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Book Review of "The Prince of Tennessee" by David Maraniss and Ellen Nakashima

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SOCIAL SCIENCES

latched onto its Portuguese identity when the expression of British identity, previously seen as a sign of elite status, became a sensitive issue at the end of the colonial age. Repertoires of Portuguese-style music and dance, now presented to outsiders as though they have been handed down over the generations since perhaps 1511, have, in reality, only been cobbled together since 1952. Moreover, they reflect intentional strategies on the part of Eurasians to create an acceptable image for their community in modern Malaysia. This book is informative, interestingly written, and up-to-date in its theoretical outlook. A solid contribution to ongoing debates in anthropology about identity and representation in the postcolonial world; recommended for academic libraries and collections in the performing arts, cultural studies, tourism, and Southeast Asian studies.—*Jay H. Bernstein, Fordham Univ. Lib., Bronx, NY*

Biography

Bryson, Shareen Blair. *Resisting Hitler: Mildred Fish-Harnack & the Red Orchestra.*

Oxford Univ. Oct. 2000. c.512p. photogs. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-19-513269-6. \$30. BIOG

Bryson, an Emmy Award-winning producer, writer, and director of CBS documentaries, has painstakingly compiled personal interviews, letters, and historical documents into a balanced narration of the life of Mildred Fish-Harnack and her times. The book chronicles the story of several "Aryan elite" Germans, dubbed the Red Orchestra by the Nazis, who organized resistance to Hitler's regime. They included the Wisconsin-born Fish-Harnack, a teacher and scholar; her husband, Arvid Harnack, an economics minister in the Reich; and numerous friends and family (many of whom were later executed). Additionally, newly discovered information of this groups' Berlin activities are detailed here due to recently released documents from the KGB, FBI, and CIA. Although other books have been written about the Red Orchestra (notably, *The Red Orchestra: The Soviet Spy Network Inside Nazi Europe*), none has concentrated solely on the actions of the Berlin network. By detailing the life of Fish-Harnack, whose guillotining in 1943 made her the only American woman executed for treason during World War II, Bryson is able to put a very human face on these troubled times. With a supporting cast of Fish-Harnack's friends such as Martha Dodd, Bryson has developed a scholarly analysis of this forgotten group. Containing a lengthy bibliography, notes section, and index, this work is recommended for academic libraries.—*Maria C. Bagshaw, Lake Erie Coll., Painesville, OH*

Dickerson, Debra J. *An American Story.*

Pantheon. Sept. 2000. c.304p. LC 00-029862. ISBN 0-375-42069-X. \$24.

AUTOBIOG

A child of the Great Migration of blacks from the South, journalist Dickerson (formerly with *U.S. News & World Report*) gives a spirited account of her own migration from North St. Louis to the U.S. Air Force and finally to Harvard Law School, where she discovered her true calling as a writer. Along the way, she tried on a succession of personal and political styles, each of which she describes with uncommon insight and unsparing wit. Dickerson owes her survival skills and self-discipline to her family background and military training, but she would not have overcome poverty, abuse, rape, prejudice, and her own insecurity without a lifelong passion for reading, sparked by her early discovery of the public library. Parts of her memoir read like a well-crafted novel, but other parts would not seem out of place in a military recruitment brochure; the author could have omitted some details of military life without detracting from the strength of her story. Nevertheless, this moving and well-written account is highly recommended for academic and public libraries.—*Susan M. Colowick, North Olympic Lib. Syst., Port Angeles, WA*

★**Duiker, William J. *Ho Chi Minh.***

Hyperion, dist. by Little, Brown. Sept. 2000. c.720p. photogs. index. ISBN 0-7868-6387-0. \$35. BIOG

