September 2005

Book Reviews -- Monographic Musings

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Recommended Citation

Vaughn, Debbie (2005) "Book Reviews -- Monographic Musings," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 17: Iss. 4, Article 18.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.4521>

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often so complicated that they “may defy simple categorization.” For example, both isolationism and globalization are classified as rightist movements which at first might seem contradictory. However, globalization is being defined in terms of the spread of multinational corporations and the reduction of trade barriers, not as the promotion of one-world government as feared by some conservatives. By explaining the nuances of such concepts, the *Encyclopedia* offers needed guidance as to how the left and right are understood in our political discourse.

The *Encyclopedia* is in two volumes, one devoted to the politics of the left, the other devoted to the politics of the right. There are articles from both perspectives on 41 different regions and countries, as well as those on specific issues, laws, political parties, movements, and topics like imperialism and unilateralism. The general index at the back of volume two helps pull the two volumes together, as does a topical reader's guide and “see also” references. Other helpful features include a timeline of politics, a brief resource guide of books periodicals and Websites, and a 62 page glossary.

Encyclopedia of Politics: The Left and the Right will be valuable to the political neophyte as well as the seasoned observer. It helps reveal cross-currents that will both clarify and cause debate, thus serving as a resource and stimulating additional thought. While this is a scholarly work written by experts in the field, it is reader friendly and accessible. Both academic libraries and larger public libraries will do well to add it to their collections.

The *Encyclopedia of Linguistics* (2005, 1579583911 \$350) was recently published by **Fitzroy Dearborn**. It provides 508 articles written by 288 scholars from 34 countries in an easy to use alphabetically arrangement. While scholarly and intended for an academic audience, each article introduces its topic without “presupposing knowledge of the subject” thus lending context to the specific points raised in the article. An analytical index, cross references, and a thematic table of contents offer further routes of exploration, as well as help link related articles together. There are also 12 language distribution maps and more than 100 illustrations that provide visual variety, as well as adding clarification to the text.

Approximately half of the essays cover topics related to broad categories like phonology, morphology, linguistic approaches, syntax, semantics and language acquisition, among others. Additional articles discuss specific languages and language families as well as pidgins and creoles along with individual regions and countries. There are also brief sketches of influential linguists emphasizing their contributions to the field.

While it in no way replaces the *International Encyclopedia of Linguistics* released in 2003 by **Oxford University Press** (0195139771, \$450), this **Fitzroy-Dearborn** effort is a worthy complement. Although less comprehensive, the

Encyclopedia of Linguistics has a number of attractive qualities to recommend it. In fact, it may have more appeal to smaller collections preferring a handy two volume set to the more imposing four-volume **Oxford** work. Larger collections, both academic and public, should make room on their shelves for both.

Entertainment Awards: A Music, Cinema, Theatre and Broadcasting Guide, 1928 through 2003 (2005, 0786417986, \$75) by **Don Franks** is another one of those labors of love published by **McFarland**. Now in its 3rd edition, **Franks** has added ten more years of coverage and included another seven awards to the 13 awards covered in the 2nd edition. New to this edition are the American Music Awards, Academy of Country Music Awards, the Drama Desk Awards, the National Broadway Theatre Awards, The National Association of Broadcasters Awards, and the American Film Institute Awards for both Film and Television.

The arrangement is logical and easy to follow. The book is divided into four major sections; music, theatre, cinema and broadcasting. Within each of these sections are listed the relevant awards, introduced by a brief background and description of the award followed by a chronological listing of annual awards winners in each category. Each award winner is assigned an entry number which is referenced

in the name and title indexes in the back of the book. These indexes, while helpful, suffer from the same problem that many such indexes have. They are not subcategorized so multiple award winners like singer/composer **Willie Nelson** and films like *Titanic* are followed by numerous entry numbers. The television program *Hallmark Hall of Fame* is followed by 75 such entries. And as you might expect with this number of entries, there are a few mistakes. The first entry number listed for the *Hallmark Hall of Fame* actually references an American Music Award given to **Faith Hill** for Pop/Rock Favorite Female artist in 2000.

