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Adventures in Librarianship -- Annotated Bibliography

Ned Kraft

U.S. Department of State, kraftno@state.gov

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Adventures in Librarianship — Annotated Bibliography

by **Ned Kraft** (Ralph J. Bunche Library, U.S. Department of State)
<kraftno@state.gov>

Acquisitions for May 2004

An Annotated Bibliography of the North Horton Historical Society. Mrs. Alma Bloom and the Founding Fathers: Fact and Fiction, by **Corrine Bloom**. Gatlin: InLocus Press, 2004. **Mrs. Bloom's** great-granddaughter does a fine job compiling both fact and legend surrounding the exploits of her famous forbear, "Restless Alma Bloom." Exactly how much influence did she have over the founding council? Did their wives know? What exactly was her relationship with **Senator Flatminster** and his cousins, **Curly** and **Leviticus**? **Corrine Bloom** is remarkably candid in her answers to these and other questions. One must assume that at the age of ninety-two, **Corrine** has decided to damn the torpedoes. You may be both shocked and annoyed. I was.

Slaughter the Injuns (sic) Before Tuesday: Collected Sermons by the Reverend Sternum Peck. Unbound manuscript, circa 1860. One is hard pressed to imagine a more brutal interpretation of man's destiny than this cleric's weekly manifestos. Collected here are such **Rev. Peck** classics as "A Wagonload of Sin," "God has a Gun, God has a Temper," and "Drunken Redemption." This collection makes clear why **Rev. Peck's** congregation, the **First Holy Ruffians**, had, by 1853 dwindled to no more than five backwoods bachelors.

Early Agriculture in Eastern Sullen Valley, by **Bebe Shade**. Gambit, 2003. For those not in the know, **Bebe** is a former treasurer of the historical society and an indefatigable hostess. This is her sixth monograph and establishes her place among local amateur historians. It will be clear to all readers, however, that historical

fact interests **Bebe** far less than making veiled accusations about her contemporaries and taking revenge against perceived slights. One would think that, given her long and unforgiving memory and her passion for interpreting the most innocent comments, historical writing would come more naturally to her. But, no.

[*Ann Pardon's Diary, 1809-1885*]. Anonymous gift. During her lifetime, **Ann Pardon** dutifully recorded the day's weather, each of her meals, and the egg production of her chickens. A fascinating read, though we are left with more questions than answers. Did **Ann** have a husband? Was "Martha" a prized chicken or a blood relation? Would a diet so reliant on chestnuts and eggs lead to obesity? We may never know.

Unique Rock Formations of Softhound County, by **Hyman Que**. Washington, DC: USGS, 1961. A concise and thorough book at only thirty-three pages. The fact that our fair county has only two unique rock formations contributes somewhat to this brevity.

From Myron Forge to Bedly: A Good Day's Walk, by **Miss Charlotte Gnuff-Sedd**. Unbound manuscript, [1910]. Though **Miss Gnuff-Sedd** was not known for walking, or for taking exercise of any sort, on September 3rd

of 1909 she set off from her home in Myron Forge toward Bedly, telling her father only that she longed for a bit of fresh air. She returned in early evening whereupon her father accused her of spending the day with an Italian boy whose name is lost to history. The writing of the voluminous *From Myron Forge* seems to have been an attempt to put the lie to her father's suspicion. An extraordinary work for that reason. 🍷

My sincere thanks to the staff and managers of SUL's Acquisitions Department, who have made great contributions to the success of our departmental reorganization and a number of work process improvements.

Christa Easton is Head of Acquisitions at the Stanford University Libraries. She was formerly Coordinator of Serial and Digital Acquisitions and Coordinator of Serials at SUL. She holds AB and MILS degrees from the University of Michigan. She received the ALCTS SS First Step Award (Wiley Professional Development Grant) in 1993 and was a 2002 Frye Fellow. 🍷

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organization at first glance. With thought, we were able to determine where to place staff and work by focusing on the core functions that we had identified (ordering, receiving, and fiscal activities) and applying them, with some flexibility, to the materials we handle. While these approaches may not be obvious to those outside our organization, we find that we are able to explain our logic and that this helps others grasp and remember our approach to dividing work.

Within Acquisitions, duties and responsibilities have changed, and some staff miss their old tasks or chafe under some of their new ones. For staff, these approaches to handling two of our more special formats seem to make intuitive sense. While this does not guarantee the success of our transition pro-

Endnotes

1. The SUL Technical Services Redesign Archive is available via the Web at <http://www.sul.stanford.edu/depts/ts/about/redesign/index.html> (22 March 2004).
2. For an overview of LOCKSS, see "Permanent Publishing: Local Control of Content Delivered via the Web" <http://lockss.stanford.edu/projectdescrip.htm> (22 March 2004).
3. Margaret R. Davis and David A. Weckler, *A Practical Guide to Organizational Design*. (Menlo Park, California: Crisp Publications, 1996), 27-28.
4. Davis and Weckler, 28-29.
5. See, for example, "Whatever Happened To...???" *Administrative Notes and Technical Supplement* 11, no.2. (2003), http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/techsup/ts022904.html#5 (22 March 2004).