

REFERENCE *and* RESEARCH

BOOK NEWS

Incorporating *University Press Book News*

The Bibliography of New Scholarly Books

GENERAL WORKS

AC8 2007-010802 978-1-57003-707-8

Solve for X; essays.

Saltzman, Arthur M.

U. of South Carolina Press, ©2007 227 p. \$29.95

Writing in what *Publishers Weekly* called "riskily mellifluous language," Saltzman (English, Missouri Southern State U.) collects 25 of his creative nonfiction essays. The title essay makes astute observations about how physics and religion both seek to understand the ambiguities of our relationship to the transcendent. But he wonders why scientists don't go door-to-door proselytizing like Jehovah's witnesses! In "Wunderkindergarten," solving equations refers to child prodigies. With many scientific and literary allusions, his other wide-ranging subjects include the mind-body problem, car culture, and works of Dante and Henry James.

AG90 2006-015739 0-7166-1325-5

Biographical connections; 8v.

Title main entry.

World Book, ©2007 896 p. \$299.00

Written at the middle school level (ages 11-14), this eight-volume reference contains biographies of significant people. To create a context for the significance of each one's work, each volume includes shorter biographies of two others whose work was related to the main figure. For example, Albert Einstein's life and contributions to science are described in a volume that also discusses Isaac Newton and J. Robert Oppenheimer; profiles of activists Terence V. Powderly and Dolores Huerta are included in the volume on Cesar Chavez. The other volumes are devoted to Jackie Robinson, Louis Riel, Elvis Presley, Golda Meir, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Elizabeth Blackwell. Each volume concludes with a short list of recommended reading and websites, a glossary, and an index.

AG195 2007-013231 978-0-307-39491-0

The book of general ignorance.

Lloyd, John and John Mitchinson.

Harmony Books, ©2006 266 p. \$19.95

"We don't know a millionth of one percent about anything." Lloyd and Mitchinson (a producer and writer, respectively, for British television), begin their British bestseller with this quote by Thomas Edison, the *non-inventor* of the lightbulb according to them. They proceed to clear up 229 other common misconceptions entertainingly but without references. Originally published in Great Britain by Faber and Faber Ltd., London, in 2006.

AM5 2007-022412 978-0-7591-0508-9

Museums in motion; an introduction to the history and functions of museums, 2d ed.

Alexander, Edward P. and Mary Alexander. (American Association For State and Local History book series)

AltaMira Press, ©2008 352 p. \$80.00

This volume covers the history of museums by type, art, natural history, and anthropology, science, history, botanical gardens, zoos, and those for youth, followed by a section on museum functions, from collecting to public service, to the museum profession. It focuses on European and US museums and discusses future challenges at the end of each chapter. The late Edward Alexander most recently served as professor of museum studies at the U. of Delaware. The book is a revision of his 1979 text. His daughter, Mary Alexander, is a museum educator and administrator. She has updated information on museum practice and provided more current references.

AM40 978-0-8020-9221-2

(Re)visualizing national history; museums and national identities in Europe in the new millennium.

Title main entry. Ed. by Robin Ostow. (German and European studies)
U. of Toronto Press, ©2008 228 p. \$55.00

Inspired by a 2004 conference at the U. of Toronto in which contributors from Europe and North America participated, this collection of eight papers addresses the ways in which histories and identities have been emerging since the Cold War ended in 1989 and how exhibitions show evidence of those changes. Topics include the perception of exhibition as film, centralized and local strategies in reconfiguring national history (including papers about the 1956 Hungarian uprising and Northern Ireland), restoring national history with international participation (with papers on Sarajevo, and Jewish museums in Germany and Poland), and the issues raised by displaying war and genocide (including papers on the Canadian War Museum and the design for Berlin's memorial for the murdered Jews of Europe).

AM133 2007-034445 978-1-933253-09-1

The digital museum; a think guide.

Title main entry. Ed. by Herminia Din and Phyllis Hecht.

Am. Assoc. of Museums, ©2007 223 p. \$45.00 (pa)

Twenty-five museum professionals, academics, researchers, media design specialists and consultants contribute 18 chapters offering museum professionals, museology scholars and museum studies students an in-depth investigation into how and why museums are experimenting with new technology. The authors explore a wide range of concepts about the digital museum from exhibition experiences and online tools to the strategic integration of technology into daily operations and new business models—demonstrating the increasing need for the integration of technology into today's museum training programs.

