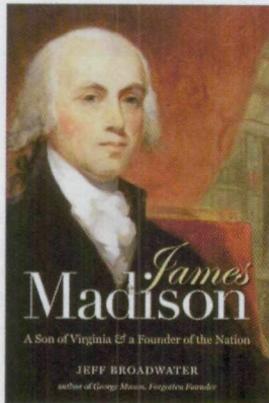


James Madison

Broadwater, Jeff. **James Madison: A Son of Virginia and a Founder of the Nation.** Univ. of North Carolina. 2012. c.320p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780807835302. \$30. **BIOG**

Broadwater (history, Barton Coll.; *George Mason, Forgotten Founder*) recognizes James Madison's role in safeguarding religious freedom in Virginia, as does Gutzman (below). Broadwater also shows Madison to have been not only an intellect but a successful, practical politician, an adapter with an aristocratic bent who was caught up in the contradictions, which Broadwater underlines, that race-based slavery presented to white Southerners in a revolutionary age. In an engagingly formulated work of synthesis, Broadwater offers a compelling view of the essential Madison by mindfully drawing upon the works of previous historians (e.g., Jack N. Rakove, Lance Banning, and Drew R. McCoy) without being derivative. The author assists the reader by gleaning choice phrases from Madison's contributions to the Federalist Papers and leavens the story of Madison's career with much information about Dolley Madison, a notable political and personal asset to her husband. Both Madisons preserved James Madison's meticulously composed papers, she by rescuing them



from the burning White House in 1814 and he later by selling them to interested parties to provide for her financially. **VERDICT** Broadwater's clear writing style and contextual explanations make this work especially appealing to incipient scholars and general readers.—Frederick J. Augustyn Jr., Library of Congress

Gutzman, Kevin R.C. **James Madison and the Making of America.** St. Martin's. 2012. c.432p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780312625009. \$27.99. **BIOG**

This assessment by Gutzman (history, Western Connecticut State Univ.; *The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Constitution*) focuses on Madison's public career, especially his public policy concerns, his roles as speechwriter and adviser to George Washington, as secretary of state under Thomas Jefferson, and his activities as a wartime

president. Like Broadwater (above), Gutzman sees Madison as a practical politician who attempted to balance rather than eradicate humankind's faults. He contends that Madison influenced the contemporary legal principle that precedent leads to constitutionality and believed, even more than the other Founders, that the federal government should refrain from promoting religion. Madison opposed prayer proclamations and carried on the legacy he set in Virginia where, with Jefferson, he helped disestablish the state church and affirmed the right to religious freedom. Gutzman points out that Madison was educated at a New Jersey college (which became Princeton) with Scottish Presbyterian philosophical roots, in contrast to his colleagues' Virginian and Anglican schooling. Effectively, these are reminders of what other historians have already stated. **VERDICT** Gutzman's meticulous disquisition on the proceedings of the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention, probably overlong for general readers, will most profit scholars. His perspective on an important Founder, and his minute examination of the Federalist Papers, will most appeal to serious readers.—Frederick J. Augustyn Jr., Library of Congress

ISBN 9780307595270. \$27.95. **HIST**

This is a historical examination of the framing of the U.S. Constitution in relation to debates over the role of the chief executive. Discussing the Constitution's roots, Raphael (*Founders: The People Who Brought You a Nation*) notes that even during disputes such as the Stamp Act of 1765, colonists were respectful to the king, blaming their grievances on his colonial representatives. Not until Thomas Paine's diatribes against George III's abuses in *Common Sense* (1776) did public opinion change, paving the way for revolution. But fear of a powerful chief executive led to the Articles of Confederation placing most governmental power in the hands of the states. By 1787, delegates at the Constitutional Convention realized that the existing form of government was too weak, but resistance to a strong central government persisted. Raphael draws primarily from James Madison's Notes on the Constitutional Convention and pays attention to related issues such as elections and the power of Congress. His clear style and entertaining stories make a complex subject understandable. **VERDICT** General readers, including high school students, interested in colonial and constitutional history will enjoy this book. An optional purchase for advanced readers on the subject.—Becky Kennedy, Atlanta-Fulton P.L.

