customs are a major part of Jewish life, especially at important life cycle events. When it comes to the birth of a child, a bar or bat mitzvah, a wedding, a conversion to Judaism, moving to Israel, a funeral, or an unveiling, there are certain traditions that are common among Jews all over the world. Throughout different periods of history, however, changes have occurred.

Goldberg explains in great detail the historical significance of different customs and rituals. He cites many sources for why Orthodox Jews may take a stricter view and how Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist Jews practice differently. He also discusses the conflicts that happen among different groups of Jews when they deal with what types of documents are considered valid in Israel. He relates that Orthodox Judaism runs many areas of Israeli life such as dietary laws, Sabbath observance, conversions, weddings, circumcisions, and divorces.

The descriptions of different ceremonies and customs, and their historical backgrounds and significance, are quite impressive. This book can be a great reference tool when writing a research report on a topic of Jewish history. However, to read this book from beginning to end is exhausting. The author does not succeed in holding the layperson's interest in his subject. In his enthusiasm to thoroughly describe every aspect of a subject, he loses the reader through excessive wordiness and overly emphasized details. Recommended as an excellent resource for a high school, college, or university library.

—Hannah M. Heller
Baltimore, Md.

13-2-0197

Guest, Kenneth J. ***God in Chinatown: Religion and Survival in New York's Evolving Immigrant Community***. New York: New York Univ. Press, 2003. 225 pp. ISBN 0-8147-3153-8, \$55.00 (cl); 0-8147-3154-6, \$19.00 (pb).

"The immigration process is fundamentally a search for meaning—an exploration of the relationship between the immigrant and the universe." *God in Chinatown* is more than a fine sociological study of the immigration (often illegal) of Chinese from Fuzhou Province to Chinatown in New York City and beyond. As a sociological work it is sensitive to the limitations of the "functionalist" school of the sociology of religion. It is also sensitive to the particularity of Fuzhounese culture(s), the difficulties of documenting and examining a movement of peoples (in both directions), and the complex interactions of religious groups and organizations. Further, it avoids the pitfall of oversimplifying the complexities of Chinese immigration and the American Chinese community. Guest's picture of the stresses and strains *within* New York's Chinese communities is a welcome corrective to this.

With the major focus being on Christian groups, Professor Guest examines closely the relationships between Fuzhounese

immigrants and their churches. He shows how these churches "convey meaning and religious significance to immigrants whose lives are more regularly filled with disorientation and dislocation." Guest makes excellent use of detailed stories of immigrants and their religious leaders both in Fuzhou and in New York in their movement to the United States and sometimes back. This is an important book for anyone interested in sociology, immigration studies, religious studies, and the Chinese experience in America.

—James S. Dalton
Siena College

13-2-0198

Steinfels, Peter. ***A People Adrift: The Crisis of the Roman Catholic Church in America***. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003. 392 pp. ISBN 0-684-83663-7, \$26.00.

Steinfels, who refers to himself as a "liberal Catholic," has written about religion for the *New York Times* since 1988. This book is less a contemporary account of Catholicism in America than it is Catholicism seen through the lens of the *New York Times* in 2003. The *Times*, like all newspapers, is biased. Steinfels may or may not be aware that through his long tenure as an employee of the *Times* he has come to internalize the worldview of its owners.

Keep on guard while reading *A People Adrift*. Steinfels freely mixes facts with his own opinions to form a work that is more deceptive than insightful. Issues facing the Catholic Church are often broken in half, with good liberals on one side and bad conservatives on the other—the views of conservative Catholics are at times simply dismissed with a sneer. However, the more serious problem with this book is that the author attributes the profound difficulties facing the Catholic Church to the fact that the Church has refused to change quickly enough to accommodate twenty-first-century American culture. Such a construction is misleading. Far more can be learned about the state of the American Catholic Church by reading Philip Jenkins's recently published *The New Anti-Catholicism*.

—Adam Chandler
Cornell Univ. Library

13-2-0199

Yurdatapan, Sanar and Dilipak, Abdurrahman. ***Opposites: Side by Side***. New York: George Braziller, 2003. 240 pp. Foreword by Aron Aji. Afterword by Jonathan Sugden. Trans. from Turkish by Isfendiyar Eralp. ISBN 0-8076-1520-X, \$27.50.

Two Turkish human rights activists and social critics have produced, despite some interventions by the "thought-police," an unusual and provocative collection of essays by examining sociocultural and political tensions between secular and religious Turkish circles. While some substantial dis-

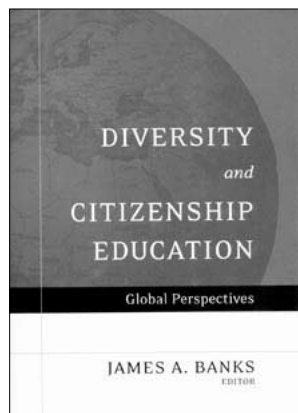
▼ continued religion

agreements emerge between the two activists, Yurdatapan, the secularist, and Dilipak, the deeply religious Muslim, share views that may surprise the unsuspecting reader. Both challenge the audience to remain open-minded, to engage in dialogue, and to listen without prejudice. They encourage deeper reflection on issues ranging from freedom of thought to minority rights and democratization efforts.

The two writers strongly disagree in their interpretation of how men and women should interact in society. Dilipak rejects both patriarchal structures and feminist approaches to social dilemmas as inadequate. He perceives them as polarizing, and instead emphasizes the importance of the concept of justice in gender relations in Islam, which, Dilipak suggests, are misinterpreted by critics. While a woman under Islamic law receives less of an inheritance than her brother, a woman has the option to make up for that difference by demanding a higher dowry from a future husband. Yurdatapan clearly rejects these religiously based views of marriage. He challenges controlling fathers to let go of their daughters so that they may date without the constant restrictions placed on them. While Yurdatapan's perspectives are more familiar to American audiences, the contrasting views represented in the essays side by side allow Dilipak's message to be heard and respected, if not always embraced.

—Vera Eccarius-Kelly
Siena College

Education



13-2-0200

Banks, James A., ed. ***Diversity and Citizenship Education: Global Perspectives***. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003. 480 pp. ISBN 0-7879-6651-7, \$40.00.

The contributors remind us of the magnitude of racial, ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity that has increased in America since World War II, making it necessary for a national and international dialogue about

ways to create educational policies and develop teacher educators, administrators, and teachers who can effectively teach in multicultural classrooms. *Diversity and Citizenship Education* offers current and relevant discussions on challenges unavoidable in societies that are stratified along class, race, and cultural lines. The work moves beyond a discussion of challenges that come along with recognizing diversity with a social equality dimension to include ways that effective practicing teachers have used guidelines and benchmarks to address diversity, unity, and social equality.

This comprehensive volume features successful programs in 12 nations and current research and practices in migration, citizenship, and education. It explores the challenge of

racialized citizenship in the United States; the contribution of the struggles by Indians and blacks for citizenship and recognition in Brazil; crises of citizenship education and ethnic issues in Germany, Russia, and South Africa; conflicts between religious and ethnic factions; topics in diversity, globalization, and democratic education in the United States. It is a must read for teachers and administrators around the world who develop all learners into culturally competent citizens with a commitment to democracy.

—Linda Rhone
Shepherd College

13-2-0201

Blau, Judith R. ***Race in the Schools: Perpetuating White Dominance?*** Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2003. 237 pp. ISBN 1-58826-229-4, \$49.95.

With the fortieth anniversary of the Brown decision upon us, *Race in the Schools* is a timely volume. Race, an American dilemma, is powerful in contemporary America in the phenomenological sense; the meanings people attach to race and racial differences pervade everyday life. In this study, Blau framed her research questions mostly to compare black and white students because black-white relations are most emblematic of the complexities involving intergroup relations in the United States. Changing patterns of immigration and birth rates are demographic trends that will result in very diverse classrooms in terms of race and ethnicity (white and dark-skinned students). Early in the twenty-first century, one-third of all students are of color, both enriching and challenging our schools. These and other factors provide an ongoing debate that exists over whether equity and excellence in education are compatible when race is considered.

Blau argues that whites have advantages and privileges of which they are often unaware, as they are also often unaware of processes whereby racial advantage and privilege are reproduced over time and over social space, school being one of the social institutions where this occurs. Is it a purpose of public schools to reproduce the status quo? According to Blau's study, the answer is a resounding yes. When educational reformers are coming up with ways to better our public education system, *Race in Schools* should provide the core of their reform efforts.

—Anthony Edwards
Univ. of South Carolina

13-2-0202

Dilg, Mary. ***Thriving in the Multicultural Classroom: Principles and Practices for Effective Teaching***. New York: Teachers College Press, 2003. 223 pp. Foreword by Vivian Gussin Paley. Multicultural Education Series. ISBN 0-8077-4390-9, \$52.00 (cl); 0-8077-4389-5, \$23.95 (pb).

Schultz, Katherine. ***Listening: A Framework for Teaching Across Differences***. New York: Teachers College Press, 2003. 198 pp. Foreword by Frederick Erickson. ISBN 0-8077-4378-X, \$53.00 (cl); 0-8077-4377-1, \$24.95 (pb).

Thernstrom, Abigail and Thernstrom, Stephan. **No Excuses: Closing the Racial Gap in Learning**. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003. 334 pp. ISBN 0-7432-0446-8, \$26.00.

Effective teaching and learning that enable all children to succeed continues to be a great need in our nation's schools. *Listening: A Framework for Teaching Across Differences* centralizes the transforming practices of teachers who listened and took advantage of teachable moments in their classrooms. Through listening, these teachers learned how to act pedagogically. They moved learners to success through their practices. The theme is listening to learners and the creation of trusting relationships between teachers and learners. The master teachers demonstrate how listening is essential to meaningful teaching. Listening is not defined as either traditional or progressive. It moves beyond those categories to centralize process and requires continued growth that supports the inclusion of diverse learners. This work is designed for teachers who refuse to settle for less and those who support both academic and personal growth in learners and teachers.

Thriving in the Multicultural Classroom: Principles and Practices for Effective Teaching describes with depth the interracial tension and conflict that exist in our nation, making the need for listening to our students and for multicultural education imperative in the twenty-first century. Dilg addresses the influx of immigrant students in our nation's schools, since the early twentieth century, and the 40 percent of children of color in our classrooms since 2001. Teachers will best serve this diverse population by understanding the diversities in their language, ethnicity, race, and religious beliefs. According to Dilg, talking around differences or claiming not to "see" differences only prevents teachers from addressing differences and thriving in multicultural contexts. Focusing on test scores and test preparation without culturally sensitive teaching and learning results in the continued underdevelopment of most students, particularly Latino, African-American, and immigrant students, and promotes the high achievement of middle-class, mostly white students. This work is engaging and it offers hope in these challenging times.

No Excuses: Closing the Racial Gap in Learning is an in-depth analysis of the racial gap that calls for radical change in our thinking on what should matter in school reform. According to the authors, good tests measure needed skills for employment and success in college. However, currently our schools are allowing black and Latino students to leave high school without adequate reading skills. These measurements are alarming in that the future of these children and our nation is in jeopardy; there is no excuse for this racial gap. The authors demonstrate that there are terrific schools serving disadvantaged students in our nation. For these schools, "no excuses" is the theme. Central to the success of these schools is nonstop teaching and learning through extended school days, weeks, and years. The leaders and teachers of these successful schools serving large populations of black, Hispanic, and impoverished children thought to be high risk are convinced that culture is important. They create a culture that requires students to take responsibility for their learning and

begin thinking, talking, and behaving like the respectable human beings that they are. This work is thorough in that it describes the full magnitude of the racial gap in achievement. And it offers pragmatic ways that public schools can transform in order to provide every student, especially those most disadvantaged, a quality education. This book is vital for those who are interested in factual information about the achievement gap in education as well as why we can no longer make excuses for it.

—Linda Rhone
Shepherd College

13-2-0203

Dimitriadis, Greg and Carlson, Dennis, eds. **Promises to Keep: Cultural Studies, Democratic Education, and Public Life**. New York: Routledge, 2003. 316 pp. ISBN 0-415-94474-0, \$90.00 (cl); 0-415-94475-9, \$25.95 (pb).

The editors address important and useful subjects, with well-known authors asking essential questions about democracy, identity, public education, and the role of race in school and other public venues.

Refreshing points are raised and appealing insights offered. In particular, I was transfixed by Abowitz's discussion of the tensions posed by competing visions of democracy. I intently read the student dialogues captured by Weis and Fine, and I was fascinated by a chapter (written by Susan Schramm-Pate and Dennis Carlson) that used the Confederate flag as text. Through her chapter dealing with the racial codification of broadcast news, Suelyn Henke shared fresh viewpoints on the connections between language and power.

One question does continue to plague me, however. It proves puzzling that routinely the editors of such collections, as well as the authors, choose to write about race without sufficiently contemplating the ethics of doing so. By writing authoritatively about race, many of these well-known white editors/authors help to limit the publishing venues open to scholars of color who wish to write about their own issues and views on race that might distinctly come from the experience of "livin' it." What is the responsibility of established white scholars to open spaces more consistently to scholars of color or to boldly acknowledge that there is a particular void in this book and, by extension, academia when it comes to actually "hearing" the voices and perspectives of scholars of color?

—Dierdre Glenn Paul
Montclair State Univ.

13-2-0204

Greene, Stuart and Abt-Perkins, Dawn, eds. **Making Race Visible: Literacy Research for Cultural Understanding**. New York: Teachers College Press, 2003. 220 pp. Foreword by Gloria Ladson-Billings. Afterword by Sonia Nieto. ISBN 0-8077-4392-5, \$52.00 (cl); 0-8077-4391-7, \$24.95 (pb).

In this compilation of essays on race and racism, the editors meet their three objectives of discussing the experiences of

▼ continued education

students of color and their teachers, making sure the research process is explicit, and requiring that researchers reflect the process of understanding the identity of their subjects.

Race is discussed openly and thoroughly. This book is especially valuable because it encompasses experiences from kindergarten through preservice and inservice teachers. Many of the researchers are in the classroom and share their daily experiences. Issues of race that are often ignored or not discussed openly are brought out. The researchers take a refreshingly open look at themselves as they explore these issues by discussing the processes that they used and the thoughts that they had during the research.

The reader obtains a clearer understanding of how to look at our students. Readers also see how language and literacy play a role in our classrooms and professional and private lives, and how we use language to construct identities for others.

—Miriam Guttman

Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, Wis.

13-2-0205

Moreau, Joseph. ***School Book Nation: Conflicts over American History Textbooks from the Civil War to the Present***. Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 2003. 384 pp. ISBN 0-472-11342-9, \$35.00.

Moreau challenges what he considers a prevailing belief that the 1960s represented a watershed in the teaching of American history. According to this thesis, an identity crisis shook the historical profession as well as the nation. A comprehensive, integrated view of the U.S. past unraveled, giving way to a cacophony of interest-group interpretations that had in common little more than a determination to dismantle a story focusing on "dead white males" in favor of one focusing on their own particular perspective.

Moreau argues instead that the concept of a unitary American history is itself a myth. Almost from the country's beginning the national past has been a subject of debate and negotiation, with history textbooks a particular forum. The Civil War was a long-term divisive issue, particularly as statewide adoption of textbooks became a norm. The Catholic immigration of the nineteenth century generated a demand for their inclusion in an American story previously Protestant. In textbooks focused on white-controlled markets, the experience of other ethnic communities, blacks in particular, was relegated to condescending footnotes. In the 1920s a nationalist populism challenged what its advocates described as "professorial control" of the country's history textbooks, and a corresponding bias toward pro-British interpretations of the American experience. The story Americans wish their children to learn is, in short, as complex and contradictory as the American experience itself. National integration correspondingly depends not on intellectual fiat but on honest confrontation of a complex past. Recommended.

—Dennis Showalter

Colorado College

13-2-0206

Noguera, Pedro. ***City Schools and the American Dream: Reclaiming the Promise of Public Education***. New York: Teachers College Press, 2003. 190 pp. Multicultural Education Series. ISBN 0-8077-4382-8, \$50.00 (c); 0-8077-4381-X, \$19.95 (pb).

Given that the federal Constitution does not provide for education of the citizenry, the promise of public education is at the expense of each individual state. Classrooms are experiencing a large influx of immigrant students, and now over 40 percent of public school enrollment are students of color. Given the correlation between poverty and school failure, urban, inner-city schools are the crucible of this social phenomenon. Noguera provides a powerful message of hope for the hopeless.

