

Battlegrounds of Freedom, by Norman Desmarais (241 pages, June 2005), is a state-by-state survey of the battle elds of the American Revolution, with a description of each engagement as well as travel directions and information about what can still be seen at the site. An active re-enactor in his spare time from serving as acquisitions librarian at Providence College, Desmarais includes a chapter on who re-enactors are and how to become one. Contains maps and illustrations and a bit more analysis than Doug Gelbert's *American Revolutionary War Sites, Memorials, Museums, and Library Collections* (McFarland, 1998). \$26.95. Busca, www.buscainc.com. ISBN 0-9666196-7-6.

Care and Conservation of Manuscripts 8, edited by Gillian Fellows-Jensen and Peter Springborg (300 pages, April 2005), consists of 20 papers presented at the eighth annual international conservation seminar held at the University of Copenhagen, October 16-17, 2003. Well-illustrated with examples and techniques, this volume includes such topics as Vatican Library manuscript conservation, how parchment is manufactured, a history of pens and inks, conservation aspects of Ottoman manuscripts, biomonitoring of rare books, and an overview of manuscript care at the Library of Congress. \$42.00. Published by Museum Tusulanum; distributed by International Specialized Book Services, www.isbs.com. ISBN 87-635-0257-7.

Faculty Towers: The Academic Novel and Its Discontents, by Elaine Showalter (141 pages, January 2005), takes an informal look at British and American novels about university life since the 1950s and notes the dark views of academia that recent authors tend to showcase, especially sexual harassment. Showalter, professor emeritus of English at Princeton,

describes the gradual change from portrayals of isolated idealism in the 1950s to a milieu of vituperation amid struggles for tenure and power. \$24.95. University of Pennsylvania. ISBN 0-8122-3850-8.

French for Le Snob, by Yvette Reche (398 pages, July 2005), arranges French loanwords and expressions by popular topic for handy use by theatre buffs, gourmands, art critics, antique dealers, and fashion designers. However, non-snobs unfamiliar with the language will also find it a useful glossary that demystifies chance encounters with such mots as pain perdu, ceinture, frottage, faux culs, mouchard, or zut! A pronunciation guide helps hesitant speakers. \$16.95. Santa Monica Press. ISBN 1-59580-003-4.

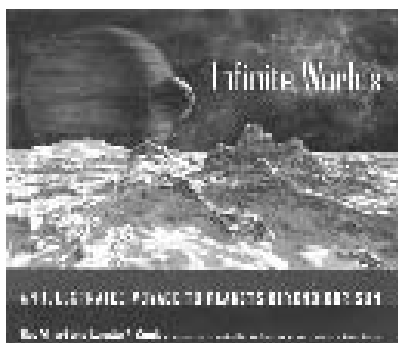
From Dissertation to Book, by William Germano (141 pages, April 2005), offers indispensable advice to the graduate student who has completed a doctoral thesis and wonders whether anything publishable lies within. Germano lays out the options (chapters as articles, cosmetic or deep revisions, electronic publication), then explains how to transform the often dreary, passive-voice prose into a package that a book editor might accept. Both entertaining and blunt (someone who writes in the passive hopes that no one will notice that she's there), this book will also aid any academic writer who seeks to polish a rusty expository style. \$16.00. University of Chicago. ISBN 0-226-28845-5.

Imagining Postcommunism: Visual Narratives of Hungary's 1956 Revolution, by Beverly A. James (201 pages, May 2005), examines the artistic commemorations of the 1956 uprising against Soviet totalitarian rule that have taken place since the free elections of 1990. Suppressed as a legitimate topic of public debate until then, the revolt has taken on the status of a foundation myth in present-day Hungary. James evaluates the icons

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of 1956 as displayed in Budapest's Statue Park and House of Terror museums, the symbolism of the fall of Stalin's statue, and the elevation to folk-hero status of executed medical worker Ilona Tóth and Prime Minister Imre Nagy. \$50.00. Texas A&M University. ISBN 1-58544-405-7.

