

**Academic Design: Sharing Lessons Learned**, by Bill Ammentorp and Bill Warner (78 pages, January 2004), describes the process developed for Minnesota's two- and four-year colleges to design and improve academic programs. The authors offer a proven four-phase model for planning for and preparing an academic design plan. Illustrated with numerous charts, examples, and tables. \$40.00. Society for College and University Planning, 339 E. Liberty St., Suite 300, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

**A Basic Course in Iraqi Arabic with MP3 Audio Files**, by Wallace M. Erwin (389 pages + CD, March 2004), though first published in 1969, is still the definitive guide to Arabic spoken by educated Muslims in Baghdad—a variety that is generally understood throughout Iraq and in many parts of the Arab world. All vocabulary, examples, and drills are given in Latin script. The MP3 files provided were remastered from audiocassettes that accompanied the original edition. Iraqi-English and English-Iraqi glossaries are provided. \$39.95. Georgetown University. ISBN 1-58901-011-6.

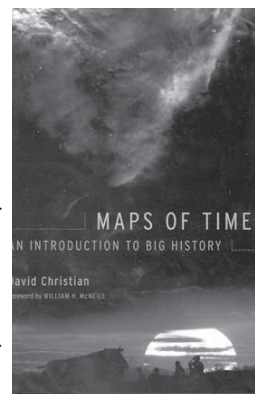
**Charting Louisiana: Five Hundred Years of Maps**, edited by Alfred E. Lemmon, John T. Magill, and Jason R. Wiese (383 pages, December 2003), presents the cartographic history of the territory and the state in this collection of 193 high-quality reproductions of maps. The six chapters discuss the 17th-century cartography of the northern Gulf coast, the 18th-century Bourbon colony, Louisiana territory from 1803 to 1820, the state in the 19th century, Louisiana in the modern age, and New Orleans through three centuries. Produced in an oversize format of 11.75 by 14 inches, the book also features paintings, lithographs, and photographs illustrating each period. \$95.00. Historic New Orleans Collection. ISBN 0-917860-47-0.

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

**The Encyclopedia of Superheroes on Film and Television**, by John Kenneth Muir (621 pages, February 2004), profiles the celluloid and video lives of 71 superheroes, whom Muir defines as characters of extraordinary capabilities or powers who “have a propensity to fight evil in all its forms, whether criminal, terrorist, or demonic.” Arrangement is by superhero, which in Superman's case covers five feature films, two live-action TV series, an animated TV series, and one TV movie musical. Muir characterizes the superhero genre as a uniquely American myth that he tracks from the early age of straight-faced crime-fighters, through its camp and nostalgic phases, and to more recent incarnations as dark heroes, powerful heroines (pioneered by Buffy the Vampire Slayer), and reimagined characters. \$59.95. McFarland. ISBN 0-7864-1723-4.

**Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History**, by David Christian (642 pages, February 2004), offers a wide-angle-lens view of world history, starting with the Big Bang and the physical origins of our sun and earth (science's closest approach to a creation narrative), through human evolution and the flowering of agrarian and modern cultures, to serious questions about the future sustainability of civilization as we know



it. The author taps into fields not normally associated with historical studies—cosmology, paleontology, anthropology, ecology, and archaeology—to create a coherent synthesis of knowledge about the planet earth and how our species has shaped and been shaped by it. Although “big history” was only formally identified as a methodology by Fred Spier in 1996, other interdisciplinarians, such as Stephen Hawking, John Gribbin, Alfred W. Crosby, Nigel Calder, and William H. McNeill, have written similar big-picture

overviews. But Christian has hit a home run with his clear presentation, instructive charts and timelines, useful summaries, and wide-ranging suggestions for further reading. This book should be required reading for any extraterrestrials visiting the earth for the first time. \$34.95. University of California. ISBN 0-520-23500-2.

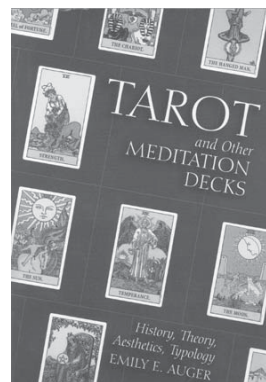
**Owls of the World: Their Lives, Behavior and Survival**, by James R. Duncan (319 pages, November 2003), examines the biology, conservation, and folklore of the 205 species of owls. Many color photographs accompany the text and species descriptions. Duncan also adds interest by including short contributions by other owl specialists on such research topics as hybridization, owl mortality, parasites, owl enclosures, and the 2001 discovery of a new species, the Sumba hawk owl. \$40.00. Firefly. ISBN 1-55297-845-1.

**Oxford Dictionary of British Place-Names**, by A. D. Mills (533 pages, November 2003), updated for the publisher's recent series of paperback reference books, gives the origin of some 17,000 locations in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man. Many of the English names have been remarkably persistent over the past 1,000 years and offer insight into the terrain, economy, or people of another era. For example, Penton Mewsey in Hampshire originally meant "farmstead paying a penny rent to the de Meysi family," and Donegal in Ireland derives from Dúin na nGall ("fort of the foreigners"), referring to the Danes who were active there in the 9th century. \$14.95. Oxford University. ISBN 0-19-852758-6.

**Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography**, by Douglas Keister (288 pages, April 2004), reveals the meanings hidden in the symbols carved into gravestones, mausoleums, memorials, and other mortuary art. The guide explains the cemetery symbolism of grape clusters and pine cones, stags and partridges, lamps and lyres, vacant chairs and draped urns, angels and crosses. Also included is a comprehensive acronym list

of societies, clubs, and organizations that might appear on a tomb. Among the many illustrations are photos of unusual graves belonging to Oscar Wilde, Joe DiMaggio, and Dick Whittington's cat. \$24.95. Gibbs Smith. ISBN 1-58685-321-X.

**Tarot and Other Meditation Decks**, by Emily E. Auger (214 pages, January 2004), focuses on the art and aesthetics of Tarot cards, rather than their divinatory meanings. Using the



popular 1910 Rider-Waite deck (created by artist Pamela Smith for occultist Arthur Waite) as a type specimen against which other decks can be compared, Auger places 20th-century Tarot card designs within the context of such artistic and literary movements as

surrealism and gothicism. She also proposes a typology for modern meditation decks, grouping them into those that use the Rider-Waite deck as an aesthetic standard and those that diverge significantly and symbolically from it. With numerous illustrations and a substantial bibliography. \$39.95. McFarland. ISBN 0-7864-1674-2.

**The United States Government Internet Manual, 2003-2004**, edited by Peggy Garvin (764 pages, January 2004), is a welcome companion to the official United States Government Manual that uses a similar arrangement to describe the Web sites for more than 2,000 departments, offices, and agencies of the federal government. It encompasses sites on Mars exploration, hazmat safety, the Human Genome Project, the Copyright Office, arctic health, savings bonds, the Plain English Network, climate diagnostics, digital preservation, and students.gov. Appendices provide the URLs for all members of Congress and congressional committees, while four indexes offer access by sponsor or site name, publication, SuDoc number, and subject. \$59.00. Bernan Press. ISBN 0-89059-912-2. ■