Urban schools serve mostly low-income, ethnic-minority, and language-minority students. With dire economic situations surrounding us, these schools are not at the top of the nation's agenda. Series editor James Banks argues that this undermines efforts to transform and re-imagine them. Noguera successfully describes why urban schools are the last hope for most of the students who count on them in order to become an educated citizenry. He describes processes and events that illustrate how socioeconomic manifestations of racial and social class status can combine to vitiate efforts at school reform. He urges the powers that be in America to intervene to determine what happens in urban schools and to make appropriate changes.

City Schools and the American Dream concludes that only through the elimination of poverty and racial degradation will urban schools return to their place of providing students and communities the real promise of public education in their search for the American Dream.

—Anthony Edwards

Univ. of South Carolina

Science and Technology

13-2-0207

Gandy, Matthew and Zumla, Alimuddin, eds. ***Return of the White Plague: Global Poverty and the "New" Tuberculosis***. New York: Verso, 2003. 330 pp. ISBN 1-85984-669-6, \$35.00.

This is a well-organized overview and detailed assessment of the global resurgence of tuberculosis, a disease most believed would by now be eradicated. On the contrary, it is the leading cause of death in many parts of world, as we learn in the powerful, well-written introduction, which places the blame on narrow scientific thought and political economics. The book moves from history, through the present situation, to recommendations for action. The approach is as international as the subject, with London-based editors and worldwide contributors.

Set in a context of the resurgence and emergence world-wide of infectious diseases, causes and outcomes are assigned convincingly to global and national politics and resulting inequities, although contributors differ in specifics, as well as topics, and in implications for health policy. Editor Gandy's chapter on the history of the disease is a remarkably literate, factual presentation, set in an inclusive array of theoretical, scientific, and cultural contexts.

Some essays are highly conceptual, often with specific sociopolitical leanings, but present important insights and information. Unlike many compilations, the quality of information and presentation is consistently high, even in statistically heavy essays. Throughout, we are disabused of the idea that TB is a problem only of underdeveloped countries, or a single class of society, but this is done through facts and interpretation. The analysis of the New York City epidemic, for example, is a fascinating epidemiological study. The book will be valuable in many disciplines.

—Carol B. Gartner
Purdue Univ.—Calumet

Social and Political Sciences

13-2-0208

Abuza, Zachary. ***Militant Islam in Southeast Asia: Crucible of Terror***. Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner, 2003. 275 pp. ISBN 1-58826-212-X, \$55.00 (cl); 1-58826-237-5, \$19.95 (pb).

It drives me crazy when somebody writes a better doctoral dissertation than mine. Abuza's book is a first-rate, solid, and timely piece of historical-political research on an important topic.

The study suffers from two minor defects. Occasionally, some cumbersome usages slip by. There's also a tendency to repetitiveness in the first two chapters.

Abuza argues that, despite a Western scholarly consensus that recently viewed Southeast Asia as immune from al-Qaeda's blandishments, large numbers of economically marginal, intellectually backward fundamentalist Muslims in more or less sloppily governed, corrupt, and unrepresentative regimes in Indonesia and Malaysia (and, to lesser extents, in the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore) have become quietly attractive bases for terrorists' finances, recruitment, and infiltration. He describes these conditions in each case in convincing detail. The United States has inadvertently helped to prompt this disruption in the region by dispersing Afghanistan's Taliban and al-Qaeda fanatics to the four winds.

Though anti-terrorist responses of the region's diverse and vulnerable governments have recently been helpful, especially since the Bali hotel attack of October 2002, they have been driven by local political requirements more than by systematic commitment to a clear anti-terrorist strategy. The truth is that defeating terrorism in the Islamic world (for instance, by modernizing that world) may take a long time

and demand prudence, flexibility, and patience from the United States, not to mention lots of deft material and political support for secular nationalists in Muslim countries.

—Leo J. Mahoney
Kafkas Univ., Kars, Turkey

13-2-0209

Ali, Tariq. ***Bush in Babylon: The Recolonisation of Iraq***. New York: Verso, 2003. 215 pp. ISBN 1-85984-583-5, \$20.00.

Novelist, editor, filmmaker, and social critic Ali offers a provocative analysis of the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq. While his historically based, acerbic interpretations will dismay some readers, he eloquently articulates an important worldview held by many left-leaning intellectuals outside the United States.

Ali's critical account offers a glimpse into Iraqi perspectives on the experience with imperial powers, from British policies to current hegemonic U.S. aspirations in the region. He convincingly points to the traumatized American national character after 9/11, which permitted the creation of a disturbingly restrictive, almost suffocating form of domestic patriotism.

Disguised as "the war on terror," the real agenda is one of imperial pursuits. The author proposes that the signatories to the "Project for the New American Century," including Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, and Paul Wolfowitz, among others, long intended to pursue an unabated U.S. plan for control of the Middle East.

Ali observes that Iraqi resistance to imperial powers has remained a constant element in the country's pursuit of independence and self-determination. He suggests, with strong, compelling, and thoughtful arguments, that even an empire as mighty as the United States will fail to control Iraq permanently—just as all the other empires have failed to do throughout history.

—Vera Eccarius-Kelly
Siena College

13-2-0210

Bell, Terry, with Dumisa Buhle Ntsebeza. ***Unfinished Business: South Africa, Apartheid, and the Truth***. New York: Verso, 2003. 385 pp. ISBN 1-85984-545-2, \$26.00.

Several books have been written about South Africa's attempt to deal with its past, focusing on the workings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Bell's book is the first to examine the important issues the TRC failed to address. The book raises important questions about the possible impact of these failures. This omission has obscured the true nature of the past, and without a clear understanding of the past we cannot understand its likely impact on the future.

The TRC left mostly untouched the apartheid state's policymakers and leaders. For example, former president F. W. de

▼ continued social and political sciences

Klerk was implicated for murder while traveling to collect his Nobel Peace Prize. Organs like the Afrikaner Broederbond, the secret Afrikaner organization that effectively ruled South Africa, were not probed. Thousands of people who should have been exposed and probed by the TRC remain in powerful positions. The TRC also left unexplored the role of business in the maintenance of apartheid.

This book prompts a deeper confrontation with the past. It furthers the debate about South Africa's attempt to reckon with its past. The TRC was only the beginning. This well-written and thoroughly researched book should be read by all who seek to understand South Africa's unfinished business and the long journey ahead.

—Lesego Malepe
Wheaton College

13-2-0211

Besen, Wayne R. ***Anything But Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth.*** Binghamton, N.Y.: Harrington Park Press/Haworth Press, 2003. 313 pp. ISBN 1-56023-445-8, \$39.95 (cl); 1-56023-446-6, \$19.95 (pb).

Besen (Human Rights Campaign) exposes the spiritual warfare waged on those who strive to become heterosexual because of religious and societal pressures. The author states that by using pseudo-science and fundamentalist religion, ex-gay ministries and reparative therapies peddle a process that manipulates the malleable, claiming that adherents can and should change orientation from homosexual to heterosexual.

The author researched, attended conferences, and conducted interviews that reveal how such enterprises operate. Besen contends that under the purview of two societal forces often in ideological accord with each other (the Christian religious right and the political right), this lucrative predatory system is sustained by fear and shame in the name of radical Christian belief. According to this notion, prayer, Bible study, personal discipline, and support of the Christian community are the tools a homosexual can use to become heterosexual. Because of the contention that one's orientation is changeable through invoking the word of (Christian) God, Besen makes the legitimate point that coupling the political right with the religious right unites a front that could have far-reaching influence on legislation designed to protect lesbians and gays from prejudice.

The book is accessibly written though not without limitation. The book has its place, particularly insofar as it directs readers to the increasingly frequent union of the radical political and radical religious right. Readers may wish to enlarge their understanding of the ex-gay ministries with the fictional account in Ronald L. Donaghe's *The Salvation Mongers* (2000) and the documentary film "One Nation under God" (1993).

—Elsa Bruguier
Union County (N.J.) College

13-2-0212

Brown, Michael K.; Carnoy, Martin; Currie, Elliott; Duster, Troy; Oppenheimer, David B.; Shultz, Marjorie M.; and Wellman, David. ***Whitewashing Race: The Myth of a Color-Blind Society.*** Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2003. 360 pp. ISBN 0-520-23706-4, \$27.50.

Sue, Derald Wing. ***Overcoming Our Racism: The Journey to Liberation.*** San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003. 297 pp. ISBN 0-7879-6744-0, \$22.95.

Denying the individual and social implications of race is rather like denying that there is an elephant in the room. As the authors of *Whitewashing Race* indicate, the American tendency to emphasize individual factors rather than structural factors in explaining relative positions of whites and nonwhites (this emphasis on individual factors is, by the way, a long-standing characteristic of Americans, not a new phenomenon) ignores persistent racism throughout modern society. After years of policy efforts to improve the lot of nonwhites, we have now reached the point of denying the relevance of race at all in explaining why nonwhites still do so much more poorly than whites. A good example of this current trend is the complete denial of color and the use of the term "ethnicity" to distinguish among groups. We have indeed decided to deny color. Using a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach, this book provides ample evidence of color-based discrimination in all aspects of modern life. The authors encourage continued efforts to provide a complex program of monetary, structural, social, and educational support in order to improve the well-being of all individuals and groups.

Sue provides clearly written challenges and exercises to help whites in *Overcoming Our Racism*. While the authors of *Whitewashing Race* use white-black relations as the standard by which to evaluate the level of racism in the United States, Sue addresses more broadly the concerns of people of color in American society. Despite some early introductory meanderings on hate crimes in general, Sue's book illustrates very well the falsehoods of seeing America as color blind and the well-being of individuals as solely the result of their own efforts. The format of the book is unusual: Addressing the (white) reader directly, Sue confronts white willingness to discount color as a basis for discrimination. Each chapter has a set of exercises for people willing to challenge their own racist beliefs. The final chapter presents to people of color encouragement and suggestions for overcoming racism. Basically confrontational in tone, this book nevertheless recognizes the courage of those willing to work for true social change. That change would recognize the value and beauty of diversity and group differences as strengthening the United States.

—Carol Ann Traut
Univ. of Texas—Permian Basin

13-2-0213

Clayton, Obie; Mincy, Ronald B.; and Blankenhorn, David, eds. ***Black Fathers in Contemporary American Society: Strengths, Weaknesses, and Strategies for Change.***

New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2003. 178 pp. ISBN 0-87154-161-0, \$35.00.

As the majority of African-American children live in fatherless homes, this new essay collection is both timely and of prime importance toward understanding the phenomenon and the necessity of the black father as head of household. The diverse group of scholars, including three representatives of the Institute for American Values, argues that the absence of black fathers is one of today's most pressing concerns but that the trend is not irreversible. What sets this volume apart from most is the focus on how economics—lack of job prospects, investment and savings rates—plays a significant role in destroying the family. Other authors address related issues, including the effect of imprisonment on family formation and fatherhood-renewal programs.

Essays are brief (12-25 pages, including references) and well written, with numerous statistical charts. A useful index concludes the volume. Although many books address either the African-American male or the black family, *Black Fathers* is the only up-to-date work from a major press specifically on this topic and is thus an essential purchase for all academic and large public libraries.

—Anthony Adam
Library, Prairie View A & M Univ.

13-2-0214

de la Torre, Miguel A. ***La Lucha for Cuba: Religion and Politics on the Streets of Miami***. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2003. 181 pp. ISBN 0-520-23526-6, \$55.00 (cl); 0-520-23852-4, \$21.95 (pb).

De la Torre begins by contrasting *ajioco* religion, which includes Christian, Amerindian, and African aspects, with *la lucha* as promulgated by exiled Cubans, showing how the latter has become a negative holy crusade centered around opposition to one person, Fidel Castro. He uses the case of Elián González to illustrate this and supports his thesis with power analyses (Foucault), psychological components (Lacan), critique of liberationist theology, and a history of intra-Cuban violence sponsored by the CIA; these just hint at the complexity of his considerations. Further, "hidden under the sacred fervor of the religious crusade of *la lucha* is how machismo, as intra-Cuban gender, race, and class oppression, is obscured by *el exilio's* rhetoric of return." The thorough and nuanced chapter that follows, "Machismo," in itself makes this book worth reading.

In belief systems devised to consolidate oppositional power, one is bound to encounter demonizing contradictions—is Castro anti-religion, or does he sacrifice to African gods?—and these surface in de la Torre's investigations. More detailed counter-discourse from the *ajioco* perspective might have engaged such contested sites fruitfully. An exiled Cuban himself, de la Torre is concerned that his community is "in peril of imitating [its] former oppressors while justifying machismo in the name of the holy war of *la lucha*." Considering his position and the dangerous passions it evokes, it is clear that this is a courageous book.

—Menoukha Case
State Univ. of New York at Albany

13-2-0215

Enaharo, Khari. ***Race Code War: The Power of Words, Images, and Symbols on the Black Psyche***. Chicago: African American Images, 2003. 382 pp. ISBN 0-913543-84-5, \$19.95 (pb).

The format of *Race Code War* is reminiscent of Smitherman's *Black Talk* (1994) and Welsing's *The Isis Papers* (1991). With this book, Enaharo takes on a challenging and controversial topic—the maintenance of white supremacy and racism via racist code words and images. The controversial nature of the discussion centers on the fact that much of society remains steadfast in its refusal to accept white supremacy and racism as equally prevalent, but more sophisticated, than in the past.

Yet Enaharo uses an overly simplistic and redundant approach to deal with this highly complex subject matter. Many authors have dealt eloquently with this topic, among them Toni Morrison in *Playing in the Dark* (1992), Geneva Smitherman and Teun A. van Dijk in *Discourse and Discrimination* (1988), and Carter G. Woodson in *The Miseducation of the Negro* (1933). Enaharo does not, however, build an effective theoretical framework for his arguments like the other authors cited and relies too heavily on his own limited interpretations, as well as blanket generalizations.

Enaharo puts forth a conceptualization of blackness that is essentialist, binary, and antiquated. Blackness (in this context) and identity (generally) are highly complex, multitudinous, and multilayered. Further, while he seeks to interrogate racism, he does not seem as critical of sexism. Much of *Race Code War* contains a phallogentric and masculinist bent. Ironically, in seeking to deconstruct white supremacy and racism perpetuated against black communities, Enaharo contributes to the sexism present within them.

—Dierdre Glenn Paul
Montclair State Univ.

13-2-0216

Esposito, John L. ***The Oxford Dictionary of Islam***. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2003. 360 pp. ISBN 0-19-512558-4, \$45.00.

Feldman, Noah. ***After Jihad: America and the Struggle for Islamic Democracy***. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003. 258 pp. ISBN 0-374-17769-4, \$24.00.

Hafez, Mohammed M. ***Why Muslims Rebel: Repression and Resistance in the Islamic World***. Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2003. 270 pp. ISBN 1-58826-124-7, \$49.95.

Islam is news. There is no escaping that elementary fact.

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These three works attempt to deal with it. All respond to the events of September 11, 2001, in some way. But each has its own unique approach and set of questions.

Hafez deals with perhaps the most contentious of issues by arguing that the violence of Islamic groups is rooted in oppression and economic and political realities that many deny are relevant. His argument is that "Muslim rebellions, generally speaking, are a defensive reaction to predatory state repression that threatens the organizational resources and lives of political Islamists." Hafez ranges widely over the particular movements and their activities. His evidence is good and needs to be considered, especially by those who see a genetic propensity to violence in the Islamic tradition while ignoring that propensity in other traditions.

Feldman tackles the old chestnut of Islam versus democracy, an issue that has been debated in the Islamic world since the late nineteenth century (though most non-specialist readers would not be aware of it). Recently assigned to help write a new Iraqi constitution, Feldman has a rather idealistic view of the subject of democracy. He believes that "the alternative to democracy in the Muslim world seems to be more autocracy. If there is to be any way out of the impasse, it will have to come from imagining some kind of Islamic democracy." Yes, indeed. Most observers do not see an inherent contradiction, but the devil is in the details, as the latest maneuvering in Iraq demonstrates. Feldman analyzes history and theory in the first and third parts of his book; in the second part, he treats various countries that have attempted democracy: Iran, Turkey, the nations of South and Southeast Asia, Pakistan, the Arab world, and Egypt. He is a sunny optimist in that he believes that there is no inherent conflict between Islam and democracy, between inherited religious prescriptions and the organization of power and the dispensation of goods in society. The future remains to be seen.

