Publisher Bestsellers / Kent State University Press

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Publisher Bestsellers

The Kent State University Press
Column Editors: Julia Gammon (Univ. of Akron)
Michael Kehoe (Univ. of Michigan Press)

Flo Cunningham, Marketing Manager of the Kent State University Press was kind enough to share information on some titles for this issue of ATG. A specialty list consisting of Kent's "top ten" sellers in history and biography, it is certainly worth checking to see if you missed any of these. Sometimes good reviews and comments don't always mean a book will be an automatic bestseller, so take another glance at Kent's best kept secret — American Chameleon: Individualism in Trans-National Context — containing essays on the American concept of individualism. You may have missed it the first time... give it another chance.

Important Kent State University Press books in American history and biography

Affectionately, Rachel: Letters from India, 1860-1884
Edited by Barbara Mitchell Tull
368 pp., illus., cloth $35.00

"The letters of Rachel Kerr Johnson (1837-1888), offering the perspective of a 19th-century woman, wife, mother, and American abroad, as she spent more than 20 years traveling in India with her missionary husband and their children." — Reference and Research Book News (see also Library Journal, December 1992).

Fallen Leaves: The Civil War Letters of Major Henry Livermore Abbott
Edited by Robert Garth Scott
280 pp., illus., cloth $27.00

"It is hard to forgive Abbott's prejudices, but impossible to fault his courage... Nor can anyone deny the candid eloquence that makes his letters among the most vivid I've read... filled with horrors and with flashes of grim humor that helped the men get through." — Geoffrey C. Ward, The New York Times Book Review

Fernando Wood: A Political Biography
Jerome Mushkat
334 pp., illus., cloth $35.00

"The complete coverage and extensive research in primary sources makes this a superior biography... Mushkat sees Wood as a model for future urban leaders, a consistent adherent to conservative Democratic ideals, and an effective leader, given the context of the times. This contrasts with the conventional view of Wood as an opportunistic demagogue, lacking in principles and meaningful leadership. The book is best when it places Wood in the milieu of his developing city and the attempts to manage its diversity." — Choice, December 1991

Fighting Liberty Ships: A Memoir
A.A. Hoehling
176 pp., illus., cloth $22.00

"Memoirs by a skillful, seasoned writer who was a gunnery officer on two of the 2,700 Liberty ships which were built during World War II and used as merchant vessels to carry supplies to American forces. Hoehling has incorporated considerable background research and writes with verve about life (and death) aboard ship and the larger context as well." — University Press Book News

Liberalism and American Identity
Patrick M. Garry
232 pp., cloth $32.00

"Garry is an effective spokesman for a set of principles that have been—however unintentionally—undermined in recent years by what he sees as fractious special interests, especially within the Democratic party. With this book, the author raises important questions about how Americans choose to view themselves and the relationship of that image to practical politics. As a result, the book serves as a thought-provoking, if partisan, statement of ideals. Its intended audience would seem to be the general reader, but students of political thought or American character would also find much to ponder." — History: Reviews of New Books

OSS against the Reich: The World War II Diaries of Colonel David K.E. Bruce
Edited by Nelson D. Lankford
256 pp., illus., cloth $28.50

"Bruce was General Donovan's right hand man in running the OSS's London office... This book shows us the human side of intelligence work, especially from a man who would continue in high-level ambassadorial positions following the war... Well edited with meticulous footnotes... All in all, a jewel of a book on some of the personal aspects of wartime life by an intelligence officer who helped make the forerunner of the CIA a..."
success.” — Military Intelligence

Pattern of Circles: An Ambassador’s Story
John E. Dolibois
333 pp., illus., cloth $24.00

“The author . . . served as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Army during and after World War II. His principal assignment, recounted in fascinating chapters in this engaging autobiography, was to help guard and interrogate the top Nazi war criminals.” — Foreign Affairs

Prison Life among the Rebels: Recollections of a Union Chaplain
Edited by Edward D. Jervey
ISBN 0-87338-403-2, cloth $26.00
ISBN 0-87338-404-0, paper $12.50
LC 89-39689, 112 pp., 1990

“As a chaplain, White . . . was spared the worst horrors of Confederate prison life, but his experiences in Rebel custody . . . were harrowing enough . . . White spent only a day at Andersonville, yet his description of that earthly hell is thorough, concise, and very chilling.” — American Heritage

Reform and Revolution: The Life and Times of Raymond Robins
Neil V. Saltzman
ISBN 0-87338-426-1, LC 90-5358
600 pp., illus., cloth $35.00

“Robins (1873-1954), who led a remarkably diverse life of social service, stepped forward in 1917 voicing a minority view that cooperation with Communist Russia would best serve Allied interests. His life and thinking are of particular interest today in light of new U.S. relations with that part of the world.” — University Press Book News

Sixty Million Acres: American Veterans and the Public Lands before the Civil War
James W. Oberly
ISBN 0-87338-421-0, LC 90-4482
234 pp., cloth $28.00

“[Oberly’s] conclusions are well conceived and supported with evidence from the sample and other archival sources. This study fills a gap in the literature of land policy and is essential for research collections on the West.” — Library Journal, December 1990

The Kent State University Press Best-Kept Secret

American Chameleon: Individualism in Trans-National Context
Edited by Richard O. Curry and Lawrence B. Goodheart
ISBN 0-87338-443-1, cloth $35.00

ISBN 0-87338-448-2, paper $17.50
LC 91-7150, 288 pp., 1991

Publishers Weekly, November 8, 1991

“Although Curry (Freedom at Risk) and Goodheart (Abolitionist, Actuary, Atheist) clearly aim for an academic audience, general readers, too, will appreciate these 11 erudite but accessible essays on the American concept of individualism.”

Carl N. Degler, Stanford University

“Must reading for any student of what it means to be an American and especially for those who doubt American exceptionalism.”

Robert F. Drinan, S.J., Georgetown University Law Center

“For those who want to better understand the soul of America as the nation enters its third century, the essays in this volume will furnish information, illumination, and inspiration.”

Bertram Wyatt-Brown, University of Florida

“Curry and Goodheart have assembled a highly distinguished group of historians to treat the salience of American individualism . . . Given the topic’s significance in American historical thought, one wonders why such a collection has not appeared before.”

Richard O. Curry, retired professor of history at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, is the author of the award-winning Freedom at Risk: Secrecy, Censorship and Repression in the 1980s and the recently published An Uncertain Future: Thought Control and Repression during the Reagan-Bush Era, as well as numerous other books and articles relating to civil liberties issues.

Lawrence B. Goodheart, assistant professor of history at the University of Connecticut, Hartford, is author of Abolitionist, Actuary, Atheist: Elizur Wright and the Reform Impulse.


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