Neither the cryptic, diabolical enemy nor the icon of the Left, "Uncle Ho" is now the subject of this objective historical study. Vietnam expert Duiker (*The Communist Road to Power in Vietnam*) here writes the first biography of Ho to use critical sources in Vietnamese, French, Chinese, Russian, and English. His narrative encompasses the last days of the Vietnamese monarchy, in which Ho's father was an official; the French conquest of and attempt to dominate Indochina; the anti-imperialist struggle, aided by Russian and Chinese national and Communist interests; and the career of Ho, who died in 1969, revered by some as the Father of the Revolution and reviled by others as a murderous tyrant. The author carefully sorts out the intricate, often ambiguous evidence, supplying enough background for the interested general reader and enough detail, especially in the extensive notes, for the demanding specialist. Highly recommended for larger collections.—*Charles W. Hayford, Northwestern Univ., Evanston, IL*

Feigen, Brenda. *Not One of the Boys: Living Life as a Feminist.*

Knopf. Sept. 2000. c.352p. photogs. index. ISBN 0-679-40842-8. \$26. BIOG

An attorney and literary agent, Feigen was an active participant in the women's move-

ment of the 1960s and 1970s. She helped break down sexist barriers while a student at Harvard Law School and went on to hold office in N.O.W. and to help found *Ms.* magazine with Gloria Steinem. She also worked with Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the A.C.L.U.'s Women's Rights Project. Later she produced a feature film, *Navy Seals*, and has worked on other film projects. In the latter part of the book she discusses legal aspects of sexual discrimination, her views on pornography, and her speculations on the future of feminism. Although she was an active participant in the dramatic days of the movement, Feigen's writing is not as stringent as one might expect. In fact, the tone is often chatty. This memoir of a lesser-known feminist activist is appropriate for comprehensive academic/women's studies collections but is an optional purchase for public libraries.—*Patricia A. Beaber, Coll. of New Jersey Lib., Ewing*

Horne, Gerald. *Race Woman: The Lives of Shirley Graham Du Bois.*

New York Univ. Sept. 2000. c.400p. permanent paper. photogs. index. ISBN 0-8147-8120-9. \$28.95. BIOG

The lives of Shirley Graham Du Bois, *dame extraordinaire*, began with an early commitment to uplift her race. Her life roles included that of struggling single parent, musician, playwright, and novelist; successful biographer, activist, and adviser to Ghanaian nationalist leader Kwame Nkrumah; wife of W.E.B. Du Bois; and, at various times, citizen of the United States, Ghana, and Tanzania. Throughout her life, she worked tirelessly for racial uplift, desegregation in the United States, and African decolonization. Politically, she espoused the ideologies of Soviet communism, Chinese socialism, and leftist nationalism. Relying on extensive research, Horne (*Fire This Time: The Watts Uprising and the 1960s*) shows how Graham Du Bois handled—successfully or unsuccessfully—the conflicts she confronted as a black woman in male-dominated arenas and her personal struggle to resolve her parenting responsibilities with her artistic and political goals. Readers will anxiously anticipate each chapter and will be grateful that Graham Du Bois's amazing and often controversial life has finally been documented. Recommended for both public and academic libraries.—*Sherri Barnes, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara*

Maraniss, David & Ellen Nakashima.

The Prince of Tennessee: The Rise of Al Gore.

S. & S. Sept. 2000. c.224p. index. LC 00-055610. ISBN 0-7432-0411-5. \$22. BIOG

Maraniss, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *First in His Class*, the highly acclaimed biography of Bill Clinton, and coauthor Nakashima, both of the *Washington Post*, have written a timely and valu-

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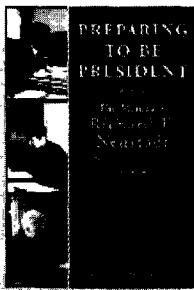
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able biography of vice president and would-be president Al Gore. Stressing the impact of Gore's privileged upbringing in a Washington, DC, political family, the authors argue that "the child remains the father of the man. Many of the behavioral patterns of the figure who would run for president in 2000 are best explained by the boy he once was." The result, they argue, is a "duality" pitting the bold Gore against the subservient Gore. There is a "struggle within Al Gore" between his self-confidence and his insecurity. Surprisingly, the authors skate very quickly over Gore's vice presidential years, arguably the time when his "duality" would be most evident. This book may suffer by comparisons to *First in His Class* but is nonetheless an important contribution to our understanding of Al Gore and could profitably be read along with Bill Turque's *Inventing Al Gore* (*LJ* 3/15/00). [Previewed in *Prepub Alert*, *LJ* 4/15/00.]—*Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

Sugarman, Tracy. *My War: A Love Story in Letters and Drawings from World War II.*

Random. Oct. 2000. c.224p. permanent paper. illus. ISBN 0-375-50513-X. \$30.

