

**Crunch! A History of the Great American Potato Chip**, by Dick Burhans (203 pages, August 2008), chronicles the potato chip



industry from its accidental beginnings in Saratoga Springs, New York, in the 1850s to Laura Scudder's invention of the airtight paper bag in the 1920s, the PepsiCo monopoly proceedings in the 1960s, the Pringles controversy ("is it a chip?") in the 1970s, and the reemergence of small-time kettle-chip makers in the 1990s. A chapter on nutrition reviews chip calories (Snyder's of Hanover has one of the lowest counts), trans fats, olestra, carbs, and acrylamide. Burhans salts his narrative with quotes from many potato chip producers and cites facts and statistics from an impressive number of industry sources. \$26.95. University of Wisconsin. 978-0-299-22770-8.

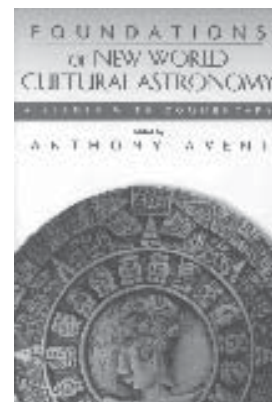
**David Lynch: Beautiful Dark**, by Greg Olson (731 pages, September 2008), analyzes the personality and films of director David Lynch (b. 1946), who achieved a surrealist and quirky cult status for *Elephant Man* (1980), *Blue Velvet* (1986), *Twin Peaks* (1990–1991), and *Mulholland Drive* (2001). Olson's insights into the director's synergies are fine-tuned: "In *Blue Velvet*, the inner chambers of an ear, which dissolved into the front door of a beautiful high school girl's house, were the entryway to adventures of self-discovery for a Lynchian hero, and in *Mulholland Drive* the open, unattended door of a Hollywood apartment is a similar gateway for our anonymous accident survi-

vor." With unprecedented access to Lynch, his parents, family, and colleagues, Olson has captured and defined the raw, mysterious energy that flows through the works of this iconoclastic auteur. \$49.95. Scarecrow. 978-0-8108-5917-3.

Julian Rice's analysis of six Stanley Kubrick films, in *Kubrick's Hope* (281 pages, November 2008), pales by comparison, although his blow-by-blow description of the complexities of *2001: A Space Odyssey* and *Eyes Wide Shut* helps uncover the Jungian sources of Kubrick's perspective. Other cogent analyses of these films include *Stanley Kubrick: Essays on His Films and Legacy*, edited by Gary Don Rhodes (McFarland, 2008), and *Stanley Kubrick: Seven Films Analyzed* (McFarland, 2005). \$40.00. Scarecrow. 978-0-8108-6206-7.

**Foundations of New World Cultural Astronomy: A Reader with Commentary**, edited by Anthony Aveni (826 pages, September 2008), brings together some 35 hard-to-find

articles, papers, and book extracts that are important to the study of what used to be called archaeoastronomy but is increasingly known—especially among New World researchers—as cultural astronomy. The contributions examine the many ways in which the knowledge and use of astronomical principles can be deduced from ethnographic information, in conjunction with written records (for the Classic Maya culture at least) and Old World techniques of establishing astronomical alignments. Aveni also includes studies that take a hard look at several sites that have entered popular culture as "great mysteries"



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(the geoglyphs of Nazca, rock art records of the Crab Nebula supernova, and the Chaco Canyon sun dagger). A superlative supplementary reader for courses in both astronomy and archaeology. \$34.95. University Press of Colorado. 978-0-87081-900-1.

**From Student to Scholar: A Candid Guide to Becoming a Professor**, by Steven M. Cahn (84 pages, August 2008), hands out solid advice for graduate students who wish to pursue a career in academia. Cahn discusses writing a dissertation, job interviews, teaching techniques, turning research into publications, acquiring tenure, and making the right choices. \$49.50. Columbia University. 978-0-231-14532-9.

**Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Literature: A Genre Guide**, by Ellen Bosman and John P. Bradford, and edited by Robert B. Ridinger (422 pages, June 2008), serves as a readers' advisory for adults seeking interesting fiction, biography, and drama with a GLBT theme or written by GLBT authors. Introductory chapters provide a historical overview of gay and lesbian literature, information on GLBT book awards, and an examination of the genre's appeal, myths, and controversies. Reviews are arranged by popular genre or format (fantasy, romance, mystery, HIV/AIDS, coming out, comics, drama) and tagged according to orientation. Award-winning titles are prominent. \$60.00. Libraries Unlimited. 978-1-59158-194-9.

**George F. Root, Civil War Songwriter**, by P. H. Carder (239 pages, September 2008), chronicles the life of renowned songwriter and music teacher George Frederick Root (1820–1895), whose “Battle Cry of Freedom” became one of the most popular songs of the Civil War and the campaign song for Lincoln's reelection in 1864. Root lost his business in the Chicago fire of 1871, but continued writing popular songs, including an operetta based on the Snow White and the Seven Dwarves story. \$45.00. McFarland. 978-0-7864-3374-2.

**The Handy Astronomy Answer Book**, by Charles Liu (332 pages, October 2008), provides concise answers to commonly posed questions about planets, stars, space exploration, and the universe, and thus serves both as a ready-reference source and beginner's guide to the cosmos. Liu, an astrophysicist at the College of Staten Island and columnist for *Natural History*, is adept at describing dark matter and dark energy, explaining the importance of active galaxies and quasars, summarizing the discoveries of the *Spirit* and *Opportunity Mars* rovers, and detailing what would happen if you were to get too close to a black hole. As with other titles in this series, the book is lavishly illustrated with photographs, diagrams, and art. \$21.95. Visible Ink. 978-1-57859-193-0.

**Indexing for Editors and Authors**, by Fred Leise, Kate Mertes, and Nan Badgett (148 pages, May 2008), is intended for those who are either writing or editing books, but others may be interested in discovering the characteristics of a good index, different types of indexes, tactics for reducing index space and length, and the relationships between author, editor, and indexer. The chapter on how editors should assess an index can be useful for librarians who are appraising an index in a reference book for a book review. \$40.00. American Society of Indexers. 978-1-57387-334-5.

**The Telephone Gambit: Chasing Alexander Graham Bell's Secret**, by Seth Shulman (256 pages, January 2008), makes a good case that Alexander Graham Bell stole a key concept for his telephone from a caveat filed at the U.S. Patent Office by inventor Elisha Gray on the same day as Bell's patent application. The smoking gun is a sketch in Bell's laboratory notebook, digitized and placed online by the Library of Congress in 1999, that resembles a drawing in Gray's caveat. The similarity was close enough that Shulman decided to look into some of the telephone's historical secrets. \$24.95. W. W. Norton. 978-0-393-06206-9. *ZZ*