

The Baltic Origins of Homer's Epic Tales, by Felice Vinci (370 pages, January 2006), is the English translation of Italian engineer Vinci's 1995 book *Omero nel Baltico*, which offers a radical hypothesis that the events of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* actually took place hundreds of miles north of the Mediterranean. Vinci notes that scholars have long argued over the vagueness of Homer's geography, but he insists that a better topographic match exists in Scandinavia. The sagas, he writes, were originally set in the Baltic region and brought to Greece in the 16th century B.C. (after the climate deteriorated up north) by the Mycenaeans, who took their place names with them. Troy? It was near Toija, Finland. Ithaca was the Danish island of Lyø. Calypso's isle was one of the Faroes. Look for Scylla and Charybdis in the craggy Arctic peaks and well-known maelstrom near Moskenes, Norway. Unfortunately for his thesis, Vinci seems all too eager to place the origins of other myths in the far north, from Arthur to Gilgamesh. For a more convincing argument that Ithaca was really on the Greek island of Kefalonia, see Robert Bittlestone's *Odysseus Unbound* (Cambridge University, 2005), and for a traditional Homeric geography, read Timothy Severin's *The Ulysses Voyage* (Dutton, 1987). \$22.95. Inner Traditions. ISBN 1-59477-052-2.

Haunted Hikes: Spine-Tingling Tales and Trails from North America's National Parks, by Andrea Lankford (373 pages, June 2006), serves up a backpackful of spooky stories and freaky folklore accompanied by some solid suggestions for 100 or so scenic outings in North American parkland. Useful descriptions, handy trail maps, and a fright-factor rating from one ("makes seven-year-

olds giggle") to four ("gave me nightmares") are provided for each recommended trail. Lankford, a former park ranger, maintains the sensible attitude that legend and folklore, as well as eyewitness accounts of unusual phenomena, are an essential part of each park's cultural history. \$16.95. Santa Monica Press. ISBN 1-59580-009-1.



Internet Surf and Turf Revealed, by Barbara M. Waxer and Marsha L. Baum (174 pages, April 2006), provides a graphic-intensive, user-friendly set of lessons on the essentials of copyright, infringement, fair use, search engines, and finding tools for images and media. It successfully navigates through such issues as the right of publicity, derivative works, and licenses and permissions. The book is aimed at Web designers, artists, or anyone who wants to use Internet images. \$27.95. Thomson/Course Technology. ISBN 1-4188-6006-9.

Lake Monster Mysteries, by Benjamin Radford and Joe Nickell (190 pages, April 2006), examines the evidence for several notable lake monsters, including the creatures in Loch Ness, Scotland; Lake Champlain, Vermont; Lake Memphremagog, Quebec; Lake Crescent, Newfoundland; and Lake Okanagan, British Columbia. The authors poke some holes in previous lake monster studies, but perhaps the most damaging part is their deconstruction of films taken of the Champlain and Okanagan monsters. \$24.95. University Press of Kentucky. ISBN 0-8131-2394-1.

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My Life Is a Weapon: A Modern History of Suicide Bombing, by Christoph Reuter (200 pages, paperback, April 2006), offers an overview of suicide bombing from the original 12th-century assassins and the Japanese kamikazes to al-Qaeda, Hezbollah, Iran, Sri Lanka, and Kurdistan. Reuter, a writer for *Der Stern*, argues that bombers are motivated less by promises of an otherworldly paradise and more by the desire to make a difference, no matter what the cost. \$19.95. Princeton University. ISBN 0-691-12615-1.

Mysteries in History from Prehistory to the Present, by Paul D. Aron (446 pages, November 2005), is a nifty compilation of puzzles that just might jog jaded undergraduates into an appreciation for the complexities of the past. Aron summarizes the controversial aspects of 75 historical questions—such as when people first arrived in America, who King Arthur was, where Columbus landed, how Davy Crockett died, whether Hitler murdered his niece, why Rudolf Hess flew to Scotland, and what Reagan knew about Iran-Contra—and offers some annotated suggestions for further reading. \$85.00. ABC-CLIO. ISBN 1-85109-899-2.

Neal-Schuman Library Technology Companion: A Basic Guide for Library Staff, by John J. Burke (237 pages, 2nd ed., May 2006), explains how technical systems and software are embedded in library processes. This overview will give new employees or employees new to certain technologies a good grasp of networks, applications, storage devices, databases, search tools, blogs and wikis, assistive technology, virtual reference, distance learning, spam and spyware, troubleshooting, and infrastructure. \$59.95. Neal-Schuman. ISBN 1-55570-550-2.

On Account of Sex: An Annotated Bibliography on the Status of Women in Librarianship, 1998–2002, edited by Betsy Kruger and Catherine Larson (226 pages, April 2006), continues the previous four

source listings of LIS literature on career development for women, salaries, discrimination, image, gender issues, and library history. \$50.00. Scarecrow. ISBN 0-8108-6227-6.

The Oxford Companion to the Garden, edited by Patrick Taylor (554 pages, May 2006), offers 1,750 descriptions of gardens throughout the world, biographies of landscape designers and planners, garden features and terms, and other horticultural topics. The garden entries detail the history



and special features of each location, from Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens in England to the Zürichhorn in Switzerland. Full-page color photographs scattered throughout the volume illustrate a lush range of landscape features. \$65.00. Oxford University. ISBN 0-19-866255-6.

Political Pressure and the Archival Record, edited by Margaret Proctor, Michael Cook, and Caroline Williams (345 pages, January 2006), contains a selection of papers from an international conference held in Liverpool in July 2003. Contributors explore the effects of politics on record retention and access in ideologically sensitive subject areas. Among the topics are tracing the fate of archives in China and Malaya during World War II, access and control over the records of the 1932 Tuskegee syphilis study, the role of archives in protecting the record from public pressure, the USA PATRIOT Act and its impact on higher education administration, archives in service to the state, and the vulnerability to official tampering of electronic records management. \$42.00. Society of American Archivists. ISBN 1-931666-15-6. ❧