These problems aside, *Entertainment Awards* is a rich compendium of fascinating and interesting facts that will appeal to both the trivia buff and the serious student of the entertainment industry. Public libraries in particular will want a copy, many for their ready reference collections. One thing **Mr. Franks** might consider for future editions is the inclusion of some of the major minority awards like the BET Black Entertainment Awards and the Imagen Awards for distinguished Latino entertainment.

And as I did last year, I have included the list of the **2005 Outstanding Reference Sources** for small and medium-sized libraries as announced by the **Reference and User Services Association (RUSA)**.

Book Reviews — Monographic Musings

Column Editor: **Debbie Vaughn** (Reference Librarian, College of Charleston)
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Column Editor's Note: Linguistic trivia seems somehow germane to reference services, for reference librarians never know when a morsel of seemingly-inconsequential information might come in handy! ATG habitual reviewer Phillip Powell explores two new language/vocabulary titles from Oxford

Press to add to your reference (or circulating) collection. ATG newcomer Christine Bombaro examines ALA's Conflict Management for Libraries, which covers issues important not only to reference departments, but to entire library institutions. Happy reading, everyone! — DV

Dent, Susie. *Larpers and Shroomers: The Language Report.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2004. 0198610122. 174 pages. \$16.95.

Reviewed by **Phillip Powell** (Reference Librarian, College of Charleston)
<powellp@cofc.edu>

What an odd little book — and that is said in the most complimentary fashion! It is terrific reading, but it really is difficult to categorize except that it mostly covers contemporary words and their usages. Initially, the reader assumes it is a dictionary filled with words such as larper and shroomer (of course), velcroid, globesity, retrosexual, and juijy. Some inclusions were understood because they had been heard before through usage; by association with people cooler than the reviewer; or by watching TV. Others were guessed by using context

clues. Yet again, other inclusions didn't jog the knowledge base because they were heard in the UK or some other English speaking country, but not in the US.

Essay chapters discussing a wide array of topics are also interspersed throughout the book. Although they do not follow the anticipated dictionary arrangement, they do explain language changes rather like the bibliographic essay. There is also the occasional hybrid chapter where essay and dictionary meet as in the chapter

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ter titled "Boos, Cribs, and Babes: The New Street Slang." Essay topics covered the standard areas of grammar, punctuation, and pronunciation. The essay about English and the Internet, "Virtual Conversation," was probably the most telling about the universality of the online phenomenon.

One area that probably would not have been

Delahunty, Andrew. *Goldenballs and the Iron Lady.* New York: Oxford UP, 2004. 0198609647. 264 pages. \$17.95.

Reviewed by **Phillip Powell** (Reference Librarian, College of Charleston)
<powellp@cofc.edu>

It appears *Goldenballs* and *Larpers and Shroomers* (reviewed above) are part of a series of little books about words, names, and phrases. Both of them, in a breezy way, wend their ways through quirks and turns of the English language. Where the reviewer almost wondered aloud where *Larpers* was heading, *Goldenballs* is much more straightforward. But enough of *Larpers*, though, let's concentrate on *Goldenballs*.

First, "Goldenballs" and "the Iron Lady" are nicknames not commonly known to American readers. *Goldenballs* is a British soccer star, **David Beckham**, as named by his wife, a former Spice Girl. The reviewer will not even venture further but is sure it refers to his skill as an athlete. The Iron Lady, of course, is former Prime Minister, **Margaret Thatcher**. Being published by **Oxford**, representation between American and British nicknames appears to be fairly even. There is no stateside elephant in the refrigerator but a good geographic distribution. Suddenly, when one is faced with nicknames for Members of Parliament, music hall

addressed in earlier such books is the English spoken in former British colonies in Oceania, South Asia, and Africa. The recent Indian film *Monsoon Wedding* is an excellent reminder how people flow effortlessly between the local language to English and back. It's a great example of how local culture and language influences some of the examples of new words **Ms. Dent** provides.

This book is both instructive and entertaining. Here is hoping **Ms. Dent** updates it in another two or three years.

stars, and cricketers, the mix becomes much more interesting, especially if one is an anglophile.