Infinite Worlds: An Illustrated Voyage to Planets beyond Our Sun, by Ray Villard and Lynette R. Cook (252 pages, April 2005), blends science and artistic speculation with a fascinating look at the search for planets and life outside our solar system. Since the first confirmed discovery of an extrasolar planet in 1992, astronomers have identified at least 140 more. While Villard's text explains the astro-



physics and planetary geology in accessible language, Cook's paintings of extraterrestrial landscapes are strikingly vivid and based on cutting-edge research. This is quite simply the best book of space art since the trilogy by Ron Miller and William K. Hartmann in the mid-1980s (*The Grand Tour*, *Out of the Cradle*, and *Cycles of Fire*). \$49.95. University of California. ISBN 0-520-23710-2.

Innocents in the Arctic: The 1951 Spitsbergen Expedition, by Colin Bull (254 pages, June 2005), chronicles the misadventures of ten young geologists from the University of Birmingham who spent more than a month on the Norwegian Arctic island of Spitsbergen. Bull was the cook and glaciologist on the expedition, and he supplements his own account with diaries and field notes from the others who describe their troubles with the weather, a ship with perpetual mechanical failures, and the expedition's lack of preparation for Arctic survival. \$34.95. University of Alaska. ISBN 1-889963-73-9.

Letterwriting in Renaissance England, by Alan Stewart and Heather Wolfe (214 pages, June 2005), was published in conjunction with an exhibition at the Folger Shakespeare Library from November 2004 to April 2005. Many of the letters and other artifacts dating from the early 16th to the early 18th centuries are reproduced in color, transcribed verbatim, and put into context by Stewart, an English professor at Columbia University, and Wolfe, who is Folger's curator of manuscripts. Of particular interest are chapters on the postal system of the time and the manuals for secretaries that explained what letters were and how they should be written. \$45.00. University of Washington. ISBN 0-295-98509-7.

The Library of the Villa dei Papiri at Herculaneum, by David Sider (123 pages, September 2005), tells the story of the only library ever recovered from the Greco-Roman world, a cache of at least 1,000 papyrus rolls unearthed in the 1750s that had been buried 65 feet deep in volcanic ash from the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A.D. The library existed in a house thought to have been the seaside resort of Lucius Calpurnius Piso Caesoninus, a Roman consul and senator



who was the father-in-law of Julius Caesar. Although many of the scrolls are charred and cannot be unrolled without damaging them, scholars hope that their contents can be discerned through multispectral imaging techniques. Sider describes the eruption, the recovery of the papyri, ancient books and libraries, reading charred scrolls, and everything known about the library's texts. \$40.00. J. Paul Getty Museum. ISBN 0-89236-799-7.

The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States, editor-in-chief Kermit L. Hall (1,239 pages, 2d ed., May 2005), offers 20% more pages than the earlier edition, expanded coverage on many topics, bios of Clinton-appointed Justices Ginsberg and Breyer, and articles on 60 new cases decided between 1992 and 2004. Appendices show nominations and succession of the justices, the number of days particular seats have been vacant, Senate votes on nominees, and trivia and traditions of the Court. The numerous contributors have for the most part written lucid and well-organized entries that are accessible to laypersons and lawyers alike. The topical index is marvelously detailed and supplemented by a case index that includes decisions for which there is no main entry. \$65.00. Oxford University. ISBN 0-19-517661-8.

Success by the Numbers: Statistics for Business Development, edited by Ryan Womack (59 pages, June 2005), is a useful annotated guide to business statistical sources, from the 2002 census and state demographic data to economic

forecasts, labor trends, and international trade. The book is based on a RUSA Business Reference and Services Section program at the 2004 ALA Annual Conference in Orlando. \$24.00 (ALA members, \$21.60). ALA Reference and User Services Association Occasional Paper #28. ISBN 0-8389-8327-8.

Traveling Literary America: A Complete Guide to Literary Landmarks, by B. J. Welborn (518 pages, September 2005), surveys the historic homes and haunts of American writers from Pilgrims to postmodernists. Welborn provides directions, background, and suggestions for visiting the major sites, and lists other places of interest in each region, including many bookstores and library collections. An interesting guidebook, though marred significantly by the lack of an index. Also, not a word about Friends of Libraries USA, which has been responsible for creating the landmark status of many of these places since 1987. \$19.95. Jefferson Press; distributed by Independent Publishers Group, www.ipgbook.com. ISBN 0-97189-742-5. *zc*

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