

(then home secretary), the scandalous Lady Diana Manners, and Queen Mary. Nicolson had access to many primary sources, some never before seen by the public. In a satisfying epilog, she tracks the fates of the personalities on whom she focuses. A best seller in Britain (and deservedly so), this quick, enjoyable read shows the inevitability of the decline of the aristocracy by blending serious history, quirky details, and an all-encompassing portrait of English society. Recommended. [See Prepub Alert, *LJ* 1/07.]—**B. Allison Gray, John Jermain Memorial Lib., Sag Harbor, NY**

Rapley, Robert. *Witch Hunts: From Salem to Guantanamo Bay*. McGill-Queen's Univ. Apr. 2007. c.328p. bibliog. ISBN 978-0-7735-3186-4. \$29.95. HIST

From 1580 to 1650 in Europe, between 50,000 and 80,000 people were executed as witches in response to public hysteria. Today, says retired Canadian civil servant Rapley (*A Case of Witchcraft*), "the witch has been replaced by the terrorist." The author points out that even though the 700 prisoners at Guantánamo Bay have been interned for three years, only four have been charged with terrorism. No case has yet reached a tribunal; no trial is in sight. He notes that the witch craze, the Dreyfus affair involving an Alsatian Jew in 1890s France, the trials of the black Scottsboro boys in the 1930s South, and the Guilford Four and Maguire Seven (IRA terrorists of 1970s England) display a common pattern: hysteria leads to punishment; out-groups are targeted and legal protections ignored. In this provocative book, history is the lens to view the alarming abridgement of civil liberties in our America. Terrorism threatens us, but in confronting this threat, we run the risk of losing what is unique to being American, the protection of the individual from arbitrary incursions of the government. Recommended for all libraries.—**David Keymer, Modesto, CA**

★ **Romer, John. *The Great Pyramid: Ancient Egypt Revisited*. Cambridge. Apr. 2007. illus. maps. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-521-87166-2 [ISBN 978-0-521-87166-2]. \$40. ARCHAEOLOG**

If you read only one pyramid book this year, read archaeologist Romer's, a winner both in size and in substance. Romer (*Ancient Lives: The Story of the Pharaoh's Tombmakers*) does a fabulous job of breaking down our preconceived notions of the Great Pyramid (completed c.2500 B.C.E.). He reexamines all the old ideas, myths, and legends and washes away years of misinterpretation and misinformation. For example, he reassesses the scarce evidence about King Khufu (a.k.a. Cheops to the Greeks) and

presents a revised profile of the pyramid workers' lives, families, and culture. He delves into the Great Pyramid's plan (he stipulates that there was one consistent plan throughout its building), materials, construction, shafts, ramps, burial chamber, and grand gallery. Scholarly yet written for a general audience, this title will be coveted in all public and academic libraries. Highly recommended.—**Melissa Aho, Metropolitan State Univ., St. Paul, MN**

PARAPSYCHOLOGY

Aylward, Thomas F. *The Imperial Guide to Feng Shui & Chinese Astrology: The Only Authentic Translation from the Original Chinese*. Watkins Pub., dist. by Sterling. Apr. 2007. c.336p. bibliog. index. ISBN 1-84293-176-8 [ISBN 978-1-84293-176-9]. pap. \$17.95. PARAPSYCH

Aylward, a Chinese language, literature, and philosophy scholar, delivers a clear, readable, and informative direct translation of the document that codified (in 1740, during the Qing dynasty) 2000 years of Chinese philosophy and science regarding the arts of scheduling and positioning known as Chinese astrology and feng shui, respectively. Part 1 explains the importance of Chinese cosmology to the culture and social fabric of China and Asia at large. Aylward excels at making concepts such as yin/yang; the Five Processes, with its series of life cycles; and the Sexagenary Stem-Branch cycle and their correlations accessible to the Western mind. It is in Part 2, the actual translation of the *Imperial Guide*, that the average reader might get bogged down. Chinese cosmology and the system of directions for placement make up a highly complex, interconnected system that basically takes its practitioners years of rigorous study to learn and understand well enough to use for divination or auspicious placement and scheduling. The student of this text will require more than one pass. Recommended for both larger public libraries and academic libraries with Asian studies departments.—**Janet Tapper, Western States Chiropractic Coll. Lib., Portland, OR**

LAW & CRIME

Irons, Peter. *God on Trial: Dispatches from America's Religious Battlefields*. Viking. May 2007. c.363p. index. ISBN 978-0-670-03851-0 [ISBN 978-0-670-03851-0]. \$26.95. LAW

In this compelling study, Irons (political science, emeritus, Univ. of California, San Diego; *Courage of Their Convictions*) presents five distinct court cases that have divided communities in America's growing religious wars. These involved the 1989 challenge of a 43' Latin cross in the middle of a 170-acre park in San Diego; the 1995 recital

of prayers at a high school football game in Santa Fe, TX; the 1999 display of the Ten Commandments in Kentucky courthouses and on the State Capitol grounds in Austin, TX; the 2000 challenge to the words *under God* in an Elk Grove, CA, public school recital of the Pledge of Allegiance; and the 2004 Dover, PA, challenge of the school board's statement supporting intelligent design. Presented along with the history of cases are stories of people on both sides of the issue presenting differing values and beliefs. Irons also skillfully lays the historical foundation of religious freedom in the founding of America, the 1947 Establishment Clause ruling, and political and social factors in America's religious wars. As each case unfolds, the reader is able to celebrate the willingness of ordinary citizens to take a stand for their beliefs and the nation's judicial process. Recommended for most collections.—**L. Kriz, West Des Moines Lib., IA**

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Allawi, Ali A. *The Occupation of Iraq: Winning the War, Losing the Peace*. Yale Univ. Apr. 2007. c.400p. illus. maps. index. ISBN 0-300-11015-4 [ISBN 978-0-300-11015-9]. \$28. POL SCI

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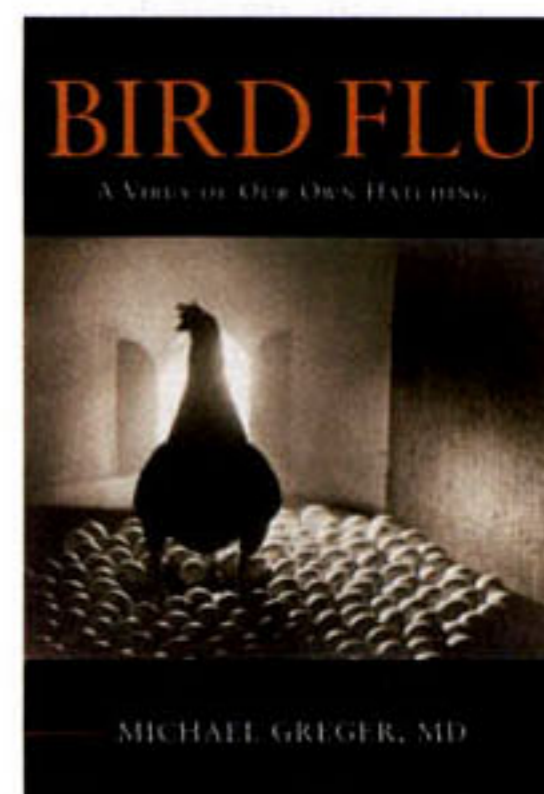
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