

Chasing the Dragon, by Roy Rowan (262 pages, July 2004), is a first-hand account of the final years of China's civil war and the victory of the Communists over the Nationalist army of Chiang Kai-shek. Rowan, who worked first as a UN transportation specialist delivering relief supplies to villages in the interior and then found a job as a war correspondent for *Life* magazine, was uniquely positioned to report on the fall of Manchuria, the capture of Beijing, and the last days of the colorful port of Shanghai. He also describes his return to China in 1973 to meet Zhou Enlai for the second time in 25 years. A rare and fascinating look at the last days of the Republic. \$23.95. Lyons Press. ISBN 1-59228-218-0.

Cybercrime: A Reference Handbook, by Bernadette H. Schell and Clemens Martin (247 pages, October 2004), is a compact history of malicious attacks on computer systems from the 1960s to the present. An offering in ABC-Clío's Contemporary World Issues series, this book describes the categories of black hat hacking, famous criminal cases, legislation, controversies about system vulnerabilities, software suppliers, Web resources, and a cybercrime timeline. \$50.00. ABC-Clío. ISBN 1-85109-683-3.

Dictionary of Literary Characters, edited by Una McGovern (818 pages, October 2004), is an update of the 1994 *Larousse Dictionary of Literary Characters* that describes more than 6,500 characters in English-language novels, plays, poetry, and stories. Though the preponderance of authors are British and American, writers from Ireland, Australia, Canada, the Caribbean, Africa, and India are also represented. An index of authors lists the titles and characters included. \$35.00. Chambers. ISBN 0-550-10127-6.

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E-Journals, by Donnelly Curtis (419 pages, December 2004), offers a state-of-the-art, practical explanation on how to build and maintain collections of electronic journals. Curtis includes chapters on licensing and user authentication, ordering and receiving, fostering e-journal use, and gathering usage data. Of particular interest is a section on various ways to provide access through Web pages, online catalogs, and online course-delivery systems. \$75.00. Neal-Schuman. ISBN 1-55570-465-4.

Encyclopedia of the Library of Congress: For Congress, the Nation and the World, edited by John Y. Cole and Jane Aikin (569 pages, December 2004), offers a comprehensive history

and description of the collections, services, and activities of America's library. Part one begins with a brief history of the Library of Congress's (LC) development



written by Cole and Aikin, followed by 13 essays emphasizing the library's major functions, such as the Congressional Research Service, the Law Library, the Copyright Office, cooperative cataloging and other services to the American library community, and its relationships with the Smithsonian and the National Archives. Part two includes 79 shorter articles on other LC functions (the Music Division, the Kluge Center, the Center for the Book, poets laureate), the Librarians of Congress, the three buildings (Adams, Jefferson, and Madison), and selected collections (Geography and Map, Hispanic, Asian, and Rare Books). Appendices offer data on LC appropriations and collection growth, and a

list of senior library of cials from 1802 to 2004. This fact- lled, generously illustrated, eminently browsable reference is a tting tribute to LC's rst two centuries. \$125.00. Bernan Press. ISBN 0-89059-971-8.

Germans of Louisiana, by Ellen C. Merrill (380 pages, November 2004), documents the several waves of German immigration to the New Orleans area from the 18th century through World War I. Merrill points out the German place names in the area and identifies the meeting halls, churches, breweries, businesses, residences, schools, clubs, hotels, and theaters associated with the German population. The nal chapter presents short biographies of prominent German-Americans. \$25.00. Pelican. ISBN 1-58980-244-6.

Nixon at the Movies: A Book about Belief, by Mark Feeney (422 pages, November 2004), explores the complex persona of the 37th President from a fresh perspective Nixon's own fascination with lm that compelled him to watch more than 500 movies while he was in of ce from 1969 to 1974 (all of them listed in an appendix). His obsession with the movie *Patton* before and during the U.S. bombing of Cambodia is well known, but Feeney turns up some additional insights into the man's character by identifying the lms that influenced him the most. (Michael Todd's *Around the World in 80 Days* was apparently his all-time favorite, but John Ford was his favorite director.) Even Nixon's bizarre predawn visit to the Lincoln Memorial in May 1970 was straight out of Frank Capra's *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*," Feeney notes as he points out the parallels between Nixon's life and a handful of notable lms among them *Double Indemnity*, *Advise and Consent* and *Two Rode Together*. \$27.50. University of Chicago. ISBN 0-226-23968-3.

The Pursuit of Learning in the Islamic World, 610–2003, by Hunt Janin (229 pages, December 2004), surveys the cultural achievements of noteworthy Islamic personalities from the Prophet Muhammed to the

fundamentalist fugitive Osama bin Ladin. In between are 90 other scholars and activists lesser known in the West, including the Second Master Abu Nasr al-Farabi (878–950), the physician Ibn Sina (also known as Avicenna, 980–1037), Suleyman the Magnificent (1495–1566), and Turkish President Mustafa Kemal Ataturk (1881–1938). A useful primer on Islamic culture. \$45.00. McFarland. ISBN 0-7864-1954-7.

Tuned Out: Why Americans under 40 Don't Follow the News, by David T. Z. Mindich (172 pages, August 2004), documents through interviews and statistics the oft-noted trend that young people these days are far less likely to know or care about current events. Mindich examines the reasons for this and offers some suggestions for improvement, including making civic knowledge a college requirement, and teaching and demanding more accessible and engaging journalism. \$20.00. Oxford University. ISBN 0-19-516140-8.

Twisted Rails, Sunken Ships: The Rhetoric of Nineteenth Century Steamboat and Railroad Accident Investigation Reports, 1833–1879, by R. John Brockmann (273 pages, December 2004), compares the reports of seven accidents to show how investigations were conducted before the creation of the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1887. As transportation technology became more complex and legal concepts of liability and negligence evolved, the different types of accident investigations by coronor's juries, company investigators, scientific forensic experts, and newspaper reporters shed light on the conflicts of interest that accompanied the Industrial Revolution. Brockmann's textual analysis of the various reports is insightful. \$58.95. Baywood. ISBN 0-89503-291-0. ❧