For the present, Esposito has edited a handy reference work that should be on the desk of every journalist in the world. *The Oxford Dictionary of Islam* contains essential information concerning persons, ideas, concepts, and trends in the Islamic world from the rise of the tradition in the seventh century to the present. It is accessible and sensible. Over 100 contributors provide pithy explanations and definitions, making this an indispensable source for anyone interested in the world of Islam. The question is: Why was such a work not widely available before September 11?

—Karl K. Barbir
Siena College

13-2-0217

Guglielmo, Jennifer and Salerno, Salvatore. ***Are Italians White? How Race Is Made in America***. New York: Routledge, 2003. 328 pp. ISBN 0-415-93451-6, \$29.95 (pb).

These essays address the important issue of how Italian Americans came to occupy their position in the U.S. racial structure. Both self-perception and perceptions by others have been important factors in this regard.

It is clear that, since the first major wave of Italian immi-

gration in the latter part of the nineteenth century, Italian Americans have tried to climb up in the racially stratified American society. Over time anti-Italian prejudice may have somewhat abated. However, Italian Americans also sought to be a part of the white majority, to share the privileges this segment of the population enjoyed. In their effort to assimilate, people of Italian descent, who suffered from discrimination, sometimes turned against members of other groups that suffered even worse discrimination. References to the nineteenth-century lynching of Sicilians in Louisiana and the discussion of the violence inflicted by Italian Americans on African Americans in more recent times (such as in Bensonhurst) illustrate an evolution that has not gone in the right direction.

This book is valuable not only because it makes the reader aware of the struggle of Italian Americans to overcome prejudice and to succeed in American society, but also because, at least by implication, it makes the point that Italian Americans, who have traditionally suffered from discrimination and who may still be targets of prejudice, can contribute to making the United States a truly multicultural society based on social justice and mutual respect.

—Salvatore Lombardo
Siena College

13-2-0218

Herring, Cedric; Keith, Verna M.; and Horton, Hayward Derrick, eds. ***Skin/Deep: How Race and Complexion Matter in the "Color Blind" Era***. Champaign: Univ. of Illinois Press, 2004. 248 pp. ISBN 1-929011-26-1, \$19.95 (pb).

In America skin color has always been an issue. During slavery time lighter-skinned slaves were usually given jobs in or around the house. Many times this was done because these slaves were children of the slave master.

After slavery skin color still played a role in American society. It was thought by many that lighter-skinned people were smarter than their darker brothers and sisters. Studies have shown that skin color has an impact on how successful one might be in America.

Skin color also plays a role with other ethnic groups. Lighter-skinned Indians were thought to be better than their darker brethren. In the Latino community skin color is a factor in your standing within society.

As a black woman who was in college during the 1970s I personally know about the brown bag test that various sororities used; if you were darker than a brown bag you would not be accepted into the sorority.

The media has also taught us to view beauty by European standards. Even during the 1960s when black pride was so prevalent, skin color still was an issue. This work is a compilation of research done to identify how people are impacted by skin color; it shows convincingly that America is still not a color-blind society and probably never will be. Highly recommended.

—Charlie Spencer Lackey

13-2-0219

Kalita, S. Mitra. ***Suburban Sahibs: Three Immigrant Families and Their Passage from India to America.*** Piscataway, N.J.: Rutgers Univ. Press, 2003. 172 pp. ISBN 0-8135-3318-X, \$23.95.

A book resonating with equal parts of admiration, curiosity, confusion, and understanding for the immigrant experience, *Suburban Sahibs* is replete with evidence of honest and heartfelt narrative. The balance of passion and dispassionate objectivity crucial to a work of nonfiction will thrill an astute reader. Kalita successfully captures the one essential ingredient of examining lives: compassionate honesty. This reviewer was left with an improved understanding of two of his own "ABCDs" (American Born Confused Desis) in a manner hitherto unfathomed. The book provides a mirror of pristine accuracy facilitating the reader's self-examination of the beauty and blemishes of his or her own life, and then reduces our vulnerability by providing transparent glimpses of the lives of the people being discussed.

In exploring the life stories of her rich characters in the Indian diaspora of Middlesex County, New Jersey, the author often lets us peek through the windowpanes of her own life experience in the United States. Kalita deftly avoids the temptation to drown human emotions in a plethora of verbosity (an oft seen trait in authors of Asian Indian origins) and provides the reader with several opportunities to pause, reflect, muse, and marvel—learning culture and life at its best. While immigrant readers will find an immediate kinship with the text, it is the student of cultures-at-large who will be rewarded by the relationships forged with the "Desi" characters and their world. Recommended for all students of cultural assimilation and its very human implications.

—Raj Devasagayam
Siena College

13-2-0220

Kroeger, Brooke. ***Passing: When People Can't Be Who They Are.*** New York: PublicAffairs, 2003. 280 pp. ISBN 1-891620-99-1, \$25.00.

This work is an interesting compilation of people telling their stories of why they opted to pass as members of another race, or to pass as heterosexual when they really were homosexual.

David's story is particularly interesting. With his friends he was white, but at home he was black. He opted for this dual role because he felt he could advance further as a white person. His grandmother, who was black but looked white, also had an influence on his attitude toward blacks. Her negative talk regarding blacks made David more determined to pass.

A young white woman confronted her own prejudices when she was mistaken for a black person. It made her very uncomfortable that people thought she was black. Prior to this she never thought of herself as prejudiced. She was even

engaged to a black man at the time.

One woman hid her homosexuality in order to have a military career, even getting married to avoid attention about her sexuality. At one point her cover was almost blown when two of her lovers came into conflict and were kicked out of the military, but she managed to avoid being discharged.

Each of the stories makes us aware that prejudice is still widespread in this country and that people are willing to go to great lengths to avoid dealing with it, even to the point of pretending to be someone they are not. This book is well worth reading because it will make us all more aware of our prejudices and their impact on ourselves and others.

—Charlie Spencer Lackey
Duke Univ. Medical School Library

13-2-0221

Leonard, Karen Isaksen. ***Muslims in the United States: The State of Research.*** New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2003. 200 pp. ISBN 0-87154-530-6, \$17.95 (pb).

Leonard provides researchers, scholars, and students of Islam in the United States with a significant tool to further examine the existing body of literature in the field. She emphasizes the historical development of Islam in the United States, investigates changing discourses on Islam, and evaluates the more recent process of integration of Muslims into the country. While the bibliographic study is specialized and offers a very narrow focus, Leonard offers the scholarly community valuable suggestions for future research. She points out that few comparative studies exist of less dominant immigrant communities. Among her long list of research gaps, she identifies a lack of serious studies on "Twelver" and "Sevener" Shi'a communities, whose religious schools and holy sites are in Iraq and Iran.

Clearly, Leonard highlights an opportunity for researchers at a time when the U.S. government struggles to establish effective relationships with Iraq's Shi'a communities. Another significant section of her bibliographic study evaluates the potential impact of September 11, 2001, on research agendas in the coming years. She observes that Muslims in the United States have become more comfortable with voicing dissenting views, with expressing criticism toward militant Islamic ideologies, and with more diversity within Muslim communities. Researchers now have new opportunities to explore emerging topics within U.S. Muslim communities, which include interfaith dialogue and U.S. Muslim perspectives on American ideals of freedom and diversity.

—Vera Eccarius-Kelly
Siena College

13-2-0222

Levinson, Sanford. ***Wrestling with Diversity.*** Durham, N.C.: Duke Univ. Press, 2003. 336 pp. ISBN 0-8223-3226-4, \$74.95 (cl); 0-8223-3239-6, \$21.95 (pb).

There is a sly and provocative trick at work in the title

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Wrestling with Diversity, a book that has little to do with diversity—at least in the way the term is most often used in legal and liberal discourse. And that discrepancy is really the heart of this legal scholar's concern. In nine thoughtful essays, Levinson tends to the liberal project lovingly by exploring its blind spots and contradictions, exploring particularly what "diversity" means to a liberal, multicultural society, not in the context in which the term is most often applied—race and ethnicity—but instead in the context of religion.

On affirmative action, for instance, he interrogates the usefulness of the term "diversity," given the various diversities admissions committees don't consider as weightily as race and ethnicity, religion in particular. Enlivened with difficult and illustrative cases, the book asks scads of similarly interesting and nuanced questions: Do decisions eliminating religion from public schools force religious parents to withdraw their children, thereby depriving both religious and non-religious students important opportunities to experience diverse opinions? In the context of the first amendment, where does "religion" end and "culture" begin? What role should religiosity play in judges' confirmations? Does what Levinson calls the "civil religion" of secularism outlaw certain types of arguments—and should it? Can and should religious lawyers and judges bracket their faith? Levinson's book is a model for the liberal society he seems to desire: It claims identity, but not finality. It prods, but humbly, inviting response.

—Christopher Warren
Georgetown Univ.

13-2-0223

Magaña, Lisa. *Straddling the Border: Immigration Policy and the INS*. Austin: Univ. of Texas Press, 2003. 168 pp. ISBN 0-292-70521-2, \$37.50 (cl); 0-292-70176-4, \$16.95 (pb).

Magaña has written a short but effective study of the impact of changes in American immigration policy over the last 20 years on the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The study, based on interviews with members of the INS and immigration advocates, and secondary studies, explains the problems faced by the INS in executing its dual function of service to immigrants and enforcement of immigration laws to reduce illegal immigration.

Magaña is most effective in analyzing the impact of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (1986) and in documenting the rise in naturalization applications, an unintended consequence of Proposition 187 and the 1996 Personal Responsibility Act. Using the testimony of INS workers, she effectively criticizes politicians for proposing legislation without thinking of the actual consequences of immigration policy shifts, like denying Social Security to elderly legal immigrants.

Unfortunately, Magaña's analysis of the 1965 Immigration Reform Act and 1990 Immigration Act is shallow and of little help to anyone trying to understand how immigration policy has evolved. Also, she omits the 1980 Refugee Act, and

her historical summary of the 1921 and 1924 immigration restriction laws contains errors of interpretation and fact, as does her explanation of the Know-Nothings. However, I would recommend this study for those interested in the relationship between immigration policy and the INS and the 1986 immigration law.

—Harvey J. Strum
Sage Colleges of Albany

13-2-0224

Matthews, Jenny, ed. *Women and War*. Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 2003. 192 pp. Illus. with photos by the editor. ISBN 0-472-08964-1, \$29.95 (pb).

The title says it all: women and war—something we usually ignore. "Men and war"—those words belong together but women and war? Women do belong to war as much as men do. Women participate in it and are the victims of war: "Although women are more often innocent victims and peace groups from Northern Ireland to Serbia tend to be dominated by women, they can kill too, and viciously, as seen in the genocide in Rwanda."

Photographer Matthews makes the subject intensely visible through her pictures, compiled over 20 years. She has chronicled wars in many different countries, showing connections among them. Women are rarely shown alone. Children are connected to war through their mothers and certainly intensify feelings of fear, despair, and how women view war. "As bearers of life, women usually have a much more emotional relationship to conflict—as mothers, wives, lovers they are the ones traditionally left behind with someone to lose, but war and peace do not divide neatly on gender lines."

The photos (accompanied by short paragraphs introducing where the pictures were taken and who the people in it are) tell the stories of women and their loved ones and how they "live" with war and its aftermath. A book for undergraduate and graduate level courses that will spark interesting discussions and hopefully clarify that war is not the answer!

—Astrid Eich-Krohnm
State Univ. of New York at Albany

13-2-0225

Notes from Nowhere, ed. *We Are Everywhere: The Irresistible Rise of Global Anticapitalism*. New York: Verso, 2003. 524 pp. Illus. with photos by the editor. ISBN 1-85984-447-2, \$16.99 (pb).

As global war affects all societies and cultures, this book focuses on the force of capitalism and the global movement against it. Watching the anticapitalist movement on TV means to watch human beings going against walls, fences, and police forces to make their voices heard. But what we usually hear are the voices of commentators who tell us how well secured from the protesters the officials are at WTO meetings.

So who are these people trying to stop the force of capitalism, sometimes in very unique and creative ways? This book tries to answer the question by focusing on voices from within the movement. Activists and participants tell their stories so that the reader can actually understand how it feels to be in the movement and the motives people have. Pictures accompanying the stories give faces to action. The stories and pictures are from all around the world; they pay tribute to the movement as a global one that is surely growing. In addition, the book provides valuable Internet resources for activities in political science and social movement courses for the undergraduate and graduate level.

—Astrid Eich-Krohm
State Univ. of New York at Albany

13-2-0226

Okonta, Ike and Douglas, Oronto. ***Where Vultures Feast: Shell, Human Rights, and Oil***. New York: Verso, 2003. 280 pp. Introduction by George Monbiot. ISBN 1-85984-473-1, \$17.00 (pb).

Okonta, a Nigerian writer and journalist, and Douglas, a Nigerian environmental human rights lawyer, make an impassioned plea for the protection of human rights and the environment in the face of economic globalization and, in particular, the oil industry. Their book chronicles the ruin of the people and ecosystem of Nigeria's Niger Delta as a result of the destructive extractive practices of oil companies, led by Royal Dutch Shell and abetted by the corrupt Nigerian ruling elites.

The book also describes local nonviolent resistance led by Ken Saro-Wiwa and the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), resulting in the 1995 execution of Saro-Wiwa and eight members of MOSOP on trumped-up charges of the murder of four Ogoni chiefs. Although Shell claimed to have become more socially and environmentally responsible as a result of the international outcry over the executions, the authors maintain that this was "greenwash," and that little has changed. As a result, the local resistance continues and has spread. Okonta and Douglas thoroughly document their assertions with references to the World Bank, various human rights and environmental group reports, and Shell public documents. However, the lack of any maps makes it difficult for the reader to envisage the location and environment of the various villages and cities described in the book.

—Jean M. Stern
Siena College

13-2-0227

Pintak, Lawrence. ***Seeds of Hate: How America's Flawed Middle East Policy Ignited the Jihad***. Sterling, Va.: Stylus Publishing, 2003. 360 pp. ISBN 0-7453-2044-9, \$65.00 (cl); 0-7453-2043-0, \$22.50 (pb).

Pintak, a courageous and committed reporter who covered the bloody war in Beirut during the 1980s, provides

a fascinating perspective on political Islam. Relying on his enormous collection of notes from interviews, street corner conversations, published articles, and radio and TV recordings, Pintak reconstructs a complicated puzzle of political alliances and broken promises. Americans, the author argues, have forgotten or are unwilling to recognize that it was not September 11, 2001, but rather April 18, 1983, that initiated the collision course between Islamic militants and the United States. That day, a young Lebanese Muslim drove a truck with explosives into the lobby of the U.S. embassy in Beirut, causing mayhem and destruction on an enormous scale.

Pintak argues that the withdrawal of the humiliated Marines under orders of the Reagan administration ignited the ferocious jihad we witness and experience today. A poorly conceived Middle East policy contributed to the rise of fundamentalist terror, which originally emerged in Lebanon. In that country, Pintak suggests, U.S. marines who had been presented as neutral forces, even peacekeepers, sided with Christians and their Israeli allies in opposition to Muslim organizations.

With an enormous amount of detail, *Seeds of Hate* effectively explores a range of sentiments expressed by Muslims across the globe that continue to fuel hatred toward the United States. Pintak investigates the potent feelings that create such hate—namely, a deep sense of hopelessness and humiliation, and the broken promise of justice and equality.

—Vera Eccarius-Kelly
Siena College

13-2-0228

Rubenberg, Cheryl A. ***The Palestinians: In Search of a Just Peace***. Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2003. 450 pp. ISBN 1-58826-200-6, \$65.00 (cl); 1-58826-225-1, \$24.50 (pb).

Rubenberg is a recognized authority on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. She now tackles the reasons for the failure of the 1990s peace process and the prospects for a peaceful solution. Her contention is that a two-state solution is the only just path. This well-documented study begins with the history of the conflict, but the heart of the book is an analysis of the Oslo peace process, which culminated with the September 1993 handshake between Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin. Rubenberg contends that the asymmetry between the two parties, the deterioration of Palestinian living conditions in the Occupied Territories, the Palestinian Authority's corruption, and American political and military support for Israel contributed mightily to failure of the peace process. Indeed, she argues that the 2000 Palestinian uprising originated in that failure.

