

MBR Bookwatch

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Donovan's Bookshelf

Uncle John's Slightly Irregular Bathroom Reader
Bathroom Readers' Inst.
c/o Advantage Publishers Group
5880 Oberlin Drive, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 94121
1592232701 \$16.95 1-800-788-3123 www.advmkt.com

The new 17th edition of a fun bathroom reader packs in trivia, ironies, odd facts, and a healthy dose of humor into a title which ranges from plain gossip to strange science facts. Meant for quick, light bathroom browsing, SLIGHTLY IRREGULAR covers everything from songs and old wills to movies, working dogs, bat bombs and more, SLIGHTLY IRREGULAR, 17TH EDITION proves hard to put down.

The Flourescent Light Glistening Off Your Head
Scott Adams
Andrews McMeel
4520 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111
0740751131 \$10.95 www.dilbert.com

It's hard to believe, but this is the 25th Dilbert cartoon collection on the market, presenting new cartoons to toiling cubicle business inhabitants everyone - and those who would understand office culture. From Elbonian call center ironies to visiting customer encounters with feng shui, THE FLOURESCENT LIGHT GLISTENING OFF YOUR HEAD is packed with fun.

Father Still Knows Best
Tripp Whetsell
Citadel Press/Kensington
850 - 3rd Ave., New York NY 10022
0806527129 \$9.95 1-800-345-2665 www.kensingtonbooks.com

From Ricky Ricardo of I Love Lucy fame to sayings from The Cosby Show, The Jeffersons, and The Munsters, FATHER STILL KNOWS BEST: THE WIT AND WISDOM OF AMERICA'S FAVORITE TV DADS gathers some excellent and hilarious one-liners from some of the best TV comedy sitcoms on screen. Makes a great gift for any father.

Humor from the Country
Jerry Apps
Guest Cottage/Amherst Press
P.O. Box 848, Woodruff, WI 54568
0896587169 \$16.95 1-800-333-8122

Country wit and advice blends with funny stories, sage country advice, and black and white photos in HUMOR FROM THE COUNTRY by storyteller and historian Jerry Apps. From a horse-drawn plow and its lessons to a lively goat which doesn't work out, HUMOR FROM THE COUNTRY's short stories are funny with more than a touch of wisdom and truth.

Innocent Targets
Michael Dorn & Chris Dorn
Safe Havens International, Inc.
PMB #201, 5540 Thomaston Road, Suite F, Macon, Georgia 31220
097412401X \$19.95 www.safehavensinternational.org

Beginning with the 1970 murder of nine Israeli school children, father-son school safety analysts Dorn and Dorn examine the history of school-related terrorist attacks in twelve countries, providing an important assessment of school safety, antiterrorism tactics, and social issues alike. Myths are confronted, realities outlined, and insights on the causes and impact of bad information assessed in a survey essential for both parents and students of terrorist issues and social science.

Firefly Books Ltd.
155 East 34th St. #5B, New York NY 10016
www.fireflybooks.com

These excellent outdoor exploration guides offer beginners outstanding opportunities to understand basic elements of the outdoors. Sky-viewers have to fine titles to choose from: Robin Scagell's revised STARGAZING WITH A TELESCOPE (1554070279, \$14.95), which covers all the basics from choosing a telescope and setting it up to becoming an amateur observer and taking astro-images. Supplement this with Scagell's larger NIGHT SKY ATLAS: THE MOON, PLANETS, STARS AND DEEP SKY OBJECTS (1554070260, \$29.95): maps by Wil Tirion compliment a book packed with color night sky photos and tips on observing the sky in both northern and southern hemispheres, complete with seasonal charts and detailed constellation maps. If you wish to get closer to the ground, choose A.C. Bishop, A.R. Woolley and W.R. Hamilton's GUIDE TO MINERALS ROCKS AND FOSSILS (1554070546, \$19.95): among this new edition's distinguishing features are a completely redesigned, revised text, new introduction sections, and new reference appendices. Amateur collectors as well as specialists will find plenty of information plus a field guide packed with color photo examples. Perhaps it's wildlife which is of interest: if so, make sure Chris G. Earley's WATERFOWL OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA (1554070570, \$19.95) is on your reference shelf, if you live in or plan on visiting the East Coast waterways. Ducks, swans, loons, pelicans - all are displayed in their natural environment, with over 200 color photo displays including handy comparison pages by waterfowl group for quick reference. All are solid picks.

Why Not Every Man?
George and Willene Hendrick
Ivan R. Dee
1332 N. Halsted St., Chicago, IL 60622
www.ivanrdee.com
1566636450 \$14.95 1-800-462-6420

George and Willene Hendrick provide a strong history of civil disobedience by African Americans in WHY NOT EVERY MAN? AFRICAN AMERICANS AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE IN THE QUEST FOR THE DREAM. From abolitionist years to opposition to Jim crow and beyond, key events and episodes - including many nearly forgotten - illustrate the issues and trace the origins of the idea of civil disobedience. An excellent history of the idea of civil disobedience evolves within the civil rights framework.

