

Beyond Philadelphia: The American Revolution in the Pennsylvania Hinterland,

edited by John B. Frantz and William Pencak (273 pages, October 1998), describes how Pennsylvanians outside the capital experienced the Revolutionary War. Unlike the simplistic Patriot-militia-vs.-Tory-army conflict envisioned in many history texts, colonists in the interior wrestled with other forces. In Bucks County, the pacifist Quakers were pitted against pro-war Protestants; in Berks County, the German population increasingly gained strength and respectability; and on the frontier, American Indian attacks (often encouraged by the British) posed a much greater threat than any redcoats or Hessians. A revealing look at colonial issues and trends often overlooked by traditional histories. \$55.00. Penn State University Press. ISBN 0-271-01766-X.

The Last Dinosaur Book: The Life and Times of a Cultural Icon,

by W. J. T. Mitchell (321 pages, November 1998), focuses on the imagery of dinosaurs in popular culture, art, and advertising. Peppered with humorous and unusual illustrations, as well as quotations from such writers as Italo Calvino and Edgar Rice Burroughs, the book styles itself a "Jurassic Ark" that preserves the American obsession with the dinosaur image "from its invention in the 1840s to its emergence as a media superstar in global popular culture at the end of the twentieth century." Mitchell traces the evolution of dinomania from the first "bone rush" after the Civil War to Stephen Spielberg's T. Rex as a "totem animal of modernity." *The Last Dinosaur* is a wild ride through history on the back of a postmodern **Velociraptor**. \$35.00. University of Chicago Press. ISBN 0-226-53204-6.

Leadership and Academic Libraries, edited

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by Terrence F. Mech and Gerard B. McCabe (276 pages, September 1998), brings together 19 essays on how the leadership of individual librarians contributes to change and expanding career opportunities for academic librarians. Beverly Lynch and Raven Fonfa examine the roots of the profession in the deeds of academic leaders of the past; Barbara Dewey, Janet Hurlbert, and three other authors outline the role of leadership in nonmanagerial settings; and David Dowell and George Charles

Newman examine career paths for library directors. \$65.00. Greenwood Press. ISBN 0-313-30271-5.

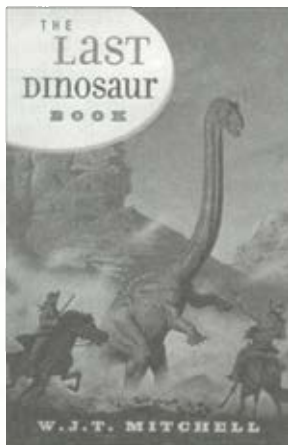
Libraries and Librarianship in China,

by Sharon Chien Lin (241 pages, September 1998), is a comprehensive treatment of the administration and organization of all types of libraries, especially in the People's Republic since 1949. The chapter on academic libraries describes their unprecedented growth in the late 1980s, the seminal 1981 *Regulations Pertaining to University Libraries*, and the slow

but persistent investment in automation. \$75.00. Greenwood Press. ISBN 0-313-2897-9.

Literature Lover's Book of Lists,

by Judie L. H. Strouf (418 pages, September 1998), advertises itself as "serious trivia for the bibliophile," though it falls woefully short of that designation. The book lists are usually only authors and titles with minimal description, if any, and no dates of first publication. However, they may intrigue browsing undergraduates by their variety and shortness. The section on poetic forms is useful and uncomplicated, and some of the lists show merit (such as literary faux pas, one-line descriptions of Aesop's fables, and classics in comic format). Unfortunately, it cannot match the now-aging **Good Books: A Book Lover's Companion** by Steven Gilbar (Ticknor & Fields, 1982). \$25.00. Prentice-Hall. ISBN 0-7352-0017-3.