Readers interested in getting beyond partisan and simplistic analyses of this conflict will be richly rewarded by this book, which tells a story not widely understood. Rubenberg's approach is scholarly and judicious. She concludes by urging nongovernmental organizations and grassroots campaigns to be more active in achieving a solution to the Israeli-

▼ continued social and political sciences

Palestinian conflict, although it must be said that such organizations and groups have their own particular aims and do not necessarily work coherently. These nongovernmental organizations also engender resentment and confusion among ordinary Americans in particular, who in a time of heightened security concerns are less likely to heed even this meticulous book.

—Karl K. Barbir
Siena College

13-2-0229

Schmidt, Garbi. *Islam in Urban America: Sunni Muslims in Chicago*. Philadelphia: Temple Univ. Press, 2004. 232 pp. ISBN 1-59213-223-5, \$59.50 (cl); 1-59213-224-3, \$19.95 (pb).

Despite the prosperous, stable presence of Muslims in this country for more than a century, "Nine-Eleven" suddenly spotlighted the community in discriminatory, even hostile, ways. Knowledge and understanding have never been more needed.

This analysis of one Muslim community—Sunni Muslims of Chicago in the 1990s—presumably can be extended to other parts of the country. After a general history of Muslim immigration, the author discusses the molding of children through special schools and family training. Then come the college-age generation's organizations and activism, and a revealing section on women. Schmidt's research found that the older generation plays a dominant role through such institutions as publishing enterprises; mosques and what has been termed "paramosques," organizations that provide social, intellectual, and outreach functions; women's study groups; and various associations aimed at reinforcing Muslims in their faith and identity, educating the public, and countering antagonism toward Islam.

Far from being the monolithic entity feared by many non-Muslims, the multiethnic Muslim community of Chicago encompasses much diversity. Diversity, however, leads to "vibrancy," says the author, a Danish scholar. With many specific, lively examples, she presents a vigorous portrait of a community that despite some separation from the mainstream is undeniably "in America to stay." Her clear, straightforward writing (no dry, statistics-heavy study, this!) makes *Islam in Urban America* useful for researchers and Muslim readers alike, even high school courses that focus on the fascinating mosaic of urban American society.

—Elsa Marston
Bloomington, Ind.

13-2-0230

Schwarz, Maureen Trudelle. *Blood and Voice: Navajo Women Ceremonial Practitioners*. Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 2003. 186 pp. ISBN 0-8165-2300-2, \$55.00 (cl); 0-8165-2301-0, \$24.95 (pb).

In Navajo society, there are clear distinctions of responsibilities among males and females. The maintenance and practice of Navajo ceremonial traditions is one of the chief

gender-specific roles and responsibilities held by males. The author moves the reader into uncharted territory as she provides a fascinating perspective and narrative on Navajo women ceremonial practitioners. In interviews negotiated through persistence and translation, the author illustrates women's unique experiences, helping the reader understand how they entered and survived a profession viewed as a male activity.

Blood and the voice are important symbols in the Navajo ceremonial tradition. They serve as the fundamental reason why Navajo women do not partake in certain activities. When a woman begins to menstruate, she reaches a new plateau of personhood, and gender responsibilities change as well. Navajo ceremonial rules determine how and when certain activities are allowed and by whom. A common gender rule is that women are not allowed to partake in ceremonies when they are menstruating. Navajo ceremonial practitioners deem certain types of blood to be dangerous to health and well-being. When voice (songs and prayers) are mixed with menstrual blood in ceremony, it is believed to disrupt a ceremony. This book offers an in-depth examination of how Navajo women have crossed the gender divide to become ceremonial practitioners.

—Maggie Necefer (Diné)
Diné College

13-2-0231

Stephenson, Skye. *Understanding Spanish-Speaking South Americans: Bridging Hemispheres*. Yarmouth, Me.: Intercultural Press, 2003. 382 pp. ISBN 1-877864-91-9, \$27.95 (pb).

Although they are our distant neighbors, North Americans know little about the people of Spanish-speaking South America. Our knowledge is generally restricted to politics and economics. Stephenson, who has worked and lived in Chile for the Council on International Educational Exchange, has sought to fill this void with a very informative volume divided into two sections. The first is a general examination of the cultures of South America grouped around specific topics such as ethnicity and identity, relationships and personalism, male and female, and work and leisure. In each, the author adeptly examines the topic as it relates to the daily life of the people. Her explanations are clear, and the perceptions are insightful.

The second part of the book is equally informative as it focuses on each of the nine Spanish-speaking countries of South America. All of the country-specific essays (written by Stephenson and others) are again informative, with special attention given to what makes each country different from the others in the region. The essays are not designed to provide a comprehensive background, but rather they seek to provide a "feel" for the country by discussing geography, national traits, and uniqueness. This is a good read for anyone wishing to get a better grasp on the people who reside in the Spanish-speaking South American nations.

—James C. Harrison

13-2-0232

Stohlman, Nancy and Aladin, Laurieann, eds. *Live from Palestine: International and Palestinian Direct Action Against the Israeli Occupation*. Cambridge, Mass.: South End Press, 2003. 224 pp. ISBN 0-89608-695-X, \$17.00 (pb).

Since the Al-Aqsa Intifada began in September 2000, there has been an unprecedented level of violence between Israelis and Palestinians. As a result of horrific attacks that have killed hundreds of Israelis, and repressive measures imposed by Israel's government, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza are forced to live under increasingly oppressive and dangerous conditions. There is no international protection force for them, and thousands of volunteers, mainly from North America and Europe, have organized to express solidarity by working with Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. Their activities include delivering food and medicine during curfews, picking olives, escorting sick and wounded persons to hospitals, and participating in nonviolent demonstrations.

The editors have collected affecting and informative essays by several of these activists and Palestinians associated with them. What unites these individuals, who belong to a variety of organizations, is their commitment to nonviolence. Israeli policy and popular Palestinian groups espousing ideals of armed liberation have severely hampered the growth of the Palestinian nonviolent movement. This international participation serves to strengthen it, and draws global attention to Israeli human rights abuses. Although the book presents a justifiably strong condemnation of Israel's conduct and practices, it does not adequately address the obvious contradiction between the activists' support of nonviolence and the overall failure of Palestinian activists to publicly campaign against the cult of martyrdom and killing that breeds suicide bombers.

—Elka R. Frankel
Princeton, N.J.

13-2-0233

Todorov, Tzvetan. *Hope and Memory: Lessons from the Twentieth Century*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton Univ. Press, 2003. 376 pp. Trans. from French by David Bellos. ISBN 0-691-09658-9, \$29.95.

In his book the outstanding French intellectual analyzes what, in his opinion, is the major event of the twentieth century, the totalitarianism—its roots, reasons, and forms—of communism and fascism. But do we have to remember the just past century as “the century of Stalin and Hitler”? Certainly not. Todorov's deepest hope is that we will remember a “few luminous figures who in their dramatic lives kept their heads and senses.” The author interrupts his analysis of twentieth-century political history with profound and touching portraits of six remarkable individuals—Margarete Buber-Neumann, David Rousset, Primo Levi, Germaine Tillion, Vasily Grossman, and Romain Gary—who illuminated the darkness of the past century not only with their

courageous resistance to totalitarianism, but also with their postwar lives and books dedicated to humanity.

The preface to the English edition, written after September 11, 2001, reflects the tragic event and the following military actions with concerns that the doctrine of “the right of interference” could be a danger for democracy. The peril to democracy is also the topic of the last chapter of the book, which shows clearly the absurdity and the destructiveness of more recent military actions in Europe, eloquently presented by the key political figures as necessary humanitarian actions.

—Tanya Babalievsky
Verona, N.J.

13-2-0234

Wood, Peter. *Diversity: Invention of a Concept*. San Francisco: Encounter Books, 2003. 351 pp. ISBN 1-893554-62-7, \$24.95.

Wood, a professor of anthropology and associate provost at Boston University, draws a distinction between two types of diversity. Charles Darwin studied natural diversity in the Galapagos. In America, the term diversity has taken on a new meaning, as a social ideal that envisions a country of separate, tolerant groups, but with special privileges granted to historically oppressed minorities. Wood asserts that one of the core challenges to this kind of diversity is the idea that race is a social construct, not a biological fact. Individuals do not fit neatly into a race or ethnicity, and thus, it is a logical error to think of individuals as “representatives” of groups that are composed of millions. Furthermore, “diversiphiles” relentlessly trumpet the differences between groups, but people are not really all that different; in fact, the differences are usually only skin deep. *Diversity: The Invention of a Concept* identifies the most important legal and political antecedents that led to the crystallization over the past 20 years of the ideal that now trumps all others in America, including equality and liberty. Stripped bare, diversity is affirmative action repackaged as something that benefits everybody, including majority Americans.

At a time when genuine debate on the true meaning of pursuing diversity is largely closed within the mainstream media and on college campuses, this thoughtful piece of scholarship is a welcome breeze of clarity.

—Adam Chandler
Cornell Univ. Library

Reference

13-2-0235

Hall, Carolyn and Pérez Brignoli, Héctor. *Historical Atlas of Central America*. Norman: Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 2003. 336 pp. Illus. by John V. Cotter. ISBN 0-8061-3037-7, \$99.95.

This lavishly illustrated and eloquently written oversized atlas is a valuable contribution to the literature on Central

▼ continued reference

America and essential as a reference tool. Hall, retired professor of geography at the Universidad de Costa Rica, and Pérez Brignoli, professor of history at Universidad de Costa Rica, have combined with John V. Cotter, assistant professor of geography at Southwestern University, to produce probably the best single work currently available on the history and geography of Central America.

The authors have divided the atlas into five sections that reflect a logical examination of Central America. The first two sections look at the environment, territory, and patterns of cultural change. The third examines colonial societies. The fourth and fifth sections investigate the formation of national societies and the challenge of development. Each section is divided into subtopics that contain interpretive essays and richly colored maps that support the text. Whereas the organization and illustrations are outstanding, what stands out the most are the intuitive and well-written essays. Hall and Brignoli have a writing style that packs a tremendous amount of information into a small space. Their analysis and synthesis is superb. Additionally, to aid the reader, a glossary and list of primary and secondary sources is included. The only criticism of the volume is that the sources would have been more useful as a bibliographical reference at the end of each essay. Nevertheless, this is a work that should be a part of any library collection.

—James C. Harrison
Siena College

13-2-0236

Méndez-Méndez, Serafín and Cueto, Gail A. **Notable Caribbeans and Caribbean Americans: A Biographical Dictionary**. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2003. 488 pp. ISBN 0-313-31443-8, \$74.95.

The authors have provided a valuable resource with this, the first biographical dictionary to be dedicated entirely to Caribbeans and Caribbean Americans who have excelled in a variety of fields and have had an impact on the region. There are 167 brief biographies of individuals in such fields as politics, entertainment, sports, art, literature, and journalism.

Despite their major contributions, some are little-known Caribbeans whose achievements may never have received broad acclamation if not for this publication. Caribbeans from all the Islands as well as those in Canada and the United States are also included. Some Caribbeans listed are the Manley family of Jamaica, Fidel Castro of Cuba, Eric Holder of Barbados, Frantz Fanon of Martinique, Gus Edwards (an Antiguan American), Mervyn M. Dymally (a Trinidadian American), Justino Díaz of Puerto Rico, and Oscar de la Renta (a Dominican American), to name just a few.

This text will serve as an inspiration to young Caribbeans who will now be able to read about a large number of role models. The fact that all these biographies can now be found under one cover highlights the impressive caliber of so many who hail from that region, also enhancing its inspirational value to this and future generations.

This text should be in the reference section of all good

libraries and should be added as a resource to reading lists in history, sociology, social studies, Caribbean studies, and literature classes.

—Diana Budhai
College of St. Rose, Albany, N.Y.

Juvenile

Primary (Gr. P-3)**13-2-0237**

Anderson, Pamela D. **My New School**. Carson, Calif.: Watch Me Grow Kids, 2003. 24 pp. Illus. by Han Lee and Stacie Wu. ISBN 1-932555-01-3, \$12.95 (pb).

The author of this first book published by Watch Me Grow Kids is a working professional and mother. There are four stories that address the transitions faced in toddlerhood. The characters are drawn with African American, Latino, Asian, or Caucasian features; the main character, Mike, is an African-American boy who takes readers through his day at preschool.

The premise is to reassure children, as the pictures reflect excited preschoolers enjoying both new and familiar objects and routines, such as cubbies for storing a new backpack, sharing snacks and toys, and child-size furniture and potty chairs. The ultimate reassurance, at the conclusion, is that Mommy or Daddy *will* come back for them.

The text is simple, with each page containing a phrase or sentence. Intermittent words are printed in upper case for rhythmic emphasis while reading aloud. The illustrations, cartoonlike with black, bold outlines, utilize bright primary colors; the expressive, oversized faces are happy and inquisitive. Reading and books are shown as a valued part of the preschool routine.

Recommended for libraries, day care centers, and personal collections, its simplicity will make this title a favorite among toddlers. A familiar concept is explored to successfully reassure the fears of the youngest.

—Jane Minotti
West Sand Lake (N.Y.) Library

13-2-0238

Baca, Ana. **Chiles for Benito/Chiles para Benito**. Houston, Tex.: Piñata Books, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Anthony Accardo. Bilingual (English-Spanish) ed. Spanish translation by José Juan Colín. ISBN 1-55885-389-8, \$14.95.

Bertrand, Diane Gonzales. **The Empanadas That Abuela Made/Las empanadas que hacía la abuela**. Houston, Tex.: Piñata Books, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Alex Pardo DeLange. Bilingual (English-Spanish) ed. Spanish translation by Gabriela Baeza Ventura. ISBN 1-55885-388-X, \$14.95.

These two entertaining picture books celebrate two traditional Mexican foods, empanadas (pastry turnovers filled with a meat, vegetable, or fruit filling) and red chile peppers (typically dried and used in sauces or stews). In *The*

Empanadas That Abuela Made/Las empanadas que hacía la abuela, the author brings together food and family in a tasty variation of “The House that Jack Built.” This cumulative tale starts with “These are the empanadas that Abuela made.” The text builds to a crescendo, adding one item with each turn of the page: first pumpkin, then dough, a rolling pin, grandchildren, Abuelo, a dog, cousins, the family, Abuela herself, milk, and finally the happy faces of the family eating the empanadas. The final two-page spread shows Abuela dreaming of the happy faces of her family as they eat her cooking. The illustrations are of average quality in a simple cartoon style with white backgrounds. They follow the text closely, showing an oversized rolling pin as large as a tree trunk, smiling family members dancing and laughing, and lots of pumpkins with curling vines that serve as decorative page borders.

In *Chiles for Benito/Chiles para Benito*, the main character from *Benito’s Bizcochitos/Los bizcochitos de Benito* is back again. This time he stars in a variation of “Jack and the Beanstalk” in which he trades the family milk cow for magical seeds that sprout into scores of red chile pepper plants instead of a giant beanstalk. Benito was young Cristina’s great-grandfather, and Cristina’s grandmother tells the story of Benito and the red chiles to her granddaughter as they string together red chiles to hang out to dry. A semicircle of red chile peppers and green leaves serves as a dividing line between the English and Spanish versions of the text on each left-hand page, while each right-hand page is comprised of a full-page drawing. The vivid artwork is filled with color, especially reds and greens, which echo the colors of the chile peppers and chile pepper leaves that fill many of the pages. Suspense builds nicely throughout the story, making it a good choice to read aloud in group situations, and the illustrations are large enough and varied enough to be visible to groups of listeners.

Both books are fully bilingual in Spanish and English, adding to the ever-growing body of bilingual picture books. And both books include recipes, one for pumpkin empanadas, and the other for red chile sauce. (Both recipes are quite involved and require adult assistance.) Read these two books together as a comforting appetizer for a spicy Mexican meal, or as part of a delicious food-themed story time.

—Denise Agosto
Drexel Univ.

13-2-0239

Battle-Lavert, Gwendolyn. *Papa’s Mark*. New York: Holiday House, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Colin Bootman. ISBN 0-8234-1650-X, \$16.95.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Fishing Day*. New York: Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Shane W. Evans. ISBN 0-7868-0766-0, \$15.99.

Simms, an African-American boy whose father, Samuel, is determined to vote, is equally determined to have Papa sign with a signature—not the usual X—and to face danger

as black men begin voting. Simms and Samuel, successful in their teaching and learning to write, demonstrate the strength of a father-son bond and provide leadership models for others who fearfully participate in the first black male vote during Reconstruction.