AM151 2007-033961 978-0-7591-0996-4

Exhibit makeovers; a do-it-yourself workbook for small museums.

Parman, Alice and Jeffrey Jane Flowers. (American Association for State and Local History book series)

AltaMira Press, ©2008 91 p. \$90.00

Part of the *American Association for State and Local History* book series, this book addresses basic exhibition design and execution for small and under-budgeted museums. The publication acts both as a hands-on guide and a workbook, with spaces and forms for the user's planning and implementation information. The sections move progressively from planning a single case makeover, followed by a gallery redesign, and finally a small museum makeover. The final chapter addresses what happens after the gallery changes, from education and fundraising to cleaning and maintenance. Two appendices present tools and resources, including how to assess a museum's purpose. Practical and accessible, with a nuts & bolts approach, this book will be useful in small and under-budgeted museums, particularly ones with no exhibition design departments or equivalent.

Watch for four stars: ★★★★★ The stars you see at the beginning of some annotations indicate that a previous edition has been cited in *Resources for College Libraries*, *Books for College Libraries*, 3rd ed., *Guide to Reference Books*, or other standard references.

GN419 2007-408246 978-1-84718-131-2

Writing on the body?; thinking through gendered embodiment and marked flesh.

Inckle, Kay.

Cambridge Scholars Publishing, ©2007 240 p. \$69.99

They speak earnestly of the work of art they maintain is their body. However, those around them say they committing para-suicide, conducting self-injury or self-mutilation, performing body modification or, in a slightly more generic term, practicing body marking. Inckle (sociology, Trinity College, Dublin) takes on the distinctions and moves us into a world beyond the medical model. She uses a feminist approach, which includes a sharp consideration of the linkage between womanhood and the body, to describe the subjects of her research and the methods they employ, marks the borders of sexual difference through a consideration of gendered embodiment, considers the edges of normative femininity in terms of social control and body marking, moves beyond binaries of agency and mutilation in body marking, and analyzes the relationships among blood, pain and gender.

GN450 2007-034206 978-1-59874-091-2

Doing anthropology in consumer research.

Sunderland, Patricia L. and Rita M. Denny.

Left Coast Press, ©2007 368 p. \$29.95 (pa)

Ethnography and other research methods closely associated with anthropology have proven to be useful in a range of other fields in social science and also in business, where the techniques are applied to studying methods of management and, here, in consumer resource. Sunderland and Denny, both practicing anthropologists, give students and researchers in other fields the basics, making sure they give the proper background but sticking primarily to pragmatics. They defines such concepts as cultural analysis and question framing, then describe the internal work that must precede researching and writing what is in essence an ethnography, building proper approaches for different applications, selecting time and place and well as people, diagnosing conversational details and clues, recognizing entanglements, recognizing reflexivity and visual media, using technologies for better results, ethics, and making one another exotic in context. The final chapter describes how we engage one another in practicing anthropological approaches.

GN470 2007-027415 978-0-8264-9978-3

Contemporary western ethnography and the definition of religion.

Stringer, M. D.

Continuum Publishing Group, ©2008 128 p. \$110.00

While other scholars look at people who have left the conventional denominations, some to follow flashy alternatives and others to forget religion altogether, Stringer (liturgical and congregational studies, U. of Birmingham, Britain) focuses on those who continue to identify themselves as Anglicans, Methodists, Catholics, or United Reform Church members. In investigating what they believe, he finds them not so different from their neighbors as he might has thought. He discusses ethnography, graveyards and kitchens, gender, star signs and soap operas, and other topics.

GN475 978-963-05-8521-7

Shamans and traditions.

Hoppál, Mihály. (Bibliotheca shamanistica; v.13)

Akadémiai Kiadó, ©2007 188 p. \$70.00

Now that the firestorm of modernism, in both its communist and capitalist manifestations, has burned over the world, green shoots of tradition are rising from under their own ashes. Hoppál (ethnology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences) summarizes findings from his decades of research into traditions and mythology of the Uralic people concerning the past and present of shamanism. His topics include whether shamanism is a folk religion, cosmic symbolism in Siberian shamanhood, traces of shamanism in Hungarian folk beliefs, and shamanic narratives as intangible human cultural heritage. Distributed in the US by ISBS.