Delahunty's approach is a straightforward alphabetical arrangement. His choice of nicknames is eclectic. Reference can be made to any number of people, places, and things — pardon the cliché — historical and present-day. True to the nature of the book, each entry is brief and succinct. If one looks a little too closely, there is the occasional problem with accuracy, but that really is not the point of the book. There is a subject index that greatly aids a librarian seeking a particular type of nickname. Also, with the seeming exception of the satirical British publication *Private Eye*, there are no sources given. With *Private Eye*, though, the reviewer needs to get his hands on a copy. Any publication that nicknames royals by such names as Cheryl and Yvonne is a real attention getter. May they rest in peace: Cheryl was Diana and Yvonne was Margaret.

Another fun read.

Montgomery, Jack G. and Eleanor I. Cook. *Conflict Management for Libraries.* Chicago: American Library Association, 2005. 083890890X. 207 pages. \$42.00.

Reviewed by **Christine Bombaro** (Collection and Research Services Librarian, Dickinson College) <bombaroc@dickinson.edu>

While hundreds, if not thousands, of books and articles have been written about conflict management in the workplace, precious few addressing the specific needs of libraries yet exist. In *Conflict Management for Libraries*, **Jack G. Montgomery and Eleanor I. Cook** attempt to bridge this gap in library management literature by taking well-known concepts in corporate management skills and applying them to the unique environment of the library. As the authors of the book correctly point out, library education programs usually do not include courses on management skills, and most library directors and managers are elevated to their positions based on their academic accomplishment or political standing, rather than for their proven ability to manage a staff. As such, the library staff as a whole may suffer from the

top-down effects of poor leadership. *Conflict Management for Libraries* was intended primarily for library directors and managers. However, this book may help all library employees, in all types of libraries, to recognize the early warning signs of workplace conflict and to adjust their own behavior in such a way that highly unpleasant situations may become significantly less unpleasant, or even used constructively to improve the library's atmosphere and workflow.

This book is divided into three sections. The first identifies different types of workplace conflict, such as verbal abuse and physical violence; as well as the possible causes of conflict, including "personal baggage" and mental health issues. Part one also briefly relates the history of management practices and literature, with an interesting summary of Machiavellian philoso-

phy and a discussion of the waning role of labor unions in the library profession. Part two, described in more detail below, puts workplace conflict in the context of the library setting. Part three offers helpful tips for effectively managing workplace conflict by arranging the library's structure and rules in such a way as to minimize the opportunity for conflict to arise.

Where *Conflict Management for Libraries* differs from other conflict management books is in part two, which presents seventeen fictitious scenarios based on actual events in real libraries. The authors created the scenarios using the results of the survey that formed the basis of the book. The problems described in these scenarios are ones that many library staff members have surely experienced: one librarian is more of a stickler than others for noise restrictions; a teacher who has been around for many years expects to have things done a certain way and does not trust the new library staff member; the support staff feels that the professional librarians do not value their opinions. Each scenario is followed by three assessment statements. One is written by the authors and the others by two professionals in the field of academic personnel issues, **Pat Wagner** and **Glenda Hubbard**. These assessments identify the root cause of the conflict in each scenario, explain what each person involved could have done to improve the situation as it unfolded, and suggest next steps that could be taken to rectify the damage already done. **Hubbard's** assessments are unusual and a little disruptive to the book's flow in that she uses the first person narrative to describe each character's thoughts, feelings, and complaints. The other assessments are written from the third person point of view.

The authors admit that no overnight cure exists for many workplace problems, particularly those that may have been ignored for months or years. However, their optimistic view suggests that any manager, by recognizing his or her own shortcomings as a leader and by becoming involved in the day-to-day operations of his or her library, can learn to lead by example and improve professional relationships among the staff. The authors encourage all management personnel to seek out opportunities for training and to take full advantage of any available institutional support, such as employee assistance programs. Non-managerial library staff, too, is encouraged to engage actively in contributing to a healthy workplace environment by using such tactics as controlling emotions, managing stress, and empathizing with one's co-workers.

For those interested in learning more about the concepts illustrated in this book, the authors provide an extensive list of references. Also included is the original survey used as the basis of the book, the survey's results, and the authors' commentary about the nature of the responses they received.

This book will offer valuable and practical insight to any library manager, new or experienced, who is currently facing a difficult workplace situation, or who may be interested in preventing future problems from occurring. It is a recommended addition to any type of library. 🍄

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