In *Fishing Day*, Mama and Reenie, an African-American mother and daughter, fish because they like to fish. Mr. Troop and Peter, a white father and son, fish in order to eat but fail to use the right bait. Both families maintain appropriate Jim Crow distances, even while sharing the riverbank. Reenie knows corn kernels catch carp; Peter doesn’t know skipping stones scares away fish, but throwing stones at Reenie, whom he injures, will ultimately lead to an act of kindness.

Both books are richly illustrated, engaging, appropriate for ages six to ten, and show how accepting differences often comes through children. Each, however, fails to specifically locate the reader historically and geographically; one must rely on author notes (*Papa’s Mark*) and illustrations (mid-twentieth-century truck in *Fishing Day*) for important information—and each is problematic in its own way.

Battle-Lavert’s author notes are helpful but incomplete. She explains that post-Civil War poll taxes and literacy tests kept black men from voting, but she does not draw parallels to today’s intentional voting barriers. The story ends with “Papa voted. Lamar County changed”—mysterious (where in the world is Lamar County?) and inaccurate in suggesting that restricted access for African Americans is a thing of the past. Additionally, the inability to write was not particular to black folks. Finally, because white retribution is a prominent part of the story, Battle-Lavert needed to indicate why Mr. Jones, the white storekeeper, is so accepting. Is he a former abolitionist? Jewish? Just an exception? The anomaly is confusing.

Pinkney’s author notes are revealing. She likens Reenie to herself as a young girl, believing in the value of befriending others: “*Fishing Day* comes from the belief that generosity and kindness reach beyond all boundaries.” But *Fishing Day* is a huge message story not to be taken lightly. Gender-wise, women and girls who do know are, once again, taking care of men and boys who don’t know, not only despite intentional physical harm but also often within “turn the other cheek” rationales. Once again and despite danger and violence, African Americans are depicted as taking care of white folks.

In terms of multicultural education for social justice, guidance by informed teachers or parents is necessary. Silent reading without informed background building is not recommended.

—Mary Elizabeth McEntee
Ann Arbor, Mich.

13-2-0240

Byrd, Lee Merrill. *The Treasure on Gold Street/El tesoro en la calle de oro: A Neighborhood Story in English and Spanish*. El Paso, Tex.: Cinco Puntos Press, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Antonio Castro L. Bilingual (English-Spanish) ed. Spanish translation by Sharon Franco. ISBN 0-938317-75-X, \$16.95.

This heartwarming story focuses on the real meaning of

▼ continued **primary (gr. p-3)**

friendship and community. Set in El Paso, Texas, it captures the friendship between a developmentally delayed woman, Isabel, and her young friend and neighbor, Hannah.

Hannah and Isabel are inseparable as they share childhood pastimes. What makes this special friendship unique is that Isabel is forever a child in an adult's body. As we later learn at the end of the book, this is a true story about Isabel and the timeless friendship that she has shared not only with Hannah, but also with Hannah's mother and grandmother, who is the author of the book. The bilingual script is well developed and reflects the warmth of this tale about the beauty of the human spirit.

The artwork, a mixture of realism and childlike representations, is a collaborative effort of a father and son who have successfully captured the elements of childhood and adulthood in a playful manner blending graphic design and traditional illustrations.

—Melanie Pores
Albany (N.Y.) City School District

13-2-0241

Campbell, Bebe Moore. ***Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry***. New York: Putnam, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by E. B. Lewis. ISBN 0-399-23972-3, \$16.99.

Smith, Patricia. ***Janna and the Kings***. New York: Lee & Low, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Aaron Boyd. ISBN 1-58430-088-4, \$16.95.

Both Moore and Smith have written sensitive and compassionate stories about the coping strategies of two young African-American girls—one of whom struggles with the loss of a beloved family member, while the other copes with a parent's mental illness. Both girls survive their challenges through the love and support of family, friends, and their respective communities.

In *Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry*, Annie's mother, who suffers from bipolar disorder, a form of mental illness, has both good days and bad days. On good days, Annie's home is bustling with happy activities as her mother helps her prepare for school and makes pancakes for breakfast. On the bad days Annie's mom yells and her mood darkens immensely. Annie calls her grandmother, who reassures Annie that her mother's illness has nothing to do with her and that her mother still loves her. The grandmother also tells Annie that her mother has a problem but is not getting the help she needs. On days like these, Annie prepares her own after-school snacks, takes a bath, and gets herself ready for bed.

Annie also knows that besides her grandmother's loving support, there are others she can rely on when she really feels scared. Her two special friends, Carmen and Jasmine, are sisters who tell Annie their mom says it's okay to come by their home after school. Annie also remembers to think happy thoughts during the bad times. This is best-selling novelist Campbell's first children's book. In the author's note Campbell says the book was written to address the concerns of children with parents who suffer from mental illness and to offer them ways to cope. She goes on to explain the dif-

ferent forms of mental illness. Lewis's warm, realistic illustrations are a perfect accompaniment to this heartfelt story.

Janna and the Kings reveals the special relationship between a young girl and her grandfather. Every Saturday Janna eagerly awaits her granddaddy's visits. While she waits, her mother fixes her braids, and she plays with her baby brother Rashid. When Janna's granddaddy walks with her through the neighborhood, everyone seems to know him and wave hello. The two of them grab a quick morning snack and talk about the good old days when her mother jumped double dutch and "granddaddy had all his hair." They later stop at a favorite spot, Terrell's barbershop, where Janna's granddaddy joins the rest of his friends. To Janna, they are all kings, whose barbershop chairs are like thrones. When the men shower her with love and attention, Janna feels like a special princess among the kings. After granddaddy's sudden and unexpected death, everything changes for Janna, who feels that nothing will ever be the same again. With courage and the support of family and friends, she eventually learns to cope with her loss. Smith said she was inspired by her own childhood memories of barbershop visits with her father. Boyd's watercolor paintings are captivating. Young readers are sure to cherish these warmhearted stories of love and courage.

—Valerie A. Canady
Johnston, R.I.

13-2-0242

Collins, David R. ***Clarence Thomas: Fighter with Words***. Gretna, La.: Pelican Publications, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Rosalie M. Shepherd. ISBN 1-56554-862-0, \$14.95.

Clarence Thomas was born in 1948 in Pin Point, Georgia, and lived in a tiny wooden house without indoor plumbing. Leola Thomas raised her children to sing songs praising the Lord. When his father abandoned his family, Mrs. Thomas tried to support the family by working as a domestic servant, but she eventually sent her two boys to live with her father in Savannah.

Thomas was taught by nuns who continued his strong religious training, and he excelled in athletics and scholarship. He wasn't able to visit the segregated public library or play in Savannah's parks. He was tormented by black children who teased him about his very dark skin.

After finishing high school, Thomas entered a seminary to become a priest, but the insensitivity of a fellow seminarian to the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. convinced him to leave the seminary. After attending Yale Law School he went to work for the Missouri attorney general, John Danforth. Thomas rose through the ranks of political appointees, culminating with his appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Thematically, the author stresses how Thomas dealt with poverty, discrimination, and injustice with words and not fists. His beliefs in God and education were the tools he used to build his successful career in politics and law.

Very poor editing mars the book. Several sentences are fragments or just don't make sense. The artwork is the weak-

est part of the book; many pictures of well-known individuals are unrecognizable.

—Reeves Smith
Madison (Wis.) Metropolitan School District

13-2-0243

Compestine, Ying Chang. ***The Story of Paper***. New York: Holiday House, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by YongSheng Xuan. ISBN 0-8234-1705-0, \$16.95.

The idea of illustrating the story of paper with paper cuts is brilliant. The bright primary colors outlined with heavy black lines make the illustrations look as though the paper cuts actually sit on the page. This picture book can elicit delight on the merit of the illustrations alone.

The story is another story. It is not the story of paper. It tries to mimic the pattern of a nursery tale, with repetition of phrases, but it becomes merely predictable and tiresome. Three boys have trouble concentrating on school lessons, being distracted, respectively, by ants, grasshoppers, and worms. They wish the teacher would write on something besides their hands. So they invent paper. Helping their mother pound rice, they conceive the idea of pounding to a pulp bits of rag, silk, twigs, leaves, and bark and straining the mush to form paper. While this was indeed the process used, the story is a little too contrived to be quite believable. This is about as respectful to Chinese history as writing a story about three American pioneer children who get tired of using candles so they invent the light bulb. The real story is more interesting.

A lengthy author's note at the end tells us that paper has been made in China for over 2,000 years, with improvements credited to a court official named Ts'ai Lun. The name is misspelled Ts'ei in the note. Another note explains how to make your own paper, a nice addition, but the illustration does not match the process described.

Although China is credited with the invention of paper, we hope that no one makes the mistake of taking this picture book for real Chinese history.

—Ginny Lee
Syracuse, N.Y.

13-2-0244

Cox, Judy. ***My Family Plays Music***. New York: Holiday House, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Elbrite Brown. ISBN 0-8234-1591-0, \$16.95.

Cox presents an engaging introduction to music for young readers. The narrator, a musically gifted African-American girl, introduces ten members of her family, each of whom plays a different musical instrument. Each musician is shown in his or her appropriate venue. Her sister Emily plays clarinet in the marching band, Mom plays fiddle in a country and western band, and Aunt Saffron plays vibes in a jazz combo. The little girl herself plays a different instrument with each family member. When her great-grandmother plays the pipe organ on Sunday mornings in St. Peter's Cathedral, she plays

the handbell. Dad plays cello in a string quartet at Symphony Hall while wearing a black tailcoat and white bow tie. The young girl plays a triangle when she performs with him. Her little niece follows in the musical family's footsteps by banging pots and pans on the kitchen floor.

Brown's use of colorful cut paper adds to the story's charm. The back of the book features an illustrated glossary, which defines each form of music along with its instrumental roots and origins. Bluegrass, which grandma plays, is a type of traditional country music. Rock 'n' roll began in the 1950s from a combination of blues and country. Brother Paul plays lead guitar in a rock 'n' roll band. The young girl enjoys celebrating her family's mutual love of music, and readers will enjoy this book, too.

—Valerie A. Canady
Johnston, R.I.

13-2-0245

Fisher, Leonard Everett. ***The Gods and Goddesses of Ancient China***. New York: Holiday House, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by the author. ISBN 0-8234-1694-1, \$16.95.

Johari, Harish and Sperling, Vatsala. ***How Ganesh Got His Elephant Head: Classic Indian Stories for Children***. Rochester, Vt.: Bear Cub Books/Inner Traditions, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Pieter Weltevrede. ISBN 1-59143-021-6, \$15.95.

Partridge, Elizabeth. ***Kogi's Mysterious Journey***. New York: Dutton, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Aki Sogabe. ISBN 0-525-47078-6, \$17.99.

These books touch on the mythology and folklore of their respective countries—China, India, and Japan—with varying degrees of success.

Fisher's work seemed the most promising, in light of his imaginative *The Great Wall of China* (Macmillan, 1986), but this new book is a disappointment. Although his introduction explains that Chinese deities were not formally worshiped like gods of other cultures, many of his selections are fantastic characters of Chinese literature and culture rather than gods. Sun Wukong, the Monkey King from *Journey to the West*, and Guan Gong, the heroic warrior from the *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, might have achieved "heavenly" status for their deeds in their books and even have Chinese operas based on them, but they are seldom remembered as deities. Neither of these classic novels is mentioned as a source in the bibliography. The pronunciation guide is also off when it states that the Chinese surnames Wang and Lang rhyme with the English word hang, whereas the vowel should sound more like "ah." Perhaps with better editing and a change of focus to great folk characters rather than gods, this might make a suitable ready reference work.

Johari and Sperling are more successful focusing on one Indian god, and the inclusion of a "cast of characters" simply introducing the other involved Indian deities is very helpful. The *pourquoi* style is also very appealing to younger readers/listeners, especially those who have had the chance to see a portrait or statue of the fantastic elephant-headed Ganesh.

▼ continued **primary (gr. p-3)**

The story plays out themes of loyalty and devotion very thoughtfully. Only the sacrifice of the baby elephant's life to restore Ganesh may be too intense for very young readers/listeners. Added material for parents or teachers making this ancient story relevant to modern children is a bonus.

Partridge is the most imaginative in her retelling of a Japanese folktale about how one artist captures the essence of life in his paintings of fish. Sogabe's illustrations wonderfully complement Partridge's words about Kogi the painter, who is magically transformed into a fish, enabling him to appreciate the freedom and spirit of the fish. The shock of his transformation back into a human being is offset by the suggestion that his experience might have been a dream, but it could still be unsettling for very young readers/listeners. The last scene of Kogi pouring his paintings back into the water and watching them swim away as live fish is magical. This book suggests pairing with Demi's *Liang and the Magic Paintbrush* (Holt, 1988), in which Liang's paintings also come to life, or even one of the British Arthurian legends in which the young Arthur is transformed into various animals by Merlin as part of his training to become king.

—Suzanne D. Li
Queens College, City Univ. of New York

13-2-0246

Hoffman, Mary. *The Color of Home*. New York: Dial/Phyllis Fogelman Books, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Karin Littlewood. ISBN 0-8037-2841-7, \$15.99.

This interesting and important book by a renowned children's author is the story of a young boy named Hassan who has just arrived in America from Somalia. Although his teacher and the children in his class try to make him feel at home on his first day in school, his limited vocabulary and the gray colors of his new surroundings contribute to his feelings of loneliness and sadness. The opportunity to tell the story of his homeland in war-torn Somalia comes in art class when he paints a brightly colored picture depicting the war that was the reason for his family's move from Somalia to America. A caring teacher and welcoming children enable Hassan to paint a second picture of his new house in America in colors just as bright as the one in Somalia. Things began to seem brighter as Hassan, under the care of his teacher, begins to adapt to his new friends and environment.

This beautiful, colorful book, illustrated by Karin Littlewood, will attract the interest and attention of children, but it has poignant messages for all ages. While children learn to reach out and embrace others who may be from different cultures, teachers also learn how important it is to affirm and learn about the cultures and backgrounds of all students in their classrooms. This book is ideal for children ages 8 through 12, or it can be read to younger children. *The Color of Home* should be in every library and on the bookshelf of anyone wishing to expand multicultural reading for themselves and their children.

—Diana Budhai
College of St. Rose, Albany, N.Y.

13-2-0247

Johnston, Tony. *A Kenya Christmas*. New York: Holiday House, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Leonard Jenkins. ISBN 0-8234-1623-2, \$16.95.

Johnston and Jenkins have created a highly imaginative story. During the Christmas season, Aunt Aida visits her family village. She arranges for "Father Christmas" on top of an elephant to distribute gifts to the village children. Rather than drinking milk, the standard beverage of rural communities, he drinks tea with the adults and listens to their wishes.

Although the writer is an award winner, the African content in this book reinforces stereotypes and distortions about Kenya. Moreover, it leads readers to misconceptions about Christianity in Kenya, the practice of Christmas in rural areas, and the domestication of wild animals. Although about 60 percent of urban Kenyans profess to be Christian, most rural Kenyans practice traditional religions and fear wild animals. Furthermore, cheetahs are notoriously difficult to domesticate. Aunt Aida's two adult cheetahs trivialize the presence of wild animals and their loss of habitat in Kenya. The African elephant that is designated as the "sleigh" for Father Christmas is not docile like those of India. It is highly unusual for any Kenyan to ride an African elephant.

This reviewer wonders why the author and illustrator did not portray a common Christmas celebration among practicing Christians in one of the Kenyan towns. The commercialism of Christmas in rural Kenya may also be a misrepresentation of the economy and pastoral lifestyle. Since the illustrations are realistic portrayals of people, the reader has no visual clue that the story is imaginary and should not be viewed as realistic. By reading this book, what information about Kenya do North Americans gain?

—Patricia S. Kuntz
Madison, Wis.

13-2-0248

Lindsey, Kathleen D. *Sweet Potato Pie*. New York: Lee & Low, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Charlotte Riley-Webb. ISBN 1-58430-061-2, \$16.95.

