Publisher Bestsellers

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This column takes a slightly different viewpoint with a submission by Shana Foster, Marketing Assistant, Univ. of Alabama Press. Rather than compile a list of the Press’ bestsellers, she provided a list of titles which, in her opinion, have NOT received the exposure and attention they were due. So we present the —

“Best Kept Secrets” of the Univ. of Alabama Press.

1. Explorations into Highland New Guinea, 1930-1935, by Michael J. Leahy, edited by Douglas E. Jones, with a foreword by Jane C. Goodale. ISBN 0-8173-0446-0, LC 91-9027, 288pp., $19.95, paper. Discipline: Anthropology. This is the diary of five years spent in hot pursuit — not of honor and glory, but of excitement and riches — by an adventurer, Michael “Mick” Leahy, his brothers Jim and Pat, and friends Mick Dwyer and Jim Taylor. Leahy and his associates explored the unknown interior of New Guinea, seeking gold and making contact for the first time with the aborigines of the interior mountains and valleys.

Michael J. Leahy (1901-1979) finally settled down in Zeneg, New Guinea, and, with his brothers, became a prosperous rancher and respected settler. Douglas E. Jones is Director of the Alabama State Museum of Natural History, which houses an extensive collection of aboriginal artifacts donated by Leahy following his explorations. Jane C. Goodale is Professor of Anthropology at Bryn Mawr College and a specialist on aboriginal New Guinea.

2. The Confederacy’s Fighting Chaplain: Father John B. Bannon by Phillip Thomas Tucker. ISBN 0-8173-0573-4, LC 91-24815, 232pp., $32.95, cloth. Discipline: History. This is the remarkable story of the Irishman who brought the Bible and his own resourcefulness and daring to both the battlefield and the diplomatic field — a story that has been largely ignored for more than 130 years. This is also the story of the forgotten Southerners — the Irish immigrants of the Confederacy — whose colorful and crucial role in the Civil War has been seriously neglected.


Martha M. Solomon is Professor of Speech Communication at the University of Maryland-College Park.


David J. Vold is Professor of Education at the University of Alabama. Joseph L. DeVitis is Professor of Education and Human Development at the State University of New York at Binghamton.

5. G Company’s War: Two Personal Accounts of the Campaigns in Europe, 1944-1945 by Bruce E. Egger and Lee MacMillan Ottis, edited and with commentary by Paul Roley. ISBN 0-8173-0566-1, LC 91-31408, 312pp., $29.95, cloth. Discipline: History. The story of a World War II rifle company in Patton’s Third Army as detailed in the journals of S/Sgt. Bruce Egger and Lt. Lee Ottis, both of G Company, 328th Regiment, 26th Infantry Division. What distinguishes it from other accounts of combat in World War II is its parallel day-by-day records of the same events as seen by two men in the same company, one an enlisted man, the other an officer.

Bruce E. Egger is a retired forester who lives in Prineville, Oregon. Lee MacMillan Ottis is an attorney in Brewton, Alabama. Paul Roley is Professor of History Emeritus, Western Washington University.

6. Poor But Proud: Alabama’s Poor Whites, by Wayne Flynt, ISBN 0-8173-0424-X, LC 88-20859, 560pp., $29.50, cloth. Discipline: History. Addresses the life experiences of poor whites through their occupations, society, and culture. After examining each occupation in depth, the author discusses family structure, folk culture (music, religion, folklore, and crafts), and the politics of poor whites, and describes their attempts to resolve their own problems through labor unions and political movements. Flynt uses life and oral histories to give poor whites an opportunity to tell their own stories and provide vigorous, colorful illustrations.

Wayne Flynt is Hollifield Professor of Southern History at Auburn University.

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Bragg was born in 1817 in North Carolina and ranked high in the graduating class of 1837 at West Point. He served with distinction in both the Seminole War and the Mexican War. This first of two volumes originally published in 1969 covers the life of the controversial general and his role in the defeat of the Confederacy and is reprinted as the companion volume to Braxton Bragg and Confederate Defeat, Volume II.

Grady McWhiney is Lyndon Baines Johnson Professor of American History at Texas Christian University.


A balanced picture of Bragg’s role in the Confederate defeat beginning where Volume I stops at Murfreesboro in 1863. Along with the military details, the author provides a full accounting of Bragg’s fractious relationships with other members of the military, a critical factor in this period for the entire Confederate command. This biography of Bragg gives valuable insight into the workings of the Confederacy in the last two years of its struggle for independence.

Judith Lee Hallock is a teacher in Centereach, New York.


A survey of the American Indian communities still surviving in the Southeastern United States. This volume is the first comprehensive, scholarly work, providing coordinated descriptions of these southeastern Indian communities as they near the close of the 20th century.

J. Anthony Paredes is a Professor of Anthropology at Florida State University.


Most regard toleration as an unattractive fallback position of compromise and so tend to overlook it in favor of such active concepts as freedom, equality, and justice. The authors argue that toleration offers us the useful possibility of responding to a difficult situation with a degree of flexibility not possible with the dichotomous concepts of good-bad, right-wrong, ethical-unethical, Right-Left.

Nick Fotion is Professor of Philosophy at Emory University. Gerard Elffstrom is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Auburn University.