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Book Reviews -- Monographic Musings

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**Book Reviews — Monographic Musings**

Column Editor: Debbie Vaughn (Reference Librarian, College of Charleston) <vaughnmd@cofc.edu>

Column Editor’s Note: Jacques Barzun stated, “Whoever wants to know the heart and mind of America had better learn baseball.” Our nation’s favorite pastime enraptures men and women, young and old, from all corners of the world, regardless of creed or class. The classic Mudville poem “Casey at the Bat” brings the game into classrooms all over the country. Baseball’s greats have given us such adages as “it ain’t over till it’s over” (Lawrence “Yogi” Berra) and “don’t look back—something might be gaining on you” (Leroy “Satchel” Paige). Chicago Cubs announcer Harry Caray’s resonant “holy cow!” remains in the ears of fans around the world. In 1998, over 11 million fans attended at least one baseball game per month. It comes as no surprise, then, that the Library of Congress has records for nearly 8,000 baseball resources.

These fresh titles are respectable additions to the body of baseball literature. Timm Boyle’s The Most Valuable Players in Baseball offers useful statistics within easy reach. Baseball’s segregated past is explored in Leslie A. Heaphy’s The Negro Leagues and Darrell J. Howard’s “Sunday Coming.” Finally, America’s fascination with the big diamond is explored in Reel Baseball, a collection of essays and interviews edited by Stephen C. Wood and J. David Pintus. McFarland has recently published a multitudes of other books about baseball, several of which have landed on my summer to-read list. Their sport-specific Web site, www.mcfarlandbaseball.com, has a boast-worthy list of available titles. When not scouring information about my sport of choice, I will enjoy being taken out to the ballpark and the crowds. I will consume peanuts and crackerjacks in mass quantity, and I will heartily root for my home team, the Charleston Riverdogs. Happy reading (and spectating), everyone! — DV

Reviewed by Debbie Vaughn (College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>


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Baseball has been described by journalist Charles Krauthammer as being “modestly republican” because of its democratic progression to the World Series. Often associated with patriotism and apple pie, it has come to hold a romantic, rags-to-riches appeal; poverty-stricken kids who played in sandlots have become multimillion-dollar commodities. But this all-American sport has a blemished past in the form of segregation. Leslie A. Heaphy’s *The Negro Leagues, 1869-1960* and Darrell J. Howard’s “Sunday Coming:” *Black Baseball in Virginia* explore African American teams, their stellar athletes, and baseball’s political climate surrounding civil rights and equal opportunity.

Heaphy introduces her book with an excellent overview of the Negro Leagues from their official inception in 1920 to the last standing team in 1960. All chapters begin with a couple of pertinent quotes from players, newspapers, biographers, historians, and other sources. The first chapter provides a helpful review of baseball’s history and offers more detail about the origins and foundations of black ball clubs. *Heaphy* spotlights African American leaders—Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. DuBois, and Marcus Garvey—and surveys how their role in political society impacted the Negro Leagues. Chapters 2 through 14 combine chronological and topical information, including the movement of the Negro Leagues, management, baseball in Latin America, integration, and the demise of the Negro Leagues. *Heaphy*’s thoughtful conclusion captures a variety of opinions regarding the end of baseball’s color barrier. Four appendices list African American teams competing before 1920; African American players whose careers began before 1920; league teams; and league standings. Extensive notes, divided by chapter, are followed by subject and standard bibliographies. The book is wrapped up with a thorough index.

While *The Negro Leagues* offers a broad account of African American baseball, “Sunday Coming” focuses on black baseball in the Old Dominion and presents a more intimate description of players and their communities. Howard discusses the professional Negro Leagues—as well as ball played in pastures and city parks. Chapters are arranged by decade from 1930 to 1980. A plethora of verbatim memories can be found in each section. References are included at the close of each chapter. Four appendices include the *Norfolk Journal and Guide* Baseball Directory; leagues and teams; Virginia’s Negro League players; and a complete player register spanning 50 years. This last appendix, covering 1930-1980, is nothing short of awe-inspiring, as it comprises eight pages of men who took pride in their abilities and communities.