Sadie is nearly eight when a severe drought wipes out the crops on her family's farm. Except for the sweet potatoes. The family faces eviction and loss of their farm because Papa cannot repay his loan to the bank. In this story of strong family unity, everyone cooperates to raise the money needed. Mama gets the bright idea to make her delicious sweet potato pies to sell in town at the upcoming Harvest Celebration. Every member of this large African-American family pitches in. But getting the pies made proves harder than expected. Pigs running about the farm cause the loss of some of the precious milk provided by Lizzy the cow. Rastus the rooster guards the hen house and chases Sadie when she gathers eggs, causing her to lose a few. When Sadie and her brother Jake hitch their half-blind goat to a wagon and go for flour, the goat trips and the sack of flour breaks.

But in the end, the potatoes are cooked, mashed, and seasoned. Mama's wonderful pies go into the oven. The pies win a blue ribbon at the Harvest Celebration, and Mama gets orders to make more for sale at businesses in town. The farm is saved and a family enterprise is created! The recipe for the pie and its crust are included at the end of the book. Charlotte Riley-Webb's illustrations, done in rich, broad strokes and strong color, perfectly accompany Lindsey's text. Highly recommended.

—Bettye Stroud
Univ. of Georgia

13-2-0249

Morrow, Barbara Olenyik. ***A Good Night for Freedom.*** New York: Holiday House, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Leonard Jenkins. ISBN 0-8234-1709-3, \$16.95.

This book presents a white girl, Hallie, coming of age in a small town against the backdrop of slavery. While delivering butter to her neighbor as an errand for her mother, Hallie realizes that her Quaker neighbors are harboring runaways. In the end, when confronted by the slave hunters, Hallie must choose between obeying the law and turning the runaways in, or heeding her Pa's advice that sometimes what the law says and what a person feels come into conflict. When that happens, the individual has to search his or her heart, conscience, and values for the right answer.

Overall, Morrow handles Hallie's matter of conscience convincingly. In the end, when faced with an angry mob and the slave hunters, Hallie takes her father's words to heart, considers the situation, and then takes action based on her own decisions. The only place this book fails to meet its standard is in the color scheme. The illustrator explains his use of color to describe the situation, dark to represent danger and a lighter palette to describe triumph, but the color scheme does not change much. This is a good supplement for young readers, to enrich learning about the Underground Railroad, people's values, Quakers, and an example of problem solving.

—Melanie Atkins
Shepherd College

13-2-0250

Quick, Barbara. ***Even More/Todavía más.*** Green Bay, Wis.: Raven Tree Press, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Liz McGrath. Bilingual (English-Spanish) ed. Spanish translation by Eida de la Vega. ISBN 0-9720192-8-6, \$16.95.

In a wonderful dialogue between a mother and her child, the messages alternate from the voice of the mother to the voice of the child, and they reflect each stage of the child's life and relationship to the mother. The messages convey both good times and bad, but all of them demonstrate the warmth and love shared between the two.

The illustrations approximate children's artwork as it develops, accompanying the child's voice, and rich multicultural and well-developed pictures of mother and child

accompanying the text of the mother.

Together, the artwork and the simple text portray the bond and loving relationship shared between this mother and child in a very meaningful way. I found this bilingual text inviting for early readers as an opportunity to reflect on the special relationship we share with our mothers and the sense of unconditional love it conveyed between a mother and child.

—Melanie Pores
Albany (N.Y.) City School District

13-2-0251

Shea, Peggy Dietz. ***The Carpet Boy's Gift.*** Gardiner, Me.: Tilbury House, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Leane Morin. ISBN 0-88448-248-0, \$16.95.

The Carpet Boy's Gift is a picture book with a strong human rights message. It deals with the practice of bonded child labor, where children are forced to work in factories to pay off their family's debts. The protagonist, Nadeem, the oldest boy in a Pakistani rug factory, is told by a former carpet boy, Iqbal, that new laws have abolished bonded labor. Nadeem and his fellow workers then confront their boss with this unwelcome information.

While the story is fictional, Iqbal is based on a real carpet boy who worked to liberate others in the same situation. Unfortunately, after receiving the Reebok Youth in Action Award and special recognition at the International Labor Conference, Iqbal Masih was shot dead while riding his bicycle in his hometown. He was only 12 years old.

The author has provided generous resources so that readers can take action to help eliminate the practice of bonded child labor. The beautifully framed watercolor illustrations are made to look like the carpets that figure so strongly in the story. [For older readers, Francesco D'Adamo's *Iqbal*, reviewed in the intermediate section of this issue, covers the same subject.]

—Gail S. Taylor
Old Dominion Univ.

13-2-0252

Siegelson, Kim L. ***Dancing the Ring Shout!*** New York: Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Lisa Cohen. ISBN 0-7868-0453-X, \$15.99.

Tonight, Toby's family will dance the ring shout, thanking God for their bountiful harvest and the year's blessings at Appling Farm. Couched in slave tradition, the ring shout incorporates song, dance, and praise, with each member of Toby's family using whatever instrument he or she possesses to "speak to God's ears." Grand will thump the ground with his cane, Pap will use his hoop drum, Mam says she'll use her cooking tins, and Pearl will use a gourd. Though Toby tries clanging a cowbell, banging two sticks, and rubbing stiff horse brushes together, he does not feel his heart speaking to God. Grand tells him that even while their ancestors were enslaved, they danced the ring shout at harvest time because the work was over; their hearts found ways to speak to God.

▼ continued **primary (gr. p-3)**

Grand is sure Toby will find a way, too. And he does: He uses his hands.

Siegelson, an award-winning author, includes an author's note explaining the Southern tradition of the ring shout and adds that the tradition survives today in a number of African-American communities in South Carolina and Georgia. Lisa Cohen's "swirling" illustrations are painted in a vivid rainbow of colors. This title is not to be missed!

—Bettye Stroud
Univ. of Georgia

13-2-0253

Vaughn, Marcia. ***Up the Learning Tree***. New York: Lee & Low, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Derek Blanks. ISBN 1-58430-049-3, \$16.95.

Invoking reference to Gordon Parks's 1969 movie *The Learning Tree*, a story about an African-American boy's moral and social education during the 1920s, Vaughn's text is also about an oppressed African-American boy's education. Based on various slave narratives, Vaughn's historical fiction picture book is about an enslaved boy who learns to read. One of the ways Henry, the protagonist, learns is similar to an account told by Frederick Douglass in his slave narrative when he assumes the role of Trickster and manipulates a white boy into giving him a writing lesson. But literacy acquisition is a dangerous pursuit for both a slave and the white Northern female teacher who assists him in his lessons.

While the context of the book is historically accurate, Vaughn's attempt to write in the rhythm of the language of an enslaved boy is uneven in places, but it does not diminish the story or her research. The illustrations by Derek Blanks are beautiful. They extend the story and are historically and culturally accurate. This is Blanks's first picture book and hopefully the beginning of a productive career.

—Laretta Henderson
Central Michigan Univ.

13-2-0254

Vernick, Audrey Glassman and Gidaro, Ellen Glassman. ***Bark & Tim: A True Story of Friendship Based on the Paintings of Tim Brown***. Johnson City, Tenn.: Overmountain Press, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Tim Brown. ISBN 1-57072-271-4, \$14.95.

Tim Brown (1924–) is a self-taught African-American artist who returned to his native Mississippi after service in the armed forces and work in California. This story describes the daily activities of a boy and his dog in a rural setting long ago. Bark is Tim's longed-for present one Christmas. Although Brown's rendering of Bark makes him look like a one-headed Cerberus, he is "gentle, even if his smile was a little toothy." Together they fish and fly kites. Alone, Bark chases Mrs. Brown's cat and Tim paints. He uses his father's house paint for this, his favorite activity after playing with Bark. Eventually Bark dies, and he remains Tim's best-remembered pet out of the many who follow him.

Tim Brown has illustrated these scenes of long-past family life—the cat's fur standing on end, Mrs. Brown chasing Bark with her broom—with paintings that are described as "outsider" or "visionary" art. Definitions of these terms by major museums are provided, as is a web site address. Children will likely respond to Brown's work—so direct and simple as he shows us birds, a lake, the sun, and children playing. Biographical information is provided, and there is a self-portrait of the artist.

—Betty Kaplan Gubert
New York, N.Y.

13-2-0255

Weller, Frances Ward. ***The Day the Animals Came: A Story of Saint Francis Day***. New York: Putnam/Philomel, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Loren Long. ISBN 0-399-23630-9, \$16.99.

Weller has written a charming picture book about the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi as it is celebrated in New York City. Each year, people and animals gather at the Episcopal cathedral of Saint John the Divine on the Upper West Side of Manhattan for a spectacular celebration. Ria, the little girl in the story, experiences firsthand the outpouring of prayer, dance, and music during the Mass of the Earth celebrated on the first Sunday of October of each year.

A new resident of New York City, Ria misses her Puerto Rican home and her pets. Mrs. Blum, her neighbor, takes Ria on an unforgettable adventure as they join the thousands of people and animals who have gathered at the world's largest Gothic cathedral to commemorate Saint Francis, the patron saint of animals and ecology. The highlight of the celebration is the grand procession and the blessing of animals by the bishop.

The illustrations by Loren Long are warm and engaging. The foldout illustration of the grand animal procession is delightful and reverently captures the spirit of harmony and community so important to the celebration on the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi.

—Michèle Pollard
Academy of the Holy Names, Albany, N.Y.

Intermediate (Gr. 4-6)

13-2-0256

Atilasoy, Yuksel. ***Mustafa Kemal Ataturk: First President and Founder of the Turkish Republic***. Woodside, N.Y.: Woodside House, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 0-9712353-4-1, \$14.00.

This simple biography aimed at fourth through eighth grade students will go over the heads of most of its target audience. Younger students will have a hard time understanding this book due to word selection or vocabulary being at a higher reading level. In addition, it lacks historical details necessary to be useful to older students working on reports. Since the writing is so full of grammatical errors and poor sentence structure, this reviewer was forced to reread passages for clarification.

Atillasoy jumps rapidly through Ataturk's life in an attempt to keep the text brief. Unfortunately, such a treatment leaves the reader wanting clarification, since key points are left out. Some items included on the important dates list at the end of the book are not even covered in the text. Maps throughout the text would have been helpful; however, the only map is located on the last page of the main body of the book. The glossary contains only half of the terms that need explanation. Though longer, Frank Tachau's *Kemal Ataturk* (Chelsea House, 1987) does a much better job of covering the subject.

—Jason S. Russo
Library, Prairie View A & M Univ.

13-2-0257

Carus, Marianne. ***Celebrate Cricket: 30 Years of Stories and Art***. Chicago: Cricket Books, 2003. 260 pp. Illus. ISBN 0-8126-2695-8, \$24.95.

More than just a review of the celebrated and widely loved magazine for children (and other people), this book is a tribute to the inspiration and effort that gave birth to *Cricket*. It is a history of how it all came about, including vignettes and remembrances of the people who made it happen, and a sampling of the deliriously funny, thought-provoking, and heartrendingly poignant stories that have been *Cricket's* signature for the past 30 years.

Offered in full as examples of *Cricket* are stories and poems from literary greats, some translated from other languages, complete with the original accompanying illustrations. Interspersed among the two dozen or so wonderful stories are congratulatory essays by authors, editors, and other admirers of *Cricket*, almost to excess. The stories and poems themselves are so inspiring and brilliant that they speak for themselves and hardly need the pages of exaltation.

Trina Schart Hyman's original cricket and his pals—Ladybug, George the earthworm, Sluggo the snail, and Ugly Bird—appear here, and there are 15 pages of reproductions of some of the best *Cricket* magazine covers.

From *Cricket's* first chirp through 30 years of publication, including his progeny: *Ladybug*, *Babybug*, *Spider*, *Cicada*, *Muse*, *Ask*, and *Click*, magazines for various special ages, here is the story of how a handful of "luminaries" gathered stories both literary and enticing to offer children a view of excellence in both writing and illustration that would awaken their imagination, lauded by Plato as the whole point of education. Three million cheers for *Cricket!*

—Ginny Lee
Syracuse, N.Y.

13-2-0258

D'Adamo, Francesco. ***Iqbal***. New York: Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 2003. 121 pp. ISBN 0-689-85445-5, \$15.95.

Iqbal is the part-documentary, part-fictional account of the life of Iqbal Masih, a 13-year-old Pakistani boy. The novel is told through the perspective of a Pakistani girl, Fatima, who is, when we meet her, trapped inside the prison of bond-

ed child labor inside a carpet-making factory in Pakistan. Fatima, Iqbal, and many others work from sunrise to sunset in order to pay off their families' debts. The conditions are horrible: little food, incredible heat, and physical exhaustion. Hussain Khan, the master, rules by fear. The slightest mistake warrants a trip down to the highly feared "Tomb," where starvation and seclusion are the punishments.

Iqbal teaches his friends that this world is not acceptable: "This kind of life isn't right...we shouldn't be chained to our looms and forced to work like slaves." Iqbal escapes the prison he is in and eventually liberates his coworkers. He and Fatima then join forces with the Bonded Labor Liberation Front and free hundreds more from the chains of bonded labor. Their efforts are marked by opposition, however, and they receive several "warnings" to end their lofty cause. The final warning is tragic and ends Iqbal's short but meaningful life.

Iqbal is a beautiful story for all ages. It proves that one person, no matter how young, can make a difference. [Younger readers would also appreciate *The Carpet Boy's Gift* by Peggy Dietz Shea, reviewed in the primary section of this issue.]

—Nishi Langhorne
Clifton, Va.

13-2-0259

Hoffman, Mary and Lassiter, Rhiannon, eds. ***Lines in the Sand: New Writing on War and Peace***. New York: Frances Lincoln; dist. by The Disinformation Company, 2003. 300 pp. Illus. ISBN 0-9729529-1-8, \$7.95 (pb).

This collection of more than 150 poems, stories, and illustrations is an invaluable tool for teaching children about history, war, and peace and is highly recommended for ages 9 to 14. The book was initially inspired by recent events in Iraq, but the subject matter ranges from a thirteenth-century Crusade to recent conflicts in Nigeria, the Falklands, Kosovo, and South Africa and includes what was happening in Iraq in 2003.

The anthology is in six parts: The Road to War, Captive Audience, Strange Meetings, In the Ruins, The World We Made, and Seeds of Hope. Each section covers a general topic, such as how war starts, what we see and feel during wartime, cultural barriers to communication, misconceptions created by war, devastation and ruin, and hope for activism and change.

A collaborative effort by talented writers and illustrators from all over the world, the book is designed to elicit thoughtful discussion about the impact of war on individuals and families. The passages and illustrations evoke emotion. Each piece has an anti-war message that will serve as a call to peace in a troubled world. All royalties and profits will go to UNICEF.

—Robyn DeSantis Ringler
Ballston Lake, N.Y.

13-2-0260

Hoobler, Dorothy and Hoobler, Thomas. ***We Are Americans: Voices of the Immigrant Experience***. New York: Scholastic,

Functioning nicely as a wide-angle preface to the Hooblers' essential "Family Album" series (Oxford University Press, 1994–1997), this history of immigration to North America begins with a sheaf of recent theories about the continent's prehistoric settlers—and the notion that the Americas have been a "melting pot" from the get-go—and ends with notes on the distinctive immigrant communities of today. In between, the book chronicles the whole history of the United States, with special reference to the role immigrants have played in it.

The authors give these immigrants voices with hundreds of direct, attributed quotes: some, pithy expressions of hope, fear, anxiety, relief, or joy; others, brief anecdotal passages recounting an ocean voyage, a first impression of the new land, or a telling instance of discrimination, harassment, sweatshop conditions, or other challenges. Despite its disappointingly skimpy bibliography and index, this book outclasses Sanders's *Immigrants* (HarperCollins, 1995) in level of detail if not in visual appeal, as the black-and-white photos here are small and often murky. It will not only give middle grade readers insight into why immigrants came to this country, and who they are/were, but will also provide a bright picture of the profound effects immigrants have had on our history, culture, and national spirit.

—John Peters
New York Public Library

13-2-0261

Johnson, Angela. ***A Cool Moonlight***. New York: Dial, 2003. 133 pp. ISBN 0-8037-2846-8, \$14.99.

This is a story about the life and thoughts of an eight-year-old with a rare skin disease—Xeroderma pigmentosum. The patient is so sensitive to sunlight that sunblock, sunglasses, and the proper clothing become necessary to survival. Her father, sister, and friends take her out at night so that she is in fact a "moon girl." In her room she keeps a "sun bag," in which she collects various things she finds for use when she becomes "like most people." As she nears her ninth birthday, she learns to accept reality and the fact that there is "nothing wrong with moon girls." She also realizes that other people don't have to like her, just to understand.