Mental Toughness
Karl Kuehl, et.al.
Ivan R. Dee
1332 N. Halsted St., Chicago, IL 60622
www.ivanrdee.com
1566636175 \$24.95 1-800-462-6420

'Mental toughness' is here defined as the art of taking control of your life, whether it be relationships, work, or sports. That being said, this book is about baseball - and also, about more. Yes, MENTAL TOUGHNESS: A CHAMPION'S STATE OF MIND could've been featured in 'Sports' - but it would be a shame to limit its readership to just sports enthusiasts when it has so much to offer the business-minded reader too. So, how to 'get tough'? Use the lessons offered up from the sports world in MENTAL TOUGHNESS and apply them to virtually every aspect of business: it works.

Food and Culture In South America
Jose Rafael Lovera
Greenwood Press
88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881
0313327521 \$49.95 www.greenwood.com

Joining other fine titles in Greenwood's 'Food Culture Around the World' series, FOOD UCLTURE IN SOUTH AMERICA tells of the traditions and culinary history of the primary cultures and groups which make up modern South American countries. Don't expect another recipe collection here: the focus is on culinary history, heritage and geography and provides plenty of food history from analysis of eating out patterns and major foods to a timeline of developments. Especially recommended for college-level collections strong in ethnic and food history.

Artists of World War II
Barbara McCloskey
Greenwood Press
88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881
0313321531 \$59.95 www.greenwood.com

Surprisingly, ARTISTS OF WORLD WAR II is the first global survey of art during the war, and gathers biographies of such artists along with discussions of war-era art trends around the world. Of particular note are discussions which allow readers to compare not only artists' experiences of war in different countries, but their different responses to their experiences, from support of war efforts to criticism. Add discussions of the influence of artists' productions on war and you have an intriguing survey which goes beyond the art world.

The Greenwood Companion to Shakespeare
Joseph Rosenblum, Editor
Greenwood Press
88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881
0313327793 \$299.95 www.greenwood.com

If it's a definitive and comprehensive student's reference you seek to Shakespeare, for either advanced high school through college-level grades, then Greenwood's weighty 4-volume COMPANION TO SHAKESPEARE: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE FOR STUDENTS is the item of choice. Overviews of the history, comedy, tragedy and romance writings of Shakespeare offer students scene-by-scene analysis of plots, as well as a general overview summary of each work. Themes, interpretations of meaning, reviews of controversies surrounding each work are provided in clear, scholarly analysis. An exquisite interplay of critical thinking and analysis encourages college-level students to delve into Shakespeare's skills and literary devices.

Chemical Composition of Everyday Products
John Toedt, Darrel Koza, Kathleen Van Cleef-Toedt
Greenwood Press
88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881
0313325790 \$49.95 www.greenwood.com

Both high school and college collections strong in chemistry will want to add this helpful analysis to their collection: over 100 groups of products receive attention to not only chemical composition, but historic product use, functions, and related issues. Ten lab exercises provide students with observation keys, making CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF EVERYDAY PRODUCTS the perfect supplemental text for introductory chemistry courses. Easy to access and understand, relating to everyday materials from soap and cosmetics to baby products what more could one wish for?

China Today
Jing Luo, Editor
Greenwood Press
PO Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881-5007
0313321701 \$199.95, 2 Vols., www.greenwood.com

College-level reference holdings will be delighted with the weighty two-volume reference CHINA TODAY: AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LIFE IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC. An A-Z encyclopedic format covers all aspects of modern China, from education and technology to foreign investment, intellectual participation in society, and economics. These aren't just category summary listings: articles on each listing provide depth and detail, from a thorough coverage of history and social issues to a bibliography for further reading.

Greenwood Press
Box 5007 Westport, CT 06881-5007
1-800-225-5800 www.greenwood.com

Janet Long-Solis and Luis Alberto Vargas' FOOD CULTURE IN MEXICO (031332431X, \$49.95) provides an excellent review of the ingredients in Mexican food culture and how they evolved, offering a survey of rural and urban eating alike, considering Mexican food's transitions beyond Mexico's borders, and providing an excellent blend of timeline, historical and culture overview, and culinary insights. Recipes aren't neglected either, though the series is more valued for its many culinary insights than for recipes alone. F. Xavier Medina's FOOD CULTURE IN SPAIN (0313328196, \$49.95) achieves the same for Spanish cuisine, covering typical dishes and drinks, Spanish wines, the evolution of home and restaurant cooking, and more. Peter Heine's FOOD CULTURE IN THE NEAR EAST, MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (0313329567, \$49.95) provides a discussion of foods of the region, with discussions of ingredients, kitchen set-up, and cultural influences accompanying selected traditional recipes. The blends of social and cultural insights are very well done in this Greenwood Press 'Food Culture Around the World' series.

Digipop
Karim Rashid
Taschen
3828839957 \$29.99 www.taschen.com

Computer graphics lend to producing two- and three-dimensional decorative works, and designer Karim Rashid's DIGIPOP project explores these dimensions by theme, showcasing his geometrical patterns both as designs in and of themselves, and in applications from clothing to figures. He's created these designs over a ten-year period: chapters examine the use and application of themes over a broad spectrum of artistic goals.