Together, *The Negro Leagues* and “Sunday Coming” provide pertinent historical information regarding the segregationist past of America’s beloved pastime. As time goes on, it becomes increasingly important to not forget the racial segregation endured by so many baseball players on the road to integration. Individually, these books offer different points of view—not necessarily in the authors’ opinions, but rather in the size of the slice-of-life they present. They are fitting companions, and the duo could be rounded out with *The Encyclopedia of Negro League Baseball* (Facts on File, 2003, 0816044305, 384 pages, $75.00), *Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues* (Scholastic, 1998, 059068213X, 192 pages, $5.99), and a host of other *McFarland* baseball titles. Suitable for public and academic libraries, *Heaphy*’s and Howard’s works will add essential pieces to your baseball history collection.

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Reviewed by Sheila Seaman (Public Services, Robert Scott Small Library, College of Charleston) <seamans@cofc.edu>

This work may be purchased as a set or by the volume. Irving Weiner is well qualified as the editor in chief. He is the author, co-author, or compiler of more than ten books, has served as an editor on two other Wiley Series—"Wiley Series on Psychological Disorders," and "Wiley Series on Personality Processes." His most current endeavor, The Handbook of Psychology, includes twelve volumes; each volume has its own editor or editors. Overall, twenty-five editors partici-

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The subject volumes, arranged in chapters, cover a wide array of topics. Each chapter provides compact, informative discussions and offers detailed information on key concepts and many chapters include illustrative charts, diagrams, and tables. Chapters include an extensive bibliography (100+ entries) containing both books and scholarly journal articles. Bibliographic references to World Wide Web resources are noticeably absent. Individual volumes contain author and subject indexes; the indexes, however, are far from comprehensive. Curiously, a number of the chapter division headings are not included in the indexes. In some cases, tests or theories named after a person, such as “Fielder’s Contingency Theory,” the only access point is in the “Author” index under the personal name, Fielder, F. E. Interestingly, there is also a misspelling on the name—the chapter title is listed as “Fielder’s Contingency Theory” instead of correctly as “Fielder’s Contingency Theory.” This is illustrated more clearly when one searches for C. J. Jung in the volume, “History of Psychology.” His name is not listed in the subject index. However, on closer examination, one finds eleven references in the author index under Jung, C. G. But there is no bias. Freud is not listed either. There are numerous entries to his name in the author index. Gordon Allport suffers a similar fate. “Author Index” is a misnomer, it would be correct to call it a “Name Index.”

The organization of this series makes it complicated to look up a topic like “Motivation.” Motivation is covered in no less than nine volumes and there are entire chapters in two of the volumes as follows: volume 1 (history of motivation); volume 2 (motivation—extrinsic/intrinsic); volume 3 (motivated behavior); volume 4 (entire chapter)—main entry; volume 5 (motivation, social); volume 7 (motivation, education); volume 9 (MET motivational enhancement therapy); volume 10 (motivation, intrinsic; motivational assessment scale); volume 12 (chapter—organizational, MTQ motivational trait questionnaire).

In terms of the intended audience, the author’s preface includes three groups as follows:

[1] First, for graduate students in behavioral science the volumes provide advanced instruction in the basic concepts and methods in the fields they cover, together with a review of current knowledge, core literature, and likely future developments.

[2] Second, in addition to serving as graduate textbooks, the volumes offer professional psychologists an opportunity to read and contemplate the views of distinguished colleagues concerning the central thrusts or research and leading edges of practice in their fields.

[3] Third, for psychologists seeking to become conversant with fields outside their own specialty and for persons outside of psychology seeking information about psychological matters” (I, ix). Its use as a background source for undergraduate students is not mentioned as a goal.