The style is very dreamy and almost poetic, yet real enough so that the reader understands the thoughts of the main character. The similarities between "most people" and the "moon girl" by far outweigh the differences. The young reader can easily identify with the dreams and wishes of the girl and through this, possibly come closer to understanding and accepting someone with a disability that makes the other person a bit different. What this reviewer particularly enjoyed was that the author, without "writing down" to her audience, never loses the sense that the main character is a child.

—Ruth G. Becker

13-2-0262

Macaulay, David. ***Mosque***. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003. 96 pp. Illus. by the author. ISBN 0-618-24034-9, \$18.00.

Readers who are neither engineers nor architects may not have thought much about the construction of mosques at the end of the sixteenth century. But early on in *Mosque* the reader will find himself or herself gripped with curiosity about the project and eager to find out what happens next.

Macaulay, author of *Cathedral* and *Pyramid*, adds this work at a time when interest in Islam and the Muslim world is growing. The fictional narrative is based on historical fact and architectural examples of buildings erected in Istanbul, 1540 to 1580. A retired admiral decides to show his faith and to give thanks for his life by building a mosque and other structures for his community. They are a *turbe* (a tomb) for himself, a *medrese* (a school and dormitory), an *imaret* (kitchen, bakery, and public dining room), a *hamam* (bath house), and a *cesme* (a fountain). Macaulay recreates the world in which they were built. He lists the materials needed and how they were obtained. Step by step, he describes and draws with great clarity the techniques employed to create the domes, the minaret, and all the other features of these seven buildings. Rich architectural drawings are enhanced by a text bringing to life budgetary and weather conditions, as well as the variety of workers that were needed: bricklayers, blacksmiths, watchmen, porters, and boatmen, among others. Highly recommended.

—Betty Kaplan Gubert
New York, N.Y.

13-2-0263

Thomas, Joyce Carol, ed. ***Linda Brown, You Are Not Alone: The Brown v. Board of Education Decision***. New York: Hyperion, 2004. 114 pp. Illus. by Curtis James. ISBN 0-7868-0821-7, \$15.99.

Award-winning author Thomas has compiled a compelling collection of essays, stories, and poems touching on the *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision in 1954 that mandated the desegregation of public schools. All the pieces, written by both black and white authors, such as Lois Lowry, Eloise Greenfield, Michael Cart, and Ishmael Reed, hearken back to a "separate but equal" America, a time when black children helped pave the way to a better society by braving the hostility of institutions previously off-limits to them, a time each of these authors experienced as young people themselves.

In "The Prophet," Katherine Paterson relates an encounter with Martin Luther King Jr. Quincy Troupe's "St. Louis" points out both the beneficial and debilitating effects that desegregation had on black society. Joyce Carol Thomas's poem "Stormy Weather" relays the sad and infuriating experience of a girl who has to endure her mother being denied a much-needed glass of water at a gas station. By the end of the piece, Thomas offers a small triumph in the form of a quiet

miracle that inspires and sustains.

Linda Brown, You Are Not Alone provides interesting first-hand accounts and plenty of food for thought. The pieces are well written, honest, and unsentimental. Curtis James's full-page, precise pastels are an excellent pairing. Although the book is recommended for ages 10 and up, this collection is better suited for older or advanced readers due to sophistication of language.

—Jyna Scheeren
Troy (N.Y.) Public Library

Young Adult (Gr. 7 and up)

13-2-0264

Bedard, Michael, ed. *The Painted Wall: And Other Strange Tales*. Toronto: Tundra Books/McClelland & Stewart, 2003. 110 pp. ISBN 0-88776-652-8, \$16.95.

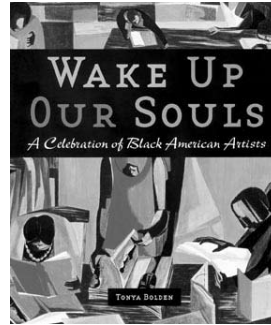
In the desire of the West to search for the soul of China—to discover what makes China China—we examine histories and scrutinize martial arts dictums, but even more revealing is this little collection of strange stories. It is a collection familiar to every Chinese.

The underlying messages of these tales are similar to our own fairy tales: It ill suits one to be greedy. A lowly life lived with honor is better than a life of luxury. Help given unconditionally will be returned a thousandfold. Here we find a Taoist priest who must deal with a student who comes to him with only a desire to learn a little magic in order to show off. A street magician procures a peach of immortality from Heaven with a startling performance. A fairy marries a mortal man, but fairy ways are ephemeral. People can enter paintings, and paintings can come to life. Foxes can take on the forms of men, and men can become animals or birds. A tiger can have human feelings and loyally serve a single person. The supernatural mingles with reality while the line between them fades.

Exceptionally true to the original Chinese and told with a

flowing and lyrical tone, these brief stories are both enticing and easy to read. There have been a number of translations of the Liao Chai (Strange Stories) in the last century or so, but this one has the advantages of being well presented and fresh, with a charming jacket cover, and it has an excellent explanatory introduction of several pages. This sparkling gem should be in the collection of every school library K-12.

—Ginny Lee
Syracuse, N.Y.



13-2-0265

Bolden, Tonya. *Wake Up Our Souls: A Celebration of Black American Artists*. New York: Abrams, 2004. 128 pp. Illus. Published in association with the Smithsonian American Art Museum. ISBN 0-81094-527-4, \$24.95.

This history of art for young adults and the general public is gracefully written and handsomely produced. It is well worth its modest price for home and institutional libraries.

Bolden chronicles the “wealth of visual expression” that has marked the creations of African Americans in painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography, collage, and assemblage. She includes much information that isn't just a rehash of facts found elsewhere but that appears to be the result of original research. The reproductions in color are often nearly a full page, and their captions have pertinent and insightful descriptions. In some cases, photographs of artists are included.

Beside the main point of this book, which is to introduce black artists and art, Bolden also clearly weaves into the narrative the economic and social conditions of different eras in American life. She moves with great ease from one artist to the next. A case in point is Betye Saar's literary moving

▼ continued **young adult (gr. 7 and up)**

description of her first sight of James Hampton's room-size foil-covered assemblage, then segueing into Saar's life and work. Both artists used found objects to create new works of mystery and power, although Hampton was a folk artist and Saar is educated in techniques and history.

Thirty-two artists are included, among them Felrath Hines, Winnie Owens-Hart, and Hughie Lee-Smith, who don't often appear in other works. Highly recommended, the book has an index, a bibliography, a glossary, and end notes.

—Betty Kaplan Gubert
New York, N.Y.

13-2-0266

Cole, Harriette. **Coming Together: Celebrations for African American Families.** New York: Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, 2003. 122 pp. Illus. with photos by John Pinderhughes. ISBN 0-7868-0753-9, \$22.99.

Instead of being a guide for Kwanzaa or family reunions alone, *Coming Together* is an instructional and resource guide for Kwanzaa, Christmas, naming ceremonies (also known as christening in some families), and family reunions. In each chapter Cole gives the context for the celebration—for example, the history, purpose, and principles of Kwanzaa—multiple ideas for activities, some resources, menu ideas, and recipes. In the first chapter, Kwanzaa is used to set the tone for the celebrations to be family and community-centered and eschews materialism in lieu of creativity; for instance, the reader is encouraged to set limits on purchased Christmas gifts and to make them when possible. Although the text doesn't flow from one celebration to the next very well, and many of the ideas are not original, there are many creative ideas all in one book.

Photographs of both the Cole and Pinderhughes families, among others, are interspersed throughout the text. While most of the photos feature black children and young adults, I was pleased to see that there are many images of intergenerational moments.

—Laretta Henderson
Central Michigan Univ.

13-2-0267

Creedon, Catherine. **Blue Wolf.** New York: HarperCollins, 2003. 182 pp. ISBN 0-06-050868-X, \$15.99.

Fourteen-year-old Jamie Park is just finishing a difficult school year, as it is the year his mother died. Communication with his Korean-born father is strained, but still he is somewhat dismayed when he learns he is being sent to live in a remote area with his Aunt Louise for the summer.

It is a summer of new experiences in a rural area living in a small house without the most basic conveniences, not even indoor plumbing. But Jamie falls into the rhythm of doing the essentials: gardening, caring for farm animals, foraging for and preserving food, and exploring. In the process, he learns that his family has an affinity with wild wolves. He

also discovers family secrets based on the musical, linguistic, and animal research of his scholarly parents, namely, that the music of ancient flutes can change wolves to people and people to wolves. Knowing this fact, he struggles with the consequences of these actions, and he has to come to terms with the dilemmas involved with decisions related to the possible changes.

Friendship, human caring, and father-son relationships are important themes of this novel. It is for the fantasy reader who is willing to have a "tolerance for mystery," a suggestion made in the brief foreword quoted from *Of Wolves and Men* (1978) by Barry Lopez.

—Mary J. Lickteig
Univ. of Nebraska—Omaha

13-2-0268

Kacer, Kathy. **The Night Spies.** Toronto: Second Story Press, 2003. 160 pp. ISBN1-896784-70-3, \$5.95 (pb).

This adventure tale is based on actual events that took place in Czechoslovakia during World War II. The author's mother, then a child, and her brother and mother were hidden during the Holocaust by a succession of farmers. The family lived in barns and haylofts until they were liberated by the Russians.

For the purpose of the story, Gabi's brother becomes her younger cousin, Max. Max, frustrated and bored, insists on sneaking out at night and Gabi, unable to stop him, goes with him. During their nocturnal adventures they discover a group of partisans hidden in the woods. Courting risk and danger, the two children agree to act as scouts for the partisans. In an exciting episode, they are able to help rescue some prisoners from the Nazis.

The book is enhanced by a brief history that places the story in context, and by photographs from the author's mother's collection. This is a good adventure story for young adults.

—Miriam Sawyer
Rutherford (N.J.) Public Library

13-2-0269

Levitin, Sonia. **Room in the Heart.** New York: Dutton, 2003. 290 pp. ISBN 0-525-46871-4, \$16.99.

Levitin's historical novel is heartfelt, engaging, and highly recommended for grades six through ten. Based on true events, the action begins with the Nazi invasion of Denmark in 1940 and ends three years later with the rescue of thousands of Jews marked for concentration camps or death.

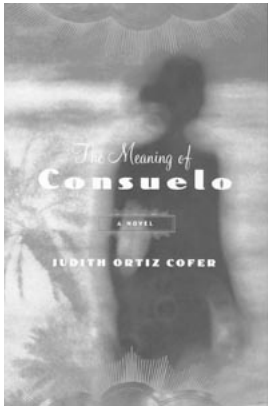
The story is told from the points of view of 13-year-old Julie, a Jewish Dane, whose fear turns to anger toward the Nazis and anyone who does not stand up to them, and Niels, a 15-year-old Dane who joins the resistance as a result of his anger at his father's inaction and his best friend's attraction to the Nazis' power. Niels and Julie are drawn to each other and fall in love. When they learn a Nazi action against the Jews is imminent, Niels helps Julie's family and others escape

by boat to Sweden.

The diary of Niels's older sister, Fredericka, who is in love with a Jewish farmer, and letters from a young German soldier to his Mutti (mother) broaden the reader's understanding of historical events.

Levitin skillfully portrays the transformation of these teenagers under the worst possible duress, but also depicts them as normal adolescents who experience the joy and angst of first love, the difficulty of understanding parents, and the pain of changing relationships. The author's focus on the acts of goodness of the people of Denmark, who hid and saved almost all their Jews, is uplifting.

—Robyn DeSantis Ringler
Ballston Lake, N.Y.



13-2-0270

Ortiz Cofer, Judith. ***The Meaning of Consuelo***. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003. 188 pp. ISBN 0-374-20509-4, \$20.00.

Currently a professor of English at the University of Georgia, Ortiz Cofer provides us with the portrait of a young woman who has to live up to her name. Using the Spanish word *consuelo*, which means to give support, comfort, and consolation, the narrator was expected, from an

early age, to take care of her mentally ill younger sister Mili, whose bizarre behavior keeps her isolated from the rest of the children in the neighborhood. This is a nicely written coming-of-age novel with a lyric narrative voice. The author intertwines Consuelo's story with the parallel story of the changes taking place in Puerto Rico in the 1950s when U.S. business interests started changing the rural and cultural landscapes. Ortiz Cofer also manages to deal with many gender-based issues in this book and the cultural double standards of what is "acceptable" behavior depending of gender. Because of my own background, one of my favorite passages occurs when Consuelo explains how to eat a *quenepa*, a small, slippery fruit with a hard shell and a pit. Consuelo's delight in eating this fruit reminded me of the many quenepas I enjoyed in my childhood "rolling the pit back and forth in my mouth" until all the meat was gone.

Ortiz Cofer has created a character who takes us by the hand on a journey of self-discovery. She reminds readers young and old never to forget our own responsibilities, and to enjoy life with all its joys and sorrows.

—Bessy Reyna
Bolton, Conn.

13-2-0271

Sandoval, Victor M. ***Roll Over, Big Toben***. Houston, Tex.: Piñata Books, 2003. 126 pp. ISBN 1-55885-401-1, \$9.95

(pb).

Confronted with the death of his father, 15-year-old David, a Mexican-American youth, must learn about who he is and how he wants to live his life. To do so, David looks to his friend Robert, to Big Toben, the leader of the local gang, and to the pigeons he and his father had kept. Searching to find his place, David must sort through the sense of loyalty he feels he owes his gang and the difficult choices he must make in order to lead a life that is his own.

Sandoval creates likable, complex characters that the reader can care about. While David struggles with the decisions that he must make and continues to cope with the death of his father, the reader is given an insight into the life of a normal teenage boy coming to terms with life itself. In Big Toben, one is able to view a gang leader who is violent, but who is also both loyal and protective of those who follow him. Through Robert, the reader is introduced to a young man who is similar to David, but who chooses the life that David has chosen to leave behind.

While the dialogue is sometimes weak, and there are a few abrupt resolutions to conflicts in the story, the author also produces sentences of poetic similes and paragraphs of poignant, memorable moments.

—Jennifer L. Ogrodowski
Albany (N.Y.) Public Library

13-2-0272

Spinelli, Jerry. ***Milkweed***. New York: Random House Children's Books/Knopf, 2003. 208 pp. ISBN 0-375-81374-8, \$15.95.

Narrated by a young Gypsy (Roma) boy, this powerful story takes place in Warsaw, Poland, during the invasion of the Nazis. Tiny Misha enjoys stealing bread for orphans and friends, like Janina Milgrom, a six-year-old Jewish girl whose family is forced into the ghetto. When a brick wall goes up, closing them in, Misha discovers a small hole he and Janina can fit through to smuggle food at night.

Newbery medal winner Spinelli skillfully engages the reader in the journey and transformation of unforgettable characters including Uri, Misha's red-haired Jewish protector, who later hides his Jewishness and works for the Nazis; one-armed Olek, who meets his end hanging from a tree marked with the sign "I am a Smuggler"; and Janina's Uncle Shepsel, who renounces Judaism and declares himself a Lutheran.

Janina and her father become Misha's family until they are herded onto cattle cars and disappear forever. Misha barely survives to emigrate to the United States. He wanders Philadelphia streets, rants about the war, and marries the only person who listens. The marriage is short-lived, and he is unaware that a daughter was conceived. Years later, she finds him and offers a gift—the honor of choosing her own daughter's middle name. He chooses Janina.

This stunning book leaves an impact long after the last

▼ continued **young adult (gr. 7 and up)**

page is finished. It is highly recommended with adult supervision for mature children over ten.

—Robyn DeSantis Ringler
Ballston Lake, N.Y.

13-2-0273

Tingle, Tim. ***Walking the Choctaw Road: Stories from Red People Memory***. El Paso, Tex.: Cinco Puntos Press, 2003. 144 pp. ISBN 0-938317-74-1, \$16.95.

There are storytellers and there are tellers of story; Tingle (Choctaw) is the latter. The 12 stories here read like told stories, with a fluency of timing and rhythm. These are stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things as magic brings healing, shape shifters test bravery, tragedy leads to courage, and true friendships develop in the worst of places.

