**Vanished: The Sixty-Year Search for the Missing Men of World War II**  
By: Hylton, Wil S.  
D790 .H95 2013  
Review from: *Booklist*  
September 1, 2013

...in September 1944 a B-24 went down with its crew of 11 in the Pacific and remained hidden there for nearly seven decades. Hylton’s gripping book begins with a modern-day mystery. Did Tommy Doyle’s father, who was a member of the B-24’s crew, actually survive the crash and live a new life with a new family? Tommy’s wife, searching for an answer, located a man named Pat Scannon, explorer, wreck-hunter, seeker of lost WWII gold, who had been looking for the very same plane for the past six years. Combining the modern-day search for the missing plane and the stories of its crew as they prepared for what would be their last flight, the book is both the tale of an exciting scientific expedition and a little-known WWII story.

**Gettysburg: The Last Invasion**  
By: Guelzo, Allen C.  
E475.53 .G875 2013  
Review from: *PW Annex Reviews*  
June 3, 2013  
Esteemed Civil War scholar Guelzo (Lincoln and Douglas) delivers a dense, impressively detailed account of the Civil War’s turning point and bloodiest battle. Beginning shortly before the days of the actual engagement, his tome explores all aspects of Gettysburg as a military endeavor and the events that led to it. He addresses politics within the Union and the Confederate governments and armies, the personalities of major players and units, and places all within a greater historical and global context... While the sheer length and level of required engagement with the text make it not for everyone, readers who are willing to dedicate the time to read it will find this book enriching and enlightening.

**The Cuban Missile Crisis in American Memory: Myths versus Reality**  
By: Stern, Sheldon M.  
E841 .S7575 2012  
Review from: *Choice*  
March 1, 2013

Stern served as historian at the Kennedy presidential library and was the first historian to listen to the 43 hours of secret White House tape recordings made during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. The missile crisis has become, in US memory, a "mythic crisis, shaped largely by manipulation and half-truths."... In Stern's judgment, President Kennedy displayed leadership, remaining calm during the crisis and staring down his belligerent civilian advisers and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The president understood that war was an unimaginable choice in a world of nuclear weapons. Stern acknowledges that the president precipitated the crisis with hostile policies toward Fidel Castro's Cuba and that he persisted in his reckless anti-Castro policies in 1963, but does not explain these policy contradictions.

**On the Map: A Mind-Expanding Exploration of the Way the World Looks**  
By: Garfield, Simon  
GA201 .G366 2013  
Review from: *Booklist*  
January 1, 2013

Garfield... invites readers along on a trip through time and around the world that is enlightening and impossible to put down. The narrative dances from Marco Polo to Vinland, the first atlas, Lewis and Clark, the grids of Manhattan, and even the opening sequence of Casablanca. The people and places he has chosen to discuss are a collection of curiosities without peer, and even short pocket map visits with J. M. Barrie, the explorers Burke and Wills lost in Australia, and Winston Churchill’s WWII Map Room are diversions not to be missed. The length and breadth of his scholarship are staggering, while the witty tone makes for the most convivial of literary guides... Popular history is an overused term these days, but Garfield rewrites the definition by issuing an irresistible invitation to see the world, and delivering on his promise of the map as story, the map as life.

**Baseball and the Bottom Line in World War II: Gunning for Profits on the Home Front**  
By: Obermeyer, Jeff  
GV863 .A1 O25 2013  
Review from: *Choice*  
January 1, 2014

...Obermeyer includes coverage of the 19th century and WWII, but he mostly omits the critical Depression era. More devotion to that period, which is covered in David Surdam’s Wins, Losses, and Empty Seats (CH, Nov’11, 49-1535), would have been worthwhile. The author faults baseball owners for being profit oriented and protecting their interests in wartime, but the same could be said for most any industry, including meatpacking and the media...The business of baseball takes up almost a third of the entire volume (all of chapter 6 [52 pages] and 15 pages of chapter 8) yet has relatively little to do with the war. And--big whiff!--Obermeyer does not cite any of the sports-economics literature from the last 25 years.
**Act of Congress: How America’s Essential Institution Works, and How it Doesn’t**

