FEATURED TITLES MAY 2013

A Tour of the Senses: How Your Brain Interprets the World
By: Henshaw, John M.
BF 233 .H46 2012

Review from: Choice October 1, 2012
When Henshaw (机械 engineering, Univ. of Tulsa) told a casual acquaintance that he was writing a book about the senses, the response was “The five senses?” He was quick to reply that there are more than five, and one goal of this book is to convince the reader that that is the case... One of the pluses of this book is its conversational tone and the use of anecdotes and examples. There are no literature references in the text, but there is a nine-page appended bibliography with citations for each chapter. A seven-page index helps locate specific topics. The book is excellent for general readers and learners, and it can also provide examples for those with advanced degrees...

Six Months in 1945: FDR, Stalin, Churchill, and Truman—From World War to Cold War
By: Dobbs, Michael
D 749 .D63 2012

Dobbs persuasively locates the beginning of the Cold War in the period roughly between the Yalta Conference of February 1945 and the Potsdam Conference in July, when the victorious Allies met up against the intractable problems of reconciling their divergent interests and war aims. The later confrontations of the Cold War, he says, were adumbrated by early tests of will that took place even before the end of war. The end of the war in Europe, and the prospect of an atomic bomb, accelerated the wartime Allies' desire to consolidate and improve their respective positions before Japan surrendered. Using many primary sources, Dobbs sketches vivid portraits of the leaders who shaped events, or neglected to do so, and ably conveys the tension and uncertainty of the era.

Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination That Changed America Forever
By: O'Reilly, Bill; Martin Dugard
E 457.5 .O74 2011

Review from: Library Journal December 1, 2011
In this fast-paced, enthralling narrative that unfolds more like a true-crime thriller than scholarly analysis, O'Reilly (The O'Reilly Factor) and Dugard (Into Africa: The Epic Adventures of Stanley and Livingstone) offer an account of the events that led up to, surrounded, and unfolded in the aftermath of Lincoln's assassination. With a judicious mixture of history, hagiography, and conspiracy theory, Killing Lincoln overflows with psychological insights and wild speculation. O'Reilly's sonorous tone and flair for the dramatic add tremendously to the work's theatrical value. Recommended for O'Reilly devotees.

Mathletics: A Scientist Explains 100 Amazing Things About the World of Sports
By: Barrow, John D.
GV 706.8 .B3736 2012

Review from: Booklist June 1, 2012
How did Michael Jordan hang in the air during his gravity-defying leaps? How does David Beckham bend his kicks out of the goalie's grasp? Barrow finds the answers to these and dozens of other sports conundrums in the mathematics lecture hall.... Visiting a wide range of sports, from baseball and tennis to windsurfing and skydiving, readers will marvel at how much mathematics can illuminate athletes' most amazing feats. Thrown in as an unexpected bonus, bits of historical trivia, such as the story of how live pigeons were once used for Olympic shooting events, enliven the narrative. Sports fans and math nerds will fight over this book!

Love and Capital: Karl and Jenny Marx and the Birth of a Revolution
By: Gabriel, Mary
HX 39.5 .G334 2012

Review from: Library Journal August 1, 2011
While a plethora of books on Karl Marx, his works, and Marxism are available, this is the first seriously researched study of the relationship—the passionate love story—between the philosopher and his wife, Jenny von Westphalen. Gabriel... draws heavily upon extensive Marx family correspondence to create a compelling story of love and heartbreak, following the Marx family across Europe through hard times and tragedy. She reveals not only the intellectual and revolutionary Karl Marx, but also the husband, father, and very human being. The book also notably portrays his lesser-known wife, a woman of intelligence, beauty, and noble birth who sacrificed dearly for her husband, his ideals, and their seven children. Gabriel continues the family saga after Karl Marx’s death to follow the lives of his three surviving daughters, two of whom committed suicide, all the while intricately weaving history, politics, and the birth of socialist thought throughout.
My Beloved World
By: Sotomayor, Sonia
KF 8745 .S67 A3 2013

Review from: Library Journal December 1, 2012
In this revealing memoir, Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor candidly and gracefully recounts her formative years growing up in the South Bronx in "a tiny microcosm of Hispanic New York City," among an extended family of Puerto Rican immigrants. Her descriptions of the neighborhoods, relatives, and routines of those years are vital, loving, and incisive, as she traces her growth into adulthood, and examines both strengths and failings. She then moves on to her decision to apply to Ivy League colleges, the challenges of coping with unfamiliar environments, her education at Princeton (with the library as her refuge), and her education and career as a lawyer, assistant district attorney, and newly appointed judge in 1992, at which point she draws to a close. Throughout, Sotomayor summons forth the stories that influenced her drive and character, while also painting evocative portraits of scenes and loved ones long gone...

History and Imagination: Reenactments for Elementary Social Studies
By: Morris, Ronald Vaughn
LB 1584 .M78 2012

Review from: Choice October 1, 2012
... Citing specific examples of museum programs, summer camps, festivals, and historical reconstructions... is also careful to align such programs with the social studies standards. Most of his examples are in Indiana, but that does not limit their usefulness because there are equivalents throughout the country... Morris emphasizes the importance of debriefing students after the experience and the importance of not trivializing history by failing to recognize the conflicts that were a part of a developing country with people from different backgrounds. He advocates that students receive a multiperspective view of history.

Atmosphere, Clouds, and Climate
By: Randall, David
QC 981 .R36 2012

Review from: Choice November 1, 2012
This book, part of the "Princeton Primers in Climate" series, is a very lucid and enjoyable introduction to weather and climate. Randall (atmospheric science, Colorado State Univ.) provides basic technical details, usually in the appendixes, but he devotes considerable effort to making the nine-chapter text accessible to a wide audience by including intuitive explanations for the concepts presented. This reviewer found this approach very successful. In his experience, a variety of academic departments offer introductory climate/weather courses, and a single class is often made up of students with varying academic backgrounds and technical knowledge. This book would make an excellent text for such a class. Suitable for academic students and interested professionals who wish to have a basic understanding of the atmosphere.

The Making of Modern Medicine: Turning Points in the Treatment of Disease
By: Bliss, Michael
R 149. B55 2011

Review from: Choice July 1, 2011
Bliss (emer., Univ. of Toronto) offers an enjoyable, lucid exploration of several milestones that transformed medicine into a life-saving science by 1922. He highlights episodes designed to show how the evolution of medicine in the late 19th century reshaped human thinking and changed a worldview, as people living in Western industrial democracies became harbingers of a new secular humanism... Bliss argues effectively that the "born again" aspect of insulin that appeared literally to resurrect the moribund was a key turning point in a new worldview that rejected fatalism and expected life-changing intervention from medical science.

Energy for Future Presidents: The Science Behind the Headlines
By: Muller, Richard A.
TJ 163.2 .M854 2012

Review from: Choice February 1, 2013
... Attempts to take what science and engineering have discovered about energy "production" and the environment and distill it down to the simplest possible level so that anyone could read this book and gain a better understanding of these issues, even if they do not agree with everything stated... Each chapter presents a short review of what the author considers to be the most important information related to various topics such as nuclear waste storage or energy technology policy... For such a short but comprehensive and relevant overview of a complex, critical contemporary issue, it is well worth recommending.