Overall, the editor has correctly identified this work as a handbook and not an encyclopedia. One could even seriously consider cataloging/purchasing each title separately so it would be found with the other titles in the subject area; however, this would obviate the massive effort to organize the entire field in a logical framework of twelve subject divisions, and it would violate the principles of library cataloging. It seems odd that having made the effort to pull the entire discipline into organized categories that the editor did not take the final step to create an integrated index for all twelve volumes. It negates the value of the collection as a cohesive reference resource. Reference librarians should look to other works such as Encyclopedia of Psychology (Kazdin, 2000) or Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology and Behavioral Science (Craighead, 2001). As stated in the preface, the individual volumes would be useful as textbooks or as core literature for graduate students. The set would be highly beneficial for practitioners’ personal libraries or in the circulating collections of academic or medical libraries that serve upper-level undergraduates or graduate students.

Books Are Us

by Anne Robichaux (Professor Emerita, Medical University of South Carolina; Consultant, Majors Scientific Books) <awkr772@charleston.net>

Column Editor’s Note: This column covers fictitious accounts of people in our industry — librarians, publishers, vendors, booksellers, etc. — people like us. All contributions, comments, suggestions are welcome. — AR

I was delighted to read the new column introduced in the February issue of AIG — Books That Matter by Ellen Finnie Duranczeau. The column brought to mind a novel I recently read and enjoyed, a book that “deserves to be devoured and discussed.” The Lovely Bones. Written by Alice Sebold (Little Brown, June 2002) the story is told by a young fourteen year old, Susie Salmon, from heaven. A victim of a brutal and senseless murder, Susie observes her family and friends as they continue their lives without her. In spite of the grim setting and beginning, this bittersweet story is told with humor and a librarian is mentioned, not once, but twice! In one scene the librarian is depicted as an authoritative and censuring figure who “overtakes” a boy at the card catalog and takes him from a drawing that had been passed around the library. Drawn by one of the students in art class, it appeared to be a lued and leering depiction of a monster in the model. In the second reference, Susie’s younger brother, Buck, now in the seventh grade, has a crush on the school librarian: “His favorite teacher was not really a teacher at all but the school librarian, a tall, frail woman with wiry hair who drank tea from her thermos and talked about having lived in England when she was young.” As a result of his infatuation, “Buck affected an English accent for a few months and showed a heightened interest in Masterpiece Theater.”

Tamar Myers (www.tamarmyers.com), the author of two mystery series, briefly mentions a librarian who is easily intimidated in No Use Dying Over Spilled Milk (Signet, 1997), the third book in her Pennsylvania Dutch Mystery Series. The proprietress of the PennDutch Inn, Magdalena Yoder, an Amish-Mennonite, solves murders with humor, cunning, and common sense, mixed with a lot of self righteousness, and a few recipes to tantalize the reader. In this particular story she is visiting her Amish kin out of town. They have no telephone (and she has no cell) so she goes to the local public library to use the pay phone when she needs to call the Inn. The call was lengthy and she interrupted the librarian three times for change: “If the librarian had been helping patrons, or had been a woman less easy to intimidate,” she would not have been able to complete her call to her satisfaction. Incidentally, Tamar Myers currently lives in the Charleston area. She sets a couple of the recent books in her Den of Antiquity Mystery series in Charleston.

Thanks to Karen Roth, Manager, Medical Libraries, Morton Plant Mease Health Care in Clearwater, FL, for referring me to Open Season by Linda Howard (Pocket Books, 2001). Open Season features a “thirty-four year old, small-town, barreled with kissed spinster librarian” who decides it’s time to make a change in her life and achieve a “normal, traditional life” of a husband, baby, and house of her own! Daisy Ann Minor wears lipstick in an almost invisible shade of Blush, has mousy, straight mid-brown hair, wears boring clothes with no style, and has always thought of herself as a loser: drab and boring. She hasn’t had a date in over a decade. She lives at home with her mother and aunt, and has never been late to work. She is the director — which only meant that she was able to choose the books purchased — of a small public library in a small town in rural Alabama. On the positive side she was a “champion researcher,” smart about investing her inadequate salary, and proud of the state’s virtual library. She felt that her best librarian’s voice was both brisk and friendly, and that “working with the public was a science, especially in a library.” She felt it her duty to encourage people, not only to read, but also to impart a sense of respect for the library. The mayor of the town, Daisy’s immediate boss, considered her a “starchy old maid” but also one of his “favorite characters in a small continued on page 71