**By:** Kaiser, Robert G.
**HG181 .K35 2013**

**Review from:** Booklist  
**April 15, 2013**

At the height of the financial crisis of 2008, public distrust of Congress was nearly as great as its distrust of the Wall Street bankers behind the collapse. Still, Congress had to set aside enormous egos, political considerations, and fear of blame to pass legislation in record time to stave off a collapse. For 18 months, Washington Post reporter Kaiser was granted unprecedented access to the major figures behind the recovery legislation, most notably the colorful, irascible congressman Barney Frank and cautious senator Christopher Dodd, the men for whom the final legislation was named… What unfolds is high drama of ill-considered symbolic actions, political posturing, number crunching, speechifying, and deal-making. Beyond the financial crisis, Kaiser offers an insightful primer on how laws are made, from conception to passage, as well as the characters and culture of the U.S. Congress, observed from an astonishing perspective most citizens never see.

**Red Ink: Inside the High-Stakes Politics of the Federal Budget**

**By:** Wessel, David  
**HJ2051 .1W427 2012**

**Review from:** Booklist  
**July 1, 2012**

Anyone who’s curious to know how the U.S. government managed to spend $3.6 trillion dollars in 2011 may be interested to learn about the inner workings of the federal budget and where the money goes. Economics expert Wessel breaks it down in layperson’s terms. With the budget deficit being higher in 2011 than it has ever been, he explains the ever-widening gaps between government revenue and spending from the Great Depression until now, highlighting major historical milestones in budgetary strategy and the current situation… Controversy over whether tax increases or spending cuts should be made to defense, Medicare, or Social Security spending provides fuel for great debate.

**The Life of a Leaf**

**By:** Vogel, Steven  
**QK649 .V644 2012**

**Review from:** Library Journal  
**August 1, 2012**

The entire world is contained within a single leaf, and a single leaf can be used to represent the entire world. That, at least, is the message that Vogel (biology, emeritus, Duke Univ.; Glimpses of Creatures in Their Physical Worlds) wants readers to take away from his newest work. Accessible to non-mathematicians, Vogel’s work is ordered in a nontraditional way with the equations and quantifiers relegated to footnotes, so that someone more interested in the biological descriptions can bypass the math and physics supporting them. Vogel’s obvious enthusiasm for the subject and his skill at writing shine through with clarity and joy. Experiments scattered throughout the chapters allow instructors or even students to physically illustrate the theories that Vogel explains.

**The Science of Drinking: How Alcohol Affects Your Body and Mind**

**By:** Dasgupta, Amitava  
**QP801 .A3 D37 2011**

**Review from:** Booklist  
**March 1, 2011**

In this thoroughly documented tome, toxicologist Dasgupta covers everything you ever wanted to know about alcohol and more… A helpful, scary chart shows the many common medications from Prozac to Robitussin that can interact poorly with alcohol. Sometimes the book gets too technical, especially in sections on tests for driving while intoxicated and on biomarkers of alcohol abuse. But overall, it’s a definitive guide that should be available to everyone, including those who want to understand the science behind a friend’s or relative’s substance abuse. And that’s a lot of people: Dasgupta notes that 30.4 percent of U.S. adults consume more than two drinks a day. Anyone who reads this book won’t want to be among them.

**Rabid: A Cultural History of the World’s Most Diabolical Virus**

**By:** Wasik, Bill, and Monica Murphy  
**RC148 .W37 2012**

**Review from:** Library Journal  
**June 1, 2012**

Wasik and Murphy place the world’s deadliest virus in its historical and cultural context with a scientifically sound and compelling history that begins in ancient Mesopotamia and ends in 21st-century Bali. Highlights include chapters on Louis Pasteur, who developed the first rabies vaccine, and the few humans who have survived rabies infection. The authors also link rabies to myths and legends, including werewolves, vampires, and witches, and discuss rabies in literature and humankind’s long, close relationship with dogs. VERDICT Readable, fascinating, informative, and occasionally gruesome, this is highly recommended for anyone interested in medical history or the cultural history of disease.