

This is my last column for *C&RL News*. After 32 years, I feel that it's time to call it quits. It's been a pleasure writing these mini-reviews, and I hope that they have aided your collection development efforts over the years.—George M. Eberhart

America's Other Audubon, by Joy M. Kiser (192 pages, May 2012), consists of commentary and a reprint of the plates from the extremely rare *Illustrations of the Nests and Eggs of Birds of Ohio* by Genevieve Jones and her family and privately published in Circleville, Ohio, in 1886. Jones was inspired to write this book when she saw John James Audubon's paintings for *Birds of America* at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and noted that he had left out many bird nests and eggs, items that she had collected since childhood. Unfortunately, she died of typhoid fever after completing only five illustrations. Her parents Virginia and Nelson and her brother Howard decided to complete the work in her memory. Kiser has updated the scientific and common names for the birds in the plates and in Howard's "key to the eggs," a tabular description of the eggs and nests for each species. \$45.00. Princeton Architectural Press. 978-1-61689-059-9.

The Battle for the Arab Spring, by Lin Noueihed and Alex Warren (350 pages, May 2012), is a superb analysis of the 2011 uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, Libya, Yemen, and Syria, and the economic and political conditions that led to popular discontent and open revolt. But the democratic outbursts that looked so promising at first have resulted in few improvements for most people in the region, and Islamist groups have been the primary beneficiaries of the Arab Spring, at least in the short run, as secular parties

failed to meet populist aspirations. The authors predict an era of greater instability in the region as power struggles continue and monarchs, political parties, and religionists recalibrate their tactics. \$28.00. Yale University. 978-0-300-18086-2.

Butterfly in the Typewriter: The Tragic Life of John Kennedy Toole and the Remarkable Story of A Confederacy of Dunces, by Cory MacLauchlin (319 pages, March 2012), is based on extensive interviews with Ken Toole's friends and family, as well as the Toole papers at Tulane University. Although the story of Toole's posthumous success with his novel about the eccentric New Orleans character Ignatius J. Reilly is well-known, MacLauchlin provides extensive detail about Toole's life, corrects much of the misinformation in a previous biography, and argues that the novel's tragicomic durability ensures Toole's place in the American literary canon. \$26.00. Da Capo. 978-0-306-82040-3.

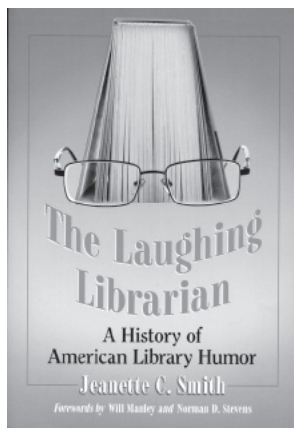
Fighting the Current: The Rise of American Women's Swimming, 1870–1926, by Lisa Bier (214 pages, August 2011), uncovers the forgotten history of women's swimming, from the earliest racing competitions in the 1870s to Gertrude Ederle's successful English Channel swim in 1926. Many swimmers got their start at water carnivals held by the Volunteer Life Saving Corps or New York's National Women's Life Saving League. In 1914, the Amateur Athletic Union finally voted to allow women to participate in its swim meets, which led to the first U.S. women's swim team to compete in the 1920 Olympics in Antwerp. Bier's excellent narrative covers an important gap in the history of women's athletics. \$40.00. McFarland. 978-0-7864-4028-3.

A Labyrinth of Kingdoms: 10,000 Miles through Islamic Africa, by Steve Kemper (415 pages, June 2012), tells the story of

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Prussian scholar Heinrich Barth's journey in 1850–1855 from Tripoli to Timbuktu and back on an expedition financed by the British government to open trade in North and Central Africa and explore and survey Lake Chad. When Barth's two European colleagues, James Richardson and Adolf Overweg, died en route, Barth continued alone, aided by a handful of African servants and guides. Barth's five-volume account of his expedition has been a treasure trove of information on ethnology and geography, but he is not as recognized as other African explorers. Kemper followed part of Barth's route in Nigeria and Mali to research this book. \$28.95. W. W. Norton. 978-0-393-07966-1.

The Laughing Librarian: A History of American Library Humor, by Jeanette C. Smith (231 pages, May 2012), charts the largely



unexplored territory of library wit and satire, both inside and outside the profession. Smith, who received the first Molesworth Institute Library Humor Award in 1999, looks at anecdotal blunders by patrons

and library staff, library superheroes (Rex Libris, Batgirl), librarian stereotypes, and parodies ("I am the very model of a Bibli-Specialographer"). She devotes entire chapters to shushing, library technology, and legendary library humorists Edmund Lester Pearson, Norman D. Stevens, and Will Manley. Although this is a straightforward history and not an anthology, there are plenty of library jokes scattered throughout, from the ALA *Cognotes* swimsuit issue to "For SEX—See the librarian." As Smith writes in her introduction, "In this book I present the truths

of my profession as they were told to me in jest." \$49.95. McFarland. 978-0-7864-6452-4.