The Nature of the Book, by Adrian Johns (753 pages, October 1998), is a richly detailed examination of the rise of print culture, the philosophy of intellectual property, and the early dissemination of scientific knowledge in 17th- and 18th-century England. Though scholarly, Johns's narrative is filled with lively anecdotes and insightful analysis. His underlying point is that what we assume to be the inviolable characteristics of a book—consistency, veracity, authority—were not necessarily the case and had to be forged by the founding fathers of print culture. The lives of a few of them are profiled here: John Streater, who founded one of the largest printing houses in London; Joseph Moxon, who saw print, design, and typography in purely mathematical terms; Sir Thomas Browne, who compiled a history of plagiarism; and the British Astronomer Royal John Flamsteed, who was one of many voices expressing an opinion on how scientific knowledge should be acquired and perpetuated. Perhaps the most engrossing chapter is on the "physiology of reading," which examines what 17th-century men and women thought actually

happened in their brains when they read. \$40.00. University of Chicago Press. ISBN 0-226-40121-9.

Wars of the Americas, by David F. Marley (722 pages, October 1998), takes an unusual approach to military chronology by restricting its scope to conflicts in the Western Hemisphere since European landfall in 1492. This leaves more room for Indian wars and lesser-known hostilities in Central and South America, such as King Philip's War in Massachusetts, the Mexican Pastry War, the conquest of Jamaica by the British, the Riel Rebellion in Manitoba, and the Araya massacre of 1605 in Venezuela. A mere 70 pages are devoted to 20th-century military actions: only the Aleutian campaign, the *Graf Spee*, and the U-boat war are in scope for World War II, allowing expanded descriptions of the Mexican Revolution, the Chaco War, the Nicaraguan Civil War and other Latin American unrest, the Falklands, Grenada, Panama, and Haiti. \$99.00. ABC-Clío. ISBN 0-87436-837-5. ■

"Librarians daring . . ." continued from p. 95
already, drop your guard or turf concerns and embrace leading with learning—I dare you! Managers, lead via your promotion of "learning as a way of being"⁶—I dare you! There are plenty of rungs on the ladder of leadership and learning for all of us to be climbing at the paces best suited to our situations and styles. It is never too late to step up to the first rung—I dare you!

I remember, gratefully, a speech given to graduates by an officer of my school's alumni association. He challenged the newly christened librarians to be aware of the increasing opportunities for leadership at earlier levels in their careers, as they can lead much of the continuous learning necessary in today's libraries with their recently acquired technological skills.

It was inspiring to hear the alumnus promote the idea of leadership in this learning context! As for the polemical "L" word in our current professional education? I propose we all strive to attain degrees in Masters of Lifelong Learning as we lead libraries and our constituencies into the next century. I dare you! The digital age needs librarians to be lively, leading links to learning.

Watch the ACRL Web site at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/c&rlnew2.html> for future

links to sources on leadership and learning as we focus on this theme during Maureen Sullivan's presidential year. Meanwhile, read Meg Wheatley's *Leadership and the New Science*⁶ or Peter B. Vaill's *Learning as a Way of Being*.⁷ On the Web check out Leadership Communications for the 21st Century at <http://www.LC21.com>. It invites you to "think of this Web site as a place to encourage you to lead by example." I dare you!

Notes

1. Maureen Sullivan. "Leadership through the lens of learning," *C&RL News*, 59 (October 1998): 673-674.

2. James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner. *Credibility* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1993): 11.

3. Kouzes and Posner, *Credibility*, Chapter 1.

4. Patricia Senn Breivik. "Becoming beyond-library-walls librarians," *C&RL News*, 56 (July/August 1995): 469.

5. Judy Reynolds. "There must be 50 ways to be a leader," *C&RL News*, 57 (April 1996): 208-210.

6. Meg Wheatley's *Leadership and the New Science* (Berrett-Koehler, 1992, 1994)

7. Peter B. Vaill. *Learning as a Way of Being: Strategies for Survival in a World of Permanent White Water* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1996). ■

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