BIOG

Often, history is best written as something intensely personal. And that's true with this volume, which not only offers a sampling of intense wartime love letters but also a large gallery of 80 pen-and-ink sketches, watercolors, and oils depicting the war (the paintings were seen only in black-and-white galleys by the reviewer). Sugarman was a young, newly married navy ensign assigned a role in the D-Day invasion of Normandy, initially ferrying GI's to the hell that was Utah Beach. Sugarman's wife kept all of his letters and artwork in brown paper parcels; in 1994, a conversation the couple was having about the 50th anniversary of D-Day brought them to light again and eventually into this book. Sugarman and his wife, June, were really latter-day romantics—which is immediately apparent in his letters. What is not made clear, however, is why this fine artwork languished in the parcels for half a century. And there's a poignant sadness to all of this. Sugarman writes at the end: "On October 5, 1998, June died in my arms from a sudden heart attack. It was the only thing that could have interrupted our loving dialogue. She is missed daily by so many of us. Especially me. But remembered with much love. Much love."—*Chet Hagan, Historical Soc. of Berks Cty., PA*

Wertime, Richard. *Citadel on the Mountain: A Memoir of Father and Son.*

Farrar. Sept. 2000. c.272p. photogs. ISBN 0-374-12378-0. \$22. AUTOBIOG
Three-quarters of the way through, this re-

viewer was prepared to pan this book. Why does a son have to air all his family's dirty laundry—e.g., his mother having to share a house with his father's mistress or his father's orchestrating an unwanted sexual liaison between the author and a family friend who had practically been a sister to him? Is it just to exorcise the demons of an autocratic, psychologically abusive, though brilliant parent? And do we really need to know about Wertime's (English, Beaver Coll.) childhood attempt to smother his disturbed younger brother or his pet name for his penis? Ultimately, however, this memoir proves as hard-hittingly poignant as Robert Anderson's play and 1970 movie, *I Never Sang for My Father*, and all this reader's memories of the minefield that is a father-son relationship come bubbling up—the harsh words spoken and loving ones withheld, the desire to connect, and the need for independence. Truly, death ends a life, not a relationship. Recommended for most public libraries.—*Jim Burns, Ottumwa P.L., IA*

Communications

Detz, Joan. *It's Not What You Say, It's How You Say It.*

St. Martin's. Oct. 2000. c.240p. bibliog. ISBN 0-312-24305-7. pap. \$12.95.

COMM

For many people, speech giving is a nerve-racking but necessary task, and this book provides proven tips, suggestions, and guidance to make the experience successful and to help readers develop confidence and skill for any public-speaking occasion. Detz focuses on preparation, organization, and delivery skills, also discussing the uses of technology, public speaking in unusual settings, dealing with interruptions, health and physical challenges, and evaluation. An appendix gives a useful bibliography of speakers' resources, mostly sources of quotations, professional public-speaking organizations, and web sites. Detz has authored four books on public speaking, most recently *How To Write and Give a Speech*, maintains a web site at www.joandetz.com, and works as a professional speech coach and motivational speaker. This book is recommended for public libraries and corporate libraries, but those owning another book by Detz or any solid book on public speaking can pass.—*Denise S. Sticha, Seton Hill Coll., Greensburg, PA*

Jensen, Carl. *Stories That Changed America: Muckrakers of the 20th Century.*

Seven Stories. 2000. c.270p. LC 00-020365. ISBN 1-58322-027-5. \$26.95.

COMM

Jensen (communications studies, Sonoma State Univ.), the author of *Twenty Years of Censored News*, expands his theme in this