Turing's Cathedral: The Origins of the Digital Universe, by George Dyson (401 pages, March 2012), examines the protohistory of computing, especially the pioneering work of John von Neumann, Oswald Veblen, Julian Bigelow, Stanislaw Ulam, and Nils Baricelli in bringing Alan Turing's vision of a Universal Computing machine one step closer to reality in the 1950s. An essential choice for computer history collections, but not the easiest of reads. \$29.95. Pantheon. 978-0-375-42277-5.

Tutankhamen: The Search for an Egyptian King, by Joyce Tyldesley (316 pages, March 2012), reviews what is both known and unknown about the young



pharaoh Tutankhamen and his ten-year reign. Tyldesley recounts the 1922 discovery of Tut's tomb by Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon, its subsequent excavation, and inventory

of its artifacts. Because of the intense media coverage of the find, much speculation and misinformation began to circulate—not the least of which was the supposed curse that led to the premature deaths of many who were present at the opening of the tomb, a myth that the author carefully deconstructs. Of greater interest is a chapter that explores the identities of Tut's father, mother, and children, a genealogy that DNA analysis has not helped to clarify. \$29.99. Basic Books. 978-0-465-02020-1.

(continues on page 445)

Lydia Welhan has been appointed technical services librarian at Saddleback College, effective August 13, 2012.

Retirements

Kate Hickey has retired after 16 years as dean and university librarian at Elon University in



Kate Hickey

Elon, North Carolina, following a career spanning more than four decades. In 2000, Hickey was instrumental in the design of Elon's new library, which integrated the learning commons model throughout the building's first floor—

one of the first such commons at four-year institutions. Hickey served on the Librarians Governing Council of NC LIVE (North Carolina's virtual library)

for six years, was a founding member of the Triad Academic Libraries Association, and was a member of the Advisory Board of the University of North Carolina-Greensboro School of Library and Information Science. She has been active in ACRL, CLS, and CJCLS committees and programs for 27 years. She was a member of the Joint ACRL/LAMA Designing Academic Libraries and Learning Spaces Guide Task Force that published a wiki for practicing architects and was the coauthor of *Collection Management in the Electronic Age*, CJCLS's first published monograph. She was an active participant in the College Library Directors Mentoring Program, first as a participant and later as a mentor to five new library directors. Prior to her tenure at Elon, Hickey was director of the Shuman Library at the Pennsylvania College of Technology for 13 years. Her varied career included work at the National Fisheries Research and Development Laboratory in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, and as an adult and children's librarian at two public libraries. ♪

(*"Ethics . . .," cont. from page 413*)

and its new building. I am using every opportunity to start the conversation now.

Notes

1. Liz Dwyer, "Just Google It: How Search Engines Stunt College Students' Research Skills," *Good Education*, www.good.is, <http://www.good.is/post/just-google-me-why-the-search-engine-might-be-stunting-college-students-research-skills/> (accessed June 13, 2012).

2. I would like to give special thanks to Sarah Faye Cohen, former assistant director of the Miller Information Commons at Champlain College, for graciously sharing her ideas, enthusiasm, and approaches to creatively engaging students in the classroom.

3. Lawrence Lessig, "The Architecture of Access to Scientific Knowledge," *CERN Colloquium and Library Science Talk*, <http://cdsweb.cern.ch/> from <http://vimeo.com/22633948> (accessed June 13, 2012). ♪

(*"New Publications," cont. from page 441*)

The Wizard of Oz As American Myth, by Alissa Burger (230 pages, March 2012), looks at six different expressions of L. Frank Baum's uniquely American fairy tale, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*: the original novel (1900), the MGM classic movie (1939), Sidney Lumet's film musical *The Wiz* (1978), Gregory Maguire's novel *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West* (1995), Stephen Schwartz and Winnie Holzman's Broadway

hit *Wicked: A New Musical* (2003), and the SyFy Channel miniseries *Tin Man* (2007). From Baum's original conception of Oz as the American frontier, Burger follows the transformations of the myth into shifting representations of gender, metaphors of race and otherness, concepts of domestic space ("there's no place like home"), and portrayals of magic and witchcraft as either destructive or empowering. \$35.00. McFarland. 978-0-7864-6643-6. ♪