

College and University Archives: Readings in Theory and Practice, edited by Christopher J. Prom and Ellen D. Swain (357 pages, June 2008), addresses the new opportunities and challenges of maintaining academic archives in the 21st century. The first essay is by Marquette University Dean of Libraries Emeritus Nicholas C. Burckel, who discusses changes in the profession in the 30 years since he urged archivists to take a more proactive role in the 1979 edition of this collection of readings. Also of interest are chapters on documenting diversity by Kathryn M. Neal, student oral history by Ellen D. Swain, and privacy issues by Tim Pyatt. \$54.95. Society of American Archivists. 978-1-931666-27-5.

The Encyclopedia of Superheroes on Film and Television, by John Kenneth Muir (696 pages, 2d ed., September 2008), expands the 2004 edition by 75 pages to cover new films and TV series in the ever-proliferating superhero genre. Muir (the author of *Horror Films of the 1970s* and *Horror Films of the 1980s*) is at his best in analyzing trends and critiquing plots, and he pulls no superpunches in his reviews: *Ghost Rider* is one of those movies in which you know the next bad line even before it's spoken. \$75.00. McFarland. 978-0-7864-3755-9.

Encyclopedia of World's Fairs and Expositions, edited by John E. Findling and Kimberly D. Pelle (474 pages, July 2008), describes and illustrates more than 100 international fairs, from the Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations in London's Crystal Palace in 1851 to the upcoming World Exposition in Shanghai in 2010. Each entry offers a wide array of essential facts and an insightful bibliographical essay, for both little-known exhibitions and such well-researched fairs as the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893

and the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis in 1904. Appendixes include attendance statistics for each of the fairs, names of exposition officials, a list of fairs not included, and a summary of fairs that were planned but never took place. The editors note in an introduction that fairs have evolved from their original purpose as showcases of industrial progress to a wider range of artistic programs, entertainment, and public education. \$125.00. McFarland. 978-0-7864-3416-9.

The Geysers of Yellowstone, by T. Scott Bryan (462 pages, 4th ed., July 2008), has been thoroughly updated since the last edition was published in 1995. Geyser gazers will be pleased to note that names and serial numbers of the 700 or so Yellowstone geysers have been revised, with new ones added and recently dormant ones noted. Updated information on intervals, years of most recent activity, duration, and height are provided. The first chapter offers some geological background on geysers and why they are so plentiful in Yellowstone. Descriptions are arranged by geyser basin, accompanied by maps and photos. An appendix lists known geyser fields in other parts of the world. \$24.95. University Press of Colorado. 978-0-87081-924-7.

The Lindbergh Child, by Rick Geary (76 pages, September 2008), is the artist/author's first graphic novel to portray a notorious 20th-century crime, after taking nine forays into sensational murders of the Victorian Era. Geary's trademark scrupulous attention to detail aids comprehension of this complicated case that involved the kidnapping of the 20-month-old son of aviators Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh



George M. Eberhart is senior editor of *American Libraries*, e-mail: geberhart@ala.org

in 1932, as well as the trial and execution of German carpenter Bruno Hauptmann for the crime. Geary also summarizes the unanswered questions in the case. \$15.95. Nantier Beall Minoustchine. 978-1-56163-529-0.

The Model T: A Centennial History, by Robert Casey (148 pages, July 2008), celebrates the roll-out of America's first mass-produced, affordable, and versatile automobile in 1908. Casey includes vintage advertisements and spectacular photographs from the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, where he is curator of transportation. Calling the Model T Ford an earthshaking technological device, Casey describes its creation, manufacture, advertising, driving experience, and ultimate cultural meaning. Engineering students will appreciate the sections on the auto's most significant features—its transmission and magneto. \$24.95. Johns Hopkins University. 978-0-8018-8850-2.

Racing Odysseus: A College President Becomes a Freshman Again, by Roger H. Martin (262 pages, October 2008), describes the author's one-semester sabbatical as a 61-year-old freshman enrolled in the Great Books program at St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, in 2004 as an experiment to evaluate the role of a liberal arts education in the 21st century. Martin, president of Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia, rediscovers the relevance of Plato, Homer, and Herodotus and manages to perform on the college rowing team four years after nearly dying of cancer. In this engagingly written memoir, he concludes that a generalist curriculum lasts forever and may even be more relevant in an era when students can be expected to have multiple careers over their lifetimes. \$24.95. University of California. 978-0-520-25541-8.

Reading the OED: One Man, One Year, 21,730 Pages, by Ammon Shea (223 pages, July 2008), provides 26 chapters (one for each letter of the alphabet) of commentary and musings on dictionaries, words, language, libraries, collecting, and reading. As the title implies, Shea

spent a year reading the entire *Oxford English Dictionary* from start to finish. It wasn't the first time he read a dictionary straight through, but it was by far the largest. Each chapter includes a few of the interesting words he found (*antithalian*, *gove*, *grimthorpe*, *kakistocracy*, *misdelight*, *onomatomania*, and *pissupprest* are some examples) with their definitions and some comments by Shea. Published just in time for the OED's 80th birthday in 2008. \$21.95. Perigee. 978-0-399-53398-3.



A good companion book is *The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary* (242 pages, August 1998), by Simon Winchester, which traces the history of the 71-years-in-the-making OED and examines the lives of Scottish lexicographer James Murray, the primary editor of the dictionary from 1879 to 1915, and one of its contributors, William Chester Minor, who supplied word lists for Murray from his quarters in a lunatic asylum. \$23.00. HarperCollins. 978-0-06-017596-2.

Worlds Before Adam: The Reconstruction of Geohistory in the Age of Reform, by Martin J. S. Rudwick (614 pages, July 2008), continues the author's survey of geological theory first laid out in *Bursting the Limits of Time* (2007). This volume extends the narrative into the first half of the 19th century as scientists began to deal seriously with building a timeline for earth history based on the discovery of new fossils, the realization of the antiquity of the human species, and growing evidence for periodic widespread glaciations. Rudwick closely examines the work of Georges Cuvier, Charles Lyell, William Buckland, and Louis Agassiz, as well as the work of other European and American geologists and paleontologists in an era that was leading inexorably towards Darwin and a coherent theory of evolution. \$49.00. University of Chicago. 978-0-226-73128-5. *z*