Japanese Erotic Fantasies
Chris Uhlenbeck, Ellis Tinios, Cecilia Segawa Seigle
Hotei Publishing
CCRI Numero 1964, 1000 VC Amsterdam, Pays-Bas/Netherlands
9074822665 \$95.00 www.hotei-publishing.com

Plenty of books have been written on Japanese woodblock prints of the Edo period - but usually erotic imagery receives short rift, so it's refreshing to see a presentation focusing exclusively on such art. JAPANESE EROTIC FANTASIES: SEXUAL IMAGERY OF THE EDO PERIOD also goes beyond presenting woodblocks and prints: chapters analyze intention, representation, and significant achievements in the Japanese art world. The authors are a Japanese print dealer with a specialty bookstore, an honorary lecturer, and a professor: they bring a scholarly analysis to a book packed with gorgeous color reproductions.

A Pike in the Basement
Simon Loftus
Eland Publishing Ltd.
61 Exmouth Mkt., London EC1R 4QL
0907871240 \$18.99 www.travelbooks.co.uk

If it's witty armchair travel you seek, then Simon Loftus' A PIKE IN THE BASEMENT: TALES OF A HUNGRY TRAVELLER is for you. Loftus has a sense of adventure, a love of food and travel, and a nose for trouble, at times. Mouth-watering descriptions of food, people and local color permeate a warm, witty account of some sixteen tales - each of which ends with a local recipe and wine tips. Very highly recommended.

Audio Editions
Auburn, CA 95604
www.audiopartners.com

Four fine new books on cd promise leisure listeners hours of intrigue and listening pleasure. Agatha Christie's WHY DIDN'T THEY ASK EVANS? (1572704551, \$29.95) receives Emilia Fox's British voice and acting prowess as it tells of one Bobby Jones, who discovers an injured man and hears his last words before he dies. From then on Bobby himself faces danger as he's forced into an willing investigation into murder. Donna Leon's BLOOD FROM A STONE (1572704683, \$31.95) receives veteran David Colacci's smooth and vivid theatrical abilities as it tells of an African street vendor killed just before Christmas. Inspector Brunetti finds the death of a seemingly inconsequential man holds implications for the entire immigrant society in a complex set of plots and patterns of intrigue. Rex Stout's THE FATHER HUNT (1572704594, \$27.95) benefits from veteran actor and narrator Michael Prichard's ongoing dramatizations, which are no less powerful here. A young woman determined to learn the identity of her long-last father hires Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodwin to take on the case of his disappearance, only to find she may become a murder victim unless she can solve the puzzle of her heritage first. Robert Littell's LEGENDS (1572704853, \$39.95) tells of a discharged CIA agent turned private detective who struggles with his own memory lapses and identity. Grover Gardner's extensive background in audio narration provides tension and exquisite detail to this gripping thriller.

Art of Project management
Scott Berkun
O'Reilly
1005 Gravenstein Hwy N., Sebastopol, CA 95472
0596007868 \$39.95 www.oreilly.com

How can a manager make sure a team is properly motivated and organized to get the job done right? One of the ways is by consulting Scott Berkun's ART OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT. Berkun worked t Microsoft for ten years on various project, working with groups and consulting and teaching development teams. His experience with all kinds of projects and groups lends to discussions which range from shielding a team from distractions and some processes outside the workgroup to using and interpreting research, specifications, and more. From making mistakes to damage control in a project environment, THE ART OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT covers, in depth, many of the common obstacles in a business environment. Very highly recommended indeed.

Your Rights at Work
Richard C. Busse
Sphinx Publishing/Sourcebooks
PO Box 4410, Naperville, IL 60567-4410
1572485051 \$14.95 1-800-432-7444 www.SphinxLegal.com

Take advantage of the workplace rules which are your rights - but understand them, first - in YOUR RIGHTS AT WORK, which answers typical questions ranging from termination and daily workplace environment to surviving discipline and settling disputes in and outside of court. From employer contracts to employee benefits, YOUR RIGHTS AT WORK is a virtual bible of workplace law and its applications.

How to Parent With Your Ex
Brewette McWhorter Sember
Sphinx/Sourcebooks
PO Box 4410, Naperville, IL 60567-4410
1572484799 \$12.95 1-800-432-7444 www.SphinxLegal.com

HOW TO PARENT WITH YOUR EX: RESIDENTIAL & NON-RESIDENTIAL PARENT holds wide value as it addresses a major social issue: parenting after divorce; and thus is featured here to reach audiences of non-parents and other concerned adults. An unusual 'flip over' format packs two books into one, with the Nonresidential Parent addressing the special concerns of the parent who lives elsewhere, and the Residential Parent addressing the parent who has daily custody of the child. From changing one's relationship with the child upon divorce and overcoming hostility to creating a new partnership with the child's needs the focus, this is a wonderful resource which addresses all the emotional and social conflicts parenting after divorce brings.