Choctaw women make magic so that enslaved people can cross Bok Chitto and get to freedom's side. The medicine and wisdom of an elder woman—"keep working to the good"—give a boy the courage to defeat a shape shifter. A youngster carries the memories of his mother, and her bones, as he continues with the *okla nowa*, people walking, on the Trail of Tears. A widowed woman with a healing stone shows a young boy that you don't have to be blood to be family. A child at an Indian boarding school, unable to attend his brother's funeral, finds that "wherever you are, you can always find one decent person." A 20-year-old war between father and son is resolved, and when Mawmaw regains her sight, there is no more "salty pie."

In a brief preface, Tingle sets each story in time and place and acknowledges the person or family with whom the story resides.

The stories are put down chronologically, but linearity isn't always a good choice, especially when the stories are related to each other. I would like to have seen "Salty pie" first, followed by "Trail of Tears," and then have the stories circle back in time and come around to the present. Some of the historical photos scattered throughout the book, such as Mawmaw and one of her grandchildren on her front porch, are beautiful, but many have little to do with the story in which they are placed. I would also like to know something about Norma Howard, whose awesome painting graces the front cover.

But overall, these are evocative tellings by and for the Okla Homma, red people, clay people "kneaded out of this place," people who Tingle says, "reached across boundaries to offer a hand to those in need." Written in a down-to-earth, accessible style, these stories will especially appeal to cynical young people who don't like to read.

—Beverly Slapin
Oyate, Berkeley, Calif.

13-2-0274

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***The House You Pass on the Way***. New York: Putnam, 2003. 115 pp. ISBN 0-399-23969-3, \$16.99.

Staggerlee, a young teenage girl who lives in the rural

South, struggles not only with the normal identity confusion all adolescents experience but also with identity crises related to her biracial heritage and her sexual orientation. During summer vacation, Staggerlee falls in love with a visiting adopted cousin. Is this kind of love just a phase or does it have implications for the future?

Elegantly written, *The House You Pass on the Way* contains characters with depth and complexity, and the African-American culture and the landscape of this rural Southern setting are skillfully rendered. Woodson resists any temptation to tie up the book in a neat little bow, respecting the adolescent reader by acknowledging that the identity issues depicted are not easily understood or conveniently resolved.

—Jyna Scheeren
Troy, N.Y.

*Audio***13-2-0275**

Bibb, Eric. ***Natural Light***. Redway, Calif.: Earthbeat!, 2003. 44 minutes. CD. \$16.98.

The Rough Guide to Chicago Blues. London, U.K.: World Music Network, 2003. 76 minutes. CD. \$16.98.

The blues is big business in Chicago. The mayor sponsors an annual blues festival, now in its twentieth year. Chicago even has its very own subgenre of the blues. The Chicago blues took the acoustic genre from the Delta, amplified it, added drums, bass, piano, and an occasional saxophone. The *Rough Guide to Chicago Blues* is intended as an introductory guide. Selections are purposely broad in range of styles and performers, thereby revealing a more complete musical picture.

Highlights include Roosevelt "The Honeydripper" Sykes displaying his much imitated piano skills in "Sweet Home Chicago" followed by the much beloved blues guitarist Elmore Jones, (best known for his bottleneck slide playing) on "Dust My Broom." Lesser-known vocalist Nolan Struck sings "Strange Feeling," and pianist Otis Spann of Muddy Waters's Blues Band fame performs "It Must Have Been the Devil" and "I Got Rambling On My Mind #2," the latter with guitarist Robert Lockwood Junior. Valerie Wellington (one of only two female performers in the compilation, the other being Koko Taylor), a vocalist whose style is often compared to Bessie Smith, sings "Bad Avenue."

No Chicago blues collection would be complete without the music of Muddy Waters, recognized as one of the founders and creators of the Chicago blues style. Here, he plays "Walkin' Blues." John Lee Hooker's outstanding recording of "Money (That's What I Want)" is included.

Helpful liner notes provide a historical perspective and also give a brief summary of the significance to the blues genre of each performer. *Chicago Blues* will engage the attention of both the casual and serious listener.

For a quieter sound, I recommend the newest release from singer/songwriter Bibb. A far cry from the loud and raw sound of the Chicago blues, Bibb's style is a unique blend

of folk, country, jazz, ragtime, and blues. Accompanying himself an acoustic guitar, he adds acoustic and electric piano, bass guitar, accordion, and percussion to the mix. Fans describe Bibb's blend as addictive, smooth, warm, and passionate. His intimate lyrics discuss his despair, but Bibb devotees take note of his humor and characterize his songs as more positive than those of other blues artists.

Original compositions include the heavy-hearted apology "So Sorry," and a tribute to B. B. King in "Tell Riley." Examples of Bibb's lighter and more humorous pieces include "Too Much Stuff," "Champagne Habits," "Guru Man Blues," "Water Works Fire," and "Lucky Man Rag." In addition to his own pieces, Bibb also covers the Randy Newman song "Every Time It Rains" and closes with "Higher and Higher."

The blues takes many forms and comes in various guises. These two recordings will serve as an excellent primer for new students of this amazingly complicated American art form. They will surely be enjoyed by experts in the field. I found them to be valuable additions to my library.

—Christine Condaris
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

13-2-0276

Leinbach, Ben. ***Spirit of Yoga***. Sausalito, Calif.: Real Music, 2003. 62 minutes. CD. \$17.98.

This soulful offering of gifted musicians features Leinbach's original compositions. The first sounds of Manose Singh's bamboo flute invite the listener to gather up all the scattered energies of the mind and body and to rest them in the clarity of the present moment. The uncommon sounds of the dotar, a two-stringed lute, played by Jai Uttal, draw us into deeper quietness.

With ease and elegance this CD moves us through any practices of self-transformation and healing. Asanas and pranayama, yoga's postures and breathing exercises, are enriched as low spirits are lifted and tense bodies are refreshed. *The Spirit of Yoga* also creates a supportive atmosphere for personal exploration through contemplative practices like journaling, or through more active healing work like massage.

This is music to accompany the seeker on the journey toward well-being and peace.

—Jean Norton Wein
Albany, N.Y.

13-2-0277

Oxfam Arabia. London, U.K.: World Music Network, 2003. 67 minutes. CD. \$16.98.

Oxfam's compilation CD of some well-known and progressive Arabic recording artists of folk, rai, gnawa, and classical music demonstrates the diverse sounds and styles that can all be catego-

rized as Arabic music. Like many of today's Arabs, uprooted from their homeland for economic or political reasons, nearly half of the musicians featured on this CD reside in the United States and Europe. In some way, each track demonstrates an absorption of global musical influences while retaining a strong Arabic identity.

Palestinian group El-Funoun's folkloric vocals and buzuq are supported by a groovy electric bass; London-based MoMo modernizes Moroccan trance music by fusing it with electronica; Nubian band leader Ali Hassan Kuban, inspired by a jazz band from Harlem, uses saxophones, trumpets, electric guitar, and bass in his music; Palestinian-born New Yorker

▼ continued audio

Simon Shaheen's track features Latin congas, Western classical flute, and a burning Arabic-style violin solo.

Oxfam is a noble organization providing relief to people the world over. In the liner notes, Oxfam's efforts in Arabic countries are described: safe drinking water in Iraq, health care and housing projects in Yemen, and basic amenities and legal assistance for inhabitants of 45 unrecognized Bedouin villages in Negev, Israel. This CD is good music for a good cause.

—Dena El-Saffar
Bloomington, Ind.

13-2-0278

The Rough Guide to the Music of Egypt. London, U.K.: World Music Network, 2003. 73 minutes. CD. \$16.98.

Cairo, Egypt, is a city where the music of the region and of the world converge. It is the hub of a music industry that markets to the entire Arab-speaking world and beyond. The many recording studios and the hopping music scene have created a vibrant atmosphere for musicians to find their inspiration. This compilation CD is a sampling of the creativity and diversity of Egyptian pop music. It is expansive and reactive, incorporating influences from cool Nubian grooves to ornate classical Arabic melodies to Western synthesizers and rhythm sections.

The recordings span about five decades. Starting with catchy tunes by contemporaries like mega-star Amr Diab and the up-and-coming female vocalist Angham, it then turns to a bizarrely experimental track by Nagat El Saghira. There is a tribute by Mahmoud Fadl to the beloved Egyptian singer Om Kalthoum, and wildly raucous wedding music by Nubian-born Ali Hassan Kuban. These slick studio recordings are in contrast to older recordings of Mohamed Abdel Wahab and Warda singing live with large orchestras. The one constant on this album of disparate styles is innovation. Stretching the boundaries and trying new things is the case with each track. This CD gives the listener a nice overview of popular music in Egypt.

—Dena El-Saffar
Bloomington, Ind.

13-2-0279

Sol y Canto. **El doble de amigos/Twice as Many Friends.** Cambridge, Mass.: Rounder Records, 2003. 45 minutes. CD. Bilingual (Spanish-English) recording. \$14.95.

Having enjoyed the music of Sol y Canto and Flor de Caña (comprised of the lead singers of Sol y Canto) and presently serving as an elementary bilingual teacher, I was delighted with this CD. This collection of children's songs in Spanish and English features many familiar tunes as well as original songs. It contains a rich mixture of adult vocals, as well as the Amigos School's Select Chorus. The instrumentation includes a cross-section of a myriad of instruments including ocarina, flute, violin, trumpet, kazoo, tres, and more! The

broad variety of musical rhythms—cumbia, plena, merengue, calypso, son, and ijexá—is lively, upbeat, and fun to sing along with and dance to. Featuring songs from Puerto Rico, Cuba, Jamaica, Nicaragua, other Latin American countries, and the United States, it reflects a welcome diversity in terms of musical selections and styles.

Among the songs highlighted are many written by familiar folk singers such as Ruth Pelham and Tom Paxton, with lyrical translations crafted in Spanish by singer/songwriter Brian Amador. The songs reflect the linguistic variation that can be found throughout the Spanish-speaking world as well. The CD jacket also includes suggested activities that can be used with the songs, and an educational activity guide is available at the Sol y Canto web site. Partial proceeds from the sale will be sent to the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE).

—Melanie Pores
Albany (N.Y.) City School District

Video

13-2-0280

Barcelona. Issaquah, Wash.: Bennett-Watt, 2003. 60 minutes. Color. DVD. Series: Discoveries...Spain. ISBN 1-932068-41-4, \$24.95.

Castles, Cathedrals, and Roman Ruins. Issaquah, Wash.: Bennett-Watt, 2003. 60 minutes. Color. DVD. Series: Discoveries...Spain. ISBN 1-932068-49-X, \$24.95.

The video series Discoveries...Spain, is a collection of seven DVD programs about the people, architecture, history, and landscapes of Spain.

In *Barcelona*, the viewer is presented with a historical introduction to the city as the first topic in the program. Subsequent topics include *petanka*, the Spanish version of bocce ball or boules; the famous seafood cuisine of the city, including a separate section on chocolate; the modern architecture of Antoni Guadi in the city; and finally, the ancient Catalan dance of Sardana.

In *Castles, Cathedrals, and Roman Ruins*, the viewer is given an introduction to the history of Spain relative to the main focus of the video, with subsequent topics entitled Cathedrals, Saffron, Castles, Hispania/Roman Ruins, and Al Andalus.

The documentary style of the videos is appropriate for an adult or young adult audience. Younger viewers would appreciate the segments about the food of Barcelona and the sport of *petanka*. Of particular interest to all viewers in the *Castles* video is the topic of saffron, that precious spice brought to Spain by the Moors.

Since the narration on both videos is available in English and Spanish, they can be used as an effective Spanish language and culture class resource. The DVD format allows the viewer to easily and quickly select a specific topic without having to view the entire video or rewind or fast forward to a particular point in the video. The narrator of both videos has a pleasant voice, with a slight Spanish accent when speaking

English. Throughout each video program, beautiful Spanish guitar music is played. The photography is rich and colorful and reflects the Spain of today.

The other titles in the Discoveries ... Spain video series include *El Corazon*, *Pilgrim Route*, *Coastal North*, *Mediterranean*, and *Southwest*, all examples of the fascinating diverse culture of the Iberian Peninsula.

—Michèle Pollard

Academy of the Holy Names, Albany, N.Y.

13-2-0281

Jerusalem: The City Touched by God. New York: SISU Home Entertainment, 2003. DVD version: 110 minutes in 2 DVDs; VHS version: 53 minutes. DVD Includes *To Live a Dream: The Story of Teddy Kollek*. Color. \$29.95 (DVD); \$19.95 (VHS).

No city has fascinated humanity longer or more intensely than Jerusalem. This DVD contains two productions, the first a religious history from ancient times until the end of the nineteenth century, and the second a biography of Teddy Kollek, mayor of Jerusalem from 1965 to 1993.

Jerusalem: The City Touched by God uncritically blends biblical narrative, history, and rabbinic legends to tell the city's story. It moves competently through the United Monarchy of David and Solomon through the invasions by the Assyrians and Babylonians. There are some errors, however. A well-known event of the Seleucid era is identified with Alexander the Great, a difference of 165 years, and we are told that the destruction of Jerusalem by Rome in 70 CE is the beginning of the Diaspora, while a better date would be over 600 years earlier.

The first 20 minutes covers 1,500 years; the next 10 minutes is devoted to Jesus, followed by 4 minutes on the Roman destruction. The revolt against Rome in the second century is skipped over; we go from Roman destruction to establishment of Christianity as state religion of the Roman Empire in the fourth century to seventh-century Islam. The last 1,000 years—the Crusades, Saladin, the Ottomans—take up the final 15 minutes. The twentieth century is covered in 10 seconds; apparently the growth of the city under Jewish rule doesn't meet the criteria for being "touched by God."

Jerusalem has magnificent photography of many of the city's vistas. The theme music, beginning and end, is unlike any I have heard in my 13 visits to the city: a century-old British hymn "The Holy City," about the day Jesus died, sung by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

The second program on this disc, *To Live a Dream: The Story of Teddy Kollek*, is a welcome addition in that it covers the twentieth century. The 1947 UN Partition vote, statehood, the 1967 Six Day War and subsequent unification of Old City under Israeli rule, and the Intifada of the late 1980s are all featured with ample archival footage. We get honest statements from various people connected with Kollek about the difficulties in a city with many different Jewish perspectives, 40 different Christian denominations, and a wide range of Arab viewpoints. We learn about Kollek's election defeat after

28 years in office, but without a sufficient discussion of the changing Jerusalem electorate and Israeli political climate.

—Rabbi Donald P. Cashman

B'nai Shalom Reform Congregation, Albany, N.Y.

13-2-0282

Race: The Power of an Illusion. South Burlington, Vt.: California Newsreel. 2003. 3 VHS videocassettes, 56 minutes each. Color. Also available on DVD. \$295.00 (DVD or VHS).

Race is a concept without any basis in science, but with very real social consequences. This is the primary idea that underlies this video series. Produced by California Newsreel for the Public Broadcasting System, it employs the familiar PBS format of an unseen narrator providing continuity between commentary by authoritative experts, interviews with representative individuals, and period paintings, photographs, newspaper headlines, and newsreel footage.

The first segment, "The Difference Between Us," examines contemporary scientific evidence for racial differences. Prominent geneticists such as Richard Lewontin testify that there is more genetic variation within commonly accepted racial groups than between the different races. This lesson is reinforced when a multiracial student group compares samples of their DNA and finds that their closest genetic matches are with youths of contrasting skin colors.

The second installment, "The Story We Tell," traces the development of racial theories in the context of American history. Thomas Jefferson's speculation that the differences between whites and blacks might be due to inherent biological differences gives rise to a scientific racism that is used to support slavery. Native Americans are driven off their lands by white settlers who view them as racially inferior. American colonial expansion at the end of the nineteenth century is rationalized as part of the white man's burden. In each instance, racial theories are used to justify and enhance the privileges of white Americans.

The final video, "The House We Live In," focuses on the realities of race in twentieth-century America. It chronicles the struggles of European immigrants to be accepted as white Americans. A series of laws and court decisions point out the arbitrary basis of racial classifications as people with one drop of African blood are labeled Negro and immigrants from Japan and India are denied citizenship because they are not considered white. The consequences of racial labeling are forcefully documented in the exclusion of African Americans from postwar suburban developments and their resulting handicap in accumulating wealth from home equity.

The message of these videos is clear: Race is a socially constructed idea without any scientific legitimacy. The belief in inherent racial differences has been used to perpetuate social inequalities that persist long after these theories have been discredited. Unfortunately, the difficult question of how to undo the damage resulting from this mistaken belief remains unanswered. This series will be a valuable tool for high school and college teachers.

—Paul T. Murray

Siena College