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Book Review of 'Grover Cleveland,' by Henry Graff

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Anthropology & Customs

Díaz, Frank. **The Gospel of the Toltecs: The Life and Teachings of Quetzalcoatl.**

Bear & Co. 2002. c.256p. tr. from Spanish by Luix Saldaño. illus. bibliog. ISBN 1-879181-86-X. pap. \$16. ANTHRO

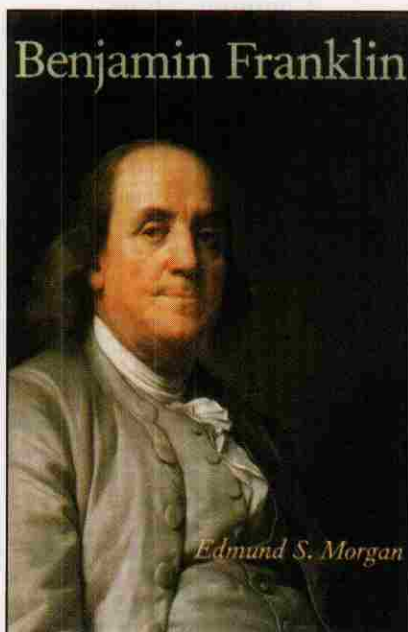
Quetzalcoatl (b. 947 C.E.), also known as the Feathered Serpent, is an important historical and mythical figure in the study of Mesoamerican culture as well as the inspiration for various literary works, notably D.H. Lawrence's *The Plumed Serpent*. More recently, he has acquired a large following among New Age spiritual seekers. This volume is presented as a translation of the life and teachings of Quetzalcoatl. But Díaz (*Quetzalcoatl's Avatars*), described by the publisher as "an anthropological investigator," provides no introduction or other background information describing the organization of the work, his purpose in writing it, or his own research methods. The text is presented completely without context, and the bibliographic references are incomplete. For readers interested in this subject, many other works can be recommended, including H.B. Nicholson's *Topiltzin Quetzalcoatl* and Enrique Florescano's *The Myth of Quetzalcoatl*. This work is not recommended.—*Faye Powell, Portland State Univ. Lib., OR*

Biography

Ellsberg, Daniel. **Secrets: A Memoir of Vietnam and the Pentagon Papers.**

Viking. Oct. 2002. c.474p. index. ISBN 0-670-03030-9. \$29.95. AUTOBIOG

Before leaking the Pentagon Papers, which documented U.S. foreign-policy failures and deceit in Vietnam from 1945 to 1968, Ellsberg was a gung-ho advisor to the State and Defense departments. One fascinating part of this story is his growing disenchantment with the war during these years. He came to believe that leaking the top-secret papers and other classified documents was a patriotic act that could help end the war. Other fascinating aspects of this account include Ellsberg's frustrated attempts to find a member of Congress who would accept and use the papers to build a case against the war as well as his growing role in the antiwar movement. President Nixon failed in his strong-arm tactics to discredit Ellsberg, and the case against him was dismissed because of the illegal break-in at the office of Dr Lewis Fielding, Ellsberg's psychiatrist. Interestingly, Ellsberg speculates that the break-in by Nixon's "Plumbers" was as much an attempt to blackmail Field-



The best short biography available, based on the statesman's papers, p. 70

ing as it was a gambit to stop Ellsberg. The book suffers somewhat from the overabundance of detail and repetition that also flawed Tom Wells's *Wild Man: The Life and Times of Daniel Ellsberg*. However, Ellsberg's autobiographical account provides insight into the disturbing abuses of presidential power that plagued the Vietnam/Watergate era. Recommended for public libraries. [Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 7/02.]—*Karl Helicher, Upper Merion Twp. Lib., King of Prussia, PA*

Everitt, Anthony. **Cicero: The Life and Times of Rome's Greatest Politician.**

Random. 2002. c.368p. permanent paper. index. LC 2001048531. ISBN 0-375-50746-9. \$25.95. BIOG

Everitt's first book is a good read that anyone interested in ancient Rome will enjoy. It is also the first one-volume life of the Roman leader in 25 years. To create a work that flowed and was therefore more colorful for the lay reader, Everitt, the former secretary-general of the Arts Council for Great Britain, has taken liberties when describing a person or a place that may annoy scholars. Yet reading this book is an excellent way to understand the players of the period and the culture that produced them. Bloody, articulate, erudite, sexist, slave-owning—Cicero and his circle were all that, but Everitt is careful to recognize that the orator was a product of his age. This is not strictly a political history; Everitt scrutinizes Roman

society in discussing events of the orator's life and, when describing Cicero's marriage, acquaints the reader with various aspects of that institution and the home of the era. Throughout, he is willing to admit when the evidence for a theory is weak and when he is extrapolating from the assumptions of scholars. Recommended for public and undergraduate collections.—*Clay Williams, Hunter Coll. Lib., New York*

Graff, Henry F. **Grover Cleveland.**

Times Bks. (American Presidents). 2002. c.192p. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-8050-6923-2. \$20. BIOG

As part of the "American Presidents" series under the editorial direction of Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., distinguished historian Graff (*America: The Glorious Republic, to 1877*) offers new insight into a President who is often overlooked. Best known as the only President to serve two nonconsecutive terms, Cleveland does indeed deserve Graff's fresh examination. The 1888 Presidential election was marked by one of the earliest and most virulent attacks on the personal behavior of a candidate when Cleveland was accused of fathering a child out of wedlock. But the candidate took full responsibility for the child (an act Graff refers to as "the gold standard" for such circumstances), and in the end the incident did not cause Cleveland to lose the election. Graff's examination of the 1888 election is one of the finest short reviews of that peculiar race available. Cleveland had a narrow view of the President's powers and did not exert the more expansive leadership that would characterize later Presidents. But he was an able administrator and pursued a clean-government agenda. This slim volume is a valuable addition to the literature on the Presidency and is a compelling argument for taking Cleveland seriously as a President. For political collections of public libraries.—*Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

Lewis, Mindy. **Life Inside: Surviving a Difficult Adolescence; A Memoir.**

Atria: S. & S. Oct. 2002. c.352p. bibliog. LC 2002104389. ISBN 0-7434-1149-8. \$24. AUTOBIOG

Artist and writer Lewis had a tough adolescence. At 15, she was remanded to a mental hospital and not released until she legally became an adult three years later. The first section of this intimate memoir is an account of those years. The second section brings the story up to date, incorporating Lewis's recent exploration into her medical records and a return visit to the hospital. There she talks to a psychiatrist who tells her that chronic undifferentiated