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GN487 2007-021693 978-1-934043-65-3

The genius of kinship; the phenomenon of human kinship and the global diversity of kinship terminologies.

Dziebel, German V.

Cambria Press, ©2007 540 p. \$139.95

Dziebel has doctorates in both history and anthropology and is currently both advisor to the Great Russian Encyclopedia and senior anthropologist at Crispin Porter + Bogusky advertising agency. His extremely dense work is actually three books in one. The first is a history of kinship studies from the early 19th century to the present. The second is a comparative study of kinship terminology among non-Indo-European languages, for which he has also prepared a data base published on the internet. The third section, highly controversial, as he admits, uses anthropology, mitochondrial studies and linguistics to suggest that the "out of Africa" model of human origins may be in error and that the first humans actually came from the Americas and spread from there to the rest of the world.

GN510 2007-016797 978-0-631-22975-9

Anthropology and child development; a cross-cultural reader.

Title main entry. Ed. by Robert A. LeVine and Rebecca S. New.

(Blackwell anthologies in social & cultural anthropology; 10)

Blackwell Publishing, ©2008 324 p. \$94.95

Anthropologists and cross-cultural researchers in developmental psychology offer insights into what childhood and child rearing is like beyond Europe and North America. The first section contains accounts by renowned anthropologists from as far back as the 1920s. The other three sections look at current practices in infant care, early childhood, and middle and later childhood. Some essays survey a number of cultures on a particular practice, while others provide a fuller view of a particular culture.

GN549 2006-036525 978-1-877802-64-5

Basque culture; anthropological perspectives.

Douglass, William and Joseba Zulaika. (Basque textbook series)

U. of Nevada Press, ©2007 525 p. \$14.95 (pa)

Douglass and Zulaika have served as directors of the Center for Basque Studies of the U. of Nevada, and have co-published on occasion. In this latest collaboration, they incorporate course notes, along with additional materials, they have prepared as two instructors of a primarily anthropological treatment on Basque culture, presented and modified independently over the past four decades. The text provides an overview of Basque prehistory, linguistics, and anthropology of society and culture, based in part on field work undertaken by the authors over the past 40 years.

GN635 2007-021763 978-1-59874-121-6

Disappearing peoples?; indigenous groups and ethnic minorities in South and Central Asia.

Title main entry. Ed. by Barbara A. Brover and Barbara Rose Johnston.

Left Coast Press, ©2007 275 p. \$65.00 (pa)

Fifteen international academics and researchers contribute 13 chapters exploring the cultural diversity of South and Central Asia, the history and current conditions that threaten the region's indigenous peoples and other cultural minorities, and the ways in which they are responding to such threats in their struggles to survive and thrive. Following an introductory overview of the topic, individual chapters focus on the Raika of India, the Peripatetics of South Asia, the Bhil of central western India, the Tharu of Nepal, the Dom of Northern Pakistan, the peoples and cultures of the Kashmir Himalayas, the Hazara of Central Afghanistan, the Wakhi and Kirghiz of the Pamirian Knot, the Badakshani of Tajikistan, the Lezghi of the Caucasus mountain range, the people of Tibet, and the Minhe Mangghuer of China. For students, scholars and general readers interested in the region, in cultural survival, or in the interplay of diversification and homogenization.

GN657 2007-042034 978-90-04-16168-9

An ethnography of knowledge; the production of knowledge in Mupfurdzi resettlement scheme, Zimbabwe.

Mudege, Netsayi Noris. (Afrika-Studiecentrum series; v.11)

BRILL, ©2008 238 p. \$54.00 (pa)

Mudege (sociology, U. of Zimbabwe) examines the pathways by which knowledge about hybrid maize was disseminated among farmers in a resettlement area in Shamva, southeastern Zimbabwe. The people were being resettled from different agro-ecological regions with different knowledge and approaches to agriculture and farming, so new knowledge had to be produced and socialized. In addition to spending 30 months doing her own fieldwork beginning in 2001, she drew on a huge database of quantitative information that was available from previous studies of the same community going back to 1984.