★ Smith, P.D. **City: A Guidebook for the Urban Age.** Bloomsbury, dist. by Macmillan. Jun. 2012. c.352p. illus. index. ISBN 9781608196760. \$40. **HIST**

Like any great city, this is a book to get lost in, to try out new areas, to sample, to savor, to enjoy, and all without the fear of bedbugs or getting mugged! Smith (honorary research fellow, University Coll., London; *Doomsday Men: The Real Dr. Strangelove and the Dream of the Superweapon*) travels around the world—through time as well as space—to introduce readers to the “archetypal” city in all its aspects and evolutionary stages. “Visiting” cities from ancient Tenochtitlan and Ur to Masdar City, in today's Abu Dhabi, and London, Smith gives readers glimpses into the past, present, and future of these urban centers, commenting on their markets, parks, slums, traffic, capsule hotels, and even their gladiators. Treating this work as he would any other guidebook, Smith also includes information on local customs, money, shopping, places to eat, and street languages, enhancing the volume with images, maps, photographs, and drawings of cities and aspects of city life. **VERDICT** A wonderful and revealing look at cities in all their glory from viewpoints throughout history. Highly recommended for readers across many subject categories, including urban studies, cultural

on those emerging years rather than recent history, coupled with his profound understanding of his subject, deepens readers' appreciation and understanding of this city. **VERDICT** Though this volume, complete with illustrations and maps, could easily serve as a source for a sophisticated formal study of New Orleans/Louisiana history, it is also accessible to general readers seeking deep and contextualized information on

this topic, especially if they're prepared to dive right into the subject without much lead-in. Recommended for all collections covering the early history of New Orleans and Louisiana.—Sonnet Ireland, Univ. of New Orleans Lib.

Raphael, Ray. **Mr. President: How and Why the Founders Created a Chief Executive.** Knopf. 2012. c.336p. photogs. index.

history, and travel.—Melissa Aho, Univ. of Minnesota Lib., Minneapolis

★ **Ward, Geoffrey C. *A Disposition To Be Rich: How a Small-Town Pastor's Son Ruined an American President, Brought on a Wall Street Crash, and Made Himself the Best-Hated Man in the United States.*** Knopf. May 2012.

c.432p. photogs. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780679445302. \$28.95. HIST

Among the ranks of past American financial swindlers is the scoundrel Ferdinand Ward, here vividly profiled by his great-grandson. Ward (*Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson*) mines personal archives, letters, and diaries to reveal the origins of the dishonesty of this son of Presbyterian missionaries who had interest neither in his parents' vocation nor in an academic life. Only when he arrived in New York City in 1873 did he find his calling, earning the nickname "the young Napoleon of Wall Street." Charming and personable, he gained a reputation as a shrewd investor, attracting powerful backers and launching his own brokerage firm in 1880. The secret of his success was the classic pyramid scheme, which entailed paying off earlier investors with proceeds from newer ones. Sound familiar? In 1884, it all came crashing down and led to the firm's failure, ruining countless individuals (including President Ulysses S. Grant), and arguably contributing to the Panic of 1884. Ward went to prison but never acknowledged responsibility. **VERDICT** This bravely candid biography of a notorious ancestor successfully balances the truth about Ferdinand Ward's personal life with his scandalous role in this all-too-familiar American rags-to-riches-to-criminality saga. Essential for anyone interested in American financial history.—Richard Drezen, Brooklyn

LAW & CRIME

★ **Armstrong, Michael. *They Wished They Were Honest: The Knapp Commission and New York City Police Corruption.*** Columbia Univ. Jun. 2012. c.272p. index.

ISBN 9780231153546. \$29.50. CRIME

In April 1970, New York police officer Frank Serpico made headlines for speaking out about the force's widespread corruption, which the mayor had allegedly ignored. The Knapp Commission was formed that summer to identify any and all widespread patterns of corruption in the New York Police Department. In this book, Armstrong, chief counsel for the commission, lays out a detailed history of the Knapp Commission. He painstakingly outlines the successes and failures

of the commission, and what emerges is a clear picture of both a troubled police department and the individuals who tried to expose it to the public. **VERDICT** Armstrong cites several books written around the time of these events, such as Robert Daley's *Target Blue*, but his reliance on his memories, notes, and transcripts enhances the value of this book. Readers who enjoy legal memoirs and books on police and New York City history will find this compelling. An impartial and detailed account of one of the most corrupt eras in recent police history.—Alyssa Vincent, Emporia State Univ. Lib., Portland, OR

★ **Parry, Richard Lloyd. *People Who Eat Darkness: The True Story of a Young Woman Who Vanished from the Streets of Tokyo—and the Evil That Swallowed Her Up.*** Farrar. Jun. 2012.

c.464p. photogs. ISBN 9780374230593. pap. \$16. CRIME

This true crime tale reads like a novel, but few of its fictional counterparts have this much insight into murder cases and the psychology of the people involved. Foreign correspondent and author Parry (Tokyo bureau chief, *The Times*; *In the Time of Madness: Indonesia on the Edