
The Children's Civil War, by James Marten (365 pages, September 1998), looks at the Civil War's effect on how children—black and white, North and South—viewed the world, their country, their communities, and themselves. Taking several different approaches, Marten looks at contemporary children's literature and schoolbooks, letters from absent soldier-fathers, photographs, diaries, and oral histories to piece together this missing thread in Civil War literature. Especially interesting is how children incorporated the war into their speech and play, in some cases by getting as close to battlefield action as they could. Many of these wartime children grew up to become famous, as did Theodore Roosevelt, Jane Addams, and Booker T. Washington, whose perceptions were formed by the crisis. $34.95. University of North Carolina Press. ISBN 0-8078-2425-9.


If prose is your preference, you might try Paul Poplawski's Jane Austen Encyclopedia (411 pages, July 1998), which details the life and works of Britain's greatest novelist of manners. $75.00. Greenwood. ISBN 0-313-30017-8.

Smithsonian's Great Battles & Battlefields of the Civil War, by Jay Wertz and Edwin C. Bearss (821 pages, December 1997), can either be used as a travel guide or as a supplement to Wertz's video series "Smithsonian's Great Battles of the Civil War." It describes Civil War points of interest in each state, offers suggested routes to follow, and provides an overview of battles and campaigns for each location. Numerous maps and photographs accompany the text. This is an unusual way to approach the Civil War, one that could create an interest among those who doze off while reading a chronological narrative. $42.00. William Morrow. ISBN 0-688-13549-8.

Finding Statistics Online: How to Locate the Elusive Numbers You Need, by Paula Berinstein (356 pages, June 1998), does a
remarkable job in pinpointing the right place to look—whether on the Web, in DIALOG or STN databases, or in LEXIS/NEXUS libraries—for a wide array of data. Berinstein, who has been both a programmer/analyst and a reference librarian, guides the novice through several introductory chapters on basic statistics and search tips, then gets down to business with 14 chapters on how to find the good stuff. Do you need international coal prices? worldwide incidence of rabies? insurance company losses during the 1994 Northridge, California, earthquake? Don’t waste time with a Web search engine; refer to this book for practical advice and excellent shortcuts. $29.95. CyberAge Books, 143 Old Marlton Pike, Medford, NJ 08055-8750. ISBN 0-910965-25-0.

From Bonn to Berlin: German Politics in Transition, by Lewis J. Edinger and Brigitte L. Nacos (301 pages, July 1998), analyzes postunification policy issues and assesses the country's ability to cope with rapidly changing domestic and international conditions. Always offering comparisons to American society, the authors enumerate the troubles—in foreign and domestic affairs, social welfare, and capitalism—facing Germans as their seat of government shifts from Bonn to Berlin in 2002. A lucid exposition that does not require extensive prior knowledge of German history. $49.50. Columbia University Press. ISBN 0-231-08412-9.

Ghost Grizzlies: Does the Great Bear Still Haunt Colorado? by David Petersen (280 pages, 2nd ed., August 1998), examines the evidence for the persistence of grizzlies in the San Juan Mountains, where the bears have been thought absent since 1952. Peterson interviewed ranchers, hunters, wildlife managers, biologists, and locals about the bears and the region's ecology. A postscript has been added to this edition to bring events beyond 1995. $16.00. Johnson Books. ISBN 1-55566-218-8.

Historical Dictionary of Paris, by Alfred Fierro (245 pages, March 1998), consists of an eclectic potpourri of facts and figures about the city on the Seine. The author, chief librarian of the Historical Society of the City of Paris since 1988, spices his entries with interesting trivia; for example, the oldest tree in Paris is a false acacia in Viviani Square, brought from North America in 1601. Paris is also the only city in the world to have booksellers' (bouquinistes) stalls lining its quays. A chronology, maps, acronyms, a bibliography, and statistical appendices enhance the value of this compact reference. $68.00. Scarecrow. ISBN 0-8108-3318-2.


Pump 'Em Full of Lead: A Look at Gangsters on Film, by Marilyn Yaquinto (265 pages, May 1998), documents the fascination Americans have with organized crime. From D. W. Griffith's "The Musketeers of Pig Alley" to Quentin Tarantino's "Jackie Brown," Yaquinto identifies the archetypes of the genre and the characteristics of the mobster: "He remains the American dream turned on its head and entering youth run amok." This insightful survey pays special attention to Bonnie and Clyde, the "Godfather" saga, black gangsters, and Tarantino. $24.95. Twayne. ISBN 0-8057-3892-4.

Recreating the Academic Library: Breaking Virtual Ground, edited by Cheryl LaGuardia (291 pages, July 1998), offers advice on how to successfully reengineer your library, your job, and your staff to meet the challenges of technology. The essays here are both fresh and practical: "Technostress in the Bionic Library" (John Kupersmith); "Designing Scenarios to Design Effective Buildings" (James Retzig); "Making the Internet Manageable" (Abbie Jan Basilé); and others. A thoughtful collection for anyone confronted with sudden or massive changes. $59.95. Neal-Schuman. ISBN 1-55570-293-7.

Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy, by Annette Gordon-Reed (288 pages, April 1998), summarizes the evidence that our third president had a 38-year-long relationship with a slave woman that resulted in six or seven children. Short of a DNA test, this book provides the strongest unbiased case for the affair. Much of Gordon-Reed's analysis consists of picking apart the arguments made by historians who staunchly dismiss the liaison; but in the process she uncovers many forgotten truths about race relations in the early 19th century. $14.95. University Press of Virginia. ISBN 0-8139-1833-2.

Tocqueville and the French, by Françoise Mélonio (300 pages, April 1998), provides a French perspective on Alexis de Tocqueville's observations on American and French society in the 1830s. Revitalized in America 150 years after the publication of his Democracy in America (in 1995 both Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich drew upon his ideas in major speeches), Tocqueville is undergoing a similar rediscovery in France. His foretelling of the dangers of nationalism, socialism, and individualism ring true in modern Europe. $37.50. University Press of Virginia. ISBN 0-8139-1778-6.

Victorian Yellowbacks and Paperbacks, 1849-1905: Hotten, Chatto & Windus, and Chapman & Hall, by Chester W. Topp (530 pages, 1998), is the third in a series of bibliographies of the Victorian equivalent of modern paperbacks that were originally published to be sold inexpensively in railway bookstalls. This volume covers the output of three prominent publishers. $150.00. Hermitage Antiquarian Bookshop, 290 Fillmore St., Denver, CO 80206-5020. ISBN 0-9633920-2-6.

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