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Book Review of 'Dwight D. Eisenhower,' by Tom Wicker

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SOCIAL SCIENCES

life and provides commentary on most of the controversial dimensions of the prime minister's long public career in fewer than 200 pages. Bravo! This succinct, graceful biography is highly recommended for public libraries.—*Jim Doyle, Sara Hightower Regional Lib., Rome, GA*

Ligocka, Roma with Iris Von Finckenstein. **The Girl in the Red Coat: A Memoir.**

St. Martin's. 2002. c.304p. tr. from Polish by Margot Bettauer Dembo, photogs. ISBN 0-312-28794-1. \$25.95. BIOG
Seeing herself as the "girl in the red coat" in the film *Schindler's List* inspired the author to undertake this painful journey into her past. In a fascinating work that reads like a novel, Ligocka, an acclaimed artist, set and costume designer, and cousin of Roman Polanski, confronts her memories as a young Polish Jew during World War II. Although Ligocka only spends about one-third of the book on her traumatic experiences "hiding in the open" between the ages of three and seven, her experiences obviously affected her entire life, leading to depression, addiction, and an existence of constant fear. As in Julia Collins's memoir, *My Father's War*, Ligocka's work is a testament to both the frailty and the strength of very young children who have experienced trauma. The remaining two-thirds of this work chronicle Ligocka's life as a career woman, wife, and mother and her struggle to come to terms with her past in the artistic culture of postwar Europe. This work, already a best seller abroad, should be purchased for both public and academic libraries.—*Maria C. Bagshaw, Lake Erie Coll., Painesville, OH*

Martin, Justin. **Nader: Crusader, Spoiler, Icon.**

Merloyd Lawrence: Perseus. Nov. 2002. c.288p. index. ISBN 0-7382-0563-X. \$26. BIOG
Incredibly, there has been no biography of Ralph Nader for over 25 years. Journalist Martin, author of the well-received *Greenspan: The Man Behind the Money*, here addresses the life of the longtime adversary of corporate power and recent presidential candidate. Based upon hundreds of interviews with associates, family, and Nader himself, the book will reward readers with immediacy, vitality, wit, and an evenhanded portrait of a subject, churlish and heroic at once, who in the course of "a gigantic life" has fashioned an immeasurable legacy in business, law, society, and politics. Chapters on Nader's boyhood in Winsted, CT, show how his family and the town in which they settled have been constant influences. Nader's "golden age," from 1966 to 1976, was followed by many years of eclipse. But there is "something immutable" in Nader, who reemerged as a political force, as witnessed in 2000 by

"Gush and Bore." Since Nader is still going strong, this book will by no means be the last word. But it is a good piece of work, highly recommended to all libraries.—*Robert F. Nardini, Chichester, NH*

Page, Nick. **Lord Minimus: The Extraordinary Life of Britain's Smallest Man.**

St. Martin's. 2002. c.272p. index. ISBN 0-312-29161-2. pap. \$16.95. BIOG
In this sympathetic retelling of the career of the man known as "Lord Minimus," Page (*The Tabloid Shakespeare; In search of the World's Worst Writers*) offers a fascinating perspective on the opulent lifestyle of the court of Queen Henrietta Maria and Charles I and on 17th-century social history. Jeffrey Hudson, the 18-inch tall "official dwarf" of the Stuart court, made his first appearance before royalty in 1626 at a banquet hosted by George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. Hudson, seven years old—"the smallest human being that anyone had ever seen, perfectly proportioned and dressed in a suit of miniature armor—climbed out of a gilded pastry pie...stood shyly on the table in front of the Queen...and bowed low." Between that first bow and Hudson's death, in London in late 1681, probably "alone and in poverty, unremarked and unremembered," stretched a journey that included intrigue, banishment, civil war, enslavement by Barbary pirates, and, in 1678, imprisonment for "being known to be a Roman Catholic." Page calls Hudson's life "one of the most remarkable stories of the seventeenth century." Certainly this account offers vivid and remarkable insights into the man and the times in which he lived. Recommended for most libraries.—*Robert C. Jones, Central Missouri State Univ., Warrensburg*

Rockefeller, David. **Memoirs.**

Random. Oct. 2002. c.784p. photogs. index. LC 2002024800. ISBN 0-679-40588-7. \$35. AUTOBIOG
This autobiography by the youngest son of John D. Rockefeller Jr. and Abby Aldrich Rockefeller is also a history of 20th-century America and its influence in the world order. As David Rockefeller traces his own life (he was born in 1915) with references to the personal and business dealings of his father and grandfather, this history unfolds through his eyes. Chapters on his childhood, teenage years, and relationships with his parents provide insight into his character development and lifestyle. But when he discusses his years at Harvard, the London School of Economics, and the University of Chicago, where he earned his Ph.D. in economics, Rockefeller tells of his meetings with top professors and economists such as Keynes and Schumpeter, commenting on their theories. The account of his travel experience in Nazi Germany during the mid-1930s is

compelling. His marriage to Peggy, his time as an intelligence officer in World War II, and his relationships with his brothers in family conflicts, as well as his work with Chase Bank, Rockefeller Center, OPEC, and the Middle East, Latin America, and the World Trade Center, are all discussed in detail. Of particular interest is Rockefeller's epilog discussing 9/11. This very readable and thought-provoking account of an influential financier, philanthropist, and art lover will hold readers' interest. Given the broad sweep of Rockefeller's life, it may be quite popular and in demand in both public and academic libraries.—*Steven J. Mayover, formerly with the Free Lib. of Philadelphia*

Wicker, Tom. **Dwight D. Eisenhower.**

Times Bks. (American Presidents). Nov. 2002. c.192p. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-8050-6907-0. \$20. BIOG
Another in the "American Presidents" series edited by Arthur Schlesinger Jr., this brief review of the presidency of Dwight D. Eisenhower by one of the nation's most respected journalists is a valuable addition to the literature of the administration and its times. While necessarily cursory owing to the page limitations imposed by the series, this work nonetheless captures the key events of the Eisenhower presidency in a way that is highly accessible and intellectually compelling. Wicker examines aspects of Ike's administration with an eye not only to the 1950s, but to our own era as well. This is especially evident in his examination of the roots of "executive privilege," a concept first used by Eisenhower and of vital importance to the presidency today, and of Ike's use of covert actions around the globe. Wicker (*One of Us: Richard Nixon and the American Dream*) concludes that Eisenhower was a great man, but not necessarily a great president. He does, however, give Ike rather high marks for his accomplishments while calling him to task for his failings (e.g., his mild response to McCarthy and his failure to exercise moral leadership in desegregation). This is one of the finest single-volume treatments of the Eisenhower presidency available.—*Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

Communications

Bloom, Stephen G. **Inside the Writer's Mind: Writing Narrative Journalism.**

Iowa State: Blackwell. 2002. c.300p. permanent paper. LC 2002004212. ISBN 0-8138-1779-X. pap. \$34.99. COMM
Making up this delightful collection are 30 short journalistic essays, originally published in *Salon.com*, the *San Jose Mercury News*, and the *Los Angeles Times*, among other places, and grouped under broad headings such as "Ordinary People," "Extraordinary People," and "Extraordinary