
American Revolutionary War Sites, Memorials, Museums and Library Collections, by Doug Gelbert (255 pages, October 1998), is a state-by-state guidebook to places open to the public. If you’ve been to all the Civil War sites, then the next best historical pilgrimages are those relating to America’s war for independence. Battlefields are not the only sites included—plantations, monuments, inns, museums, churches, cemeteries, and other visitable locations are also identified. $39.95. McFarland & Co. ISBN 0-7864-0494-9.

Cambridge University Library: The Great Collections, edited by Peter Fox (231 pages, August 1998), offers descriptions of some of the special collections housed in England’s oldest university library, which is celebrating its 600-year history with a new exhibition center where its treasures can be showcased. The book opens with a short history of the library by Trinity College Librarian David McKitterick, then moves from one unique collection to another, accompanied by many black-and-white and color illustrations that show the 5th-century gospel Codex Bezae Cantabrigiensis; the 800-year Genizeh archive of Jewish texts from Cairo; the 20-volume collection of lithographs of French architecture and antiquities, Voyages pittoresques et romantiques dans l’ancienne France (Paris, 1820–1878); the Charles Darwin papers; and the collection of the Royal Commonwealth Society on British overseas colonies (including 70,000 photographs and such artifacts as a feather from the crown of the Zulu King Cetshwayo and a statue saved from the ruins of Saint-Pierre after the 1902 eruption of Mount Pelée on Martinique). Only a fraction of Cambridge’s collections are described, but their histories are inspiring. $74.95. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-521-62636-6.

Dead Countries of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries: Aden to Zululand, by Les Harding (392 pages, June 1998), was inspired by the author’s philatelic fascination with countries that no longer exist, like his native Newfoundland. Many of the entries are accompanied by an illustration of a relevant postage stamp, but Harding also covers political entities that existed between 1800 and 1840, when the first British stamps were issued. The entries are enhanced with apt quotations from explorers, travelers, or other writers who mention the place. For example, the native feudatory state of Bundi in India was described by Rudyard Kipling in 1899: “... but the Palace of Boondi, even in broad daylight, is such a Palace as men build for themselves in uneasy dreams—the work of goblins more than men.” $45.00. Scarecrow Press. ISBN 0-8108-3445-6.

Financial Aid for Veterans, Military Personnel and Their Dependents, 1998–2000, by Gail Ann Schlachter and R. David Weber (322 pages, August 1998), identifies 1,250 scholarships, grants, loans, awards, and other programs designed primarily or exclusively for Americans with ties to the military. This biennially issued directory has been brought completely up-to-date with 100 new programs and substantial revisions to 75% of the entries in the 1996–1998 edition. As with all the other titles in the Reference Service Press catalog, the information is comprehensive and easy to access. $40.00. Reference Service Press, 5000 Windplay Drive, Suite 4, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762. ISBN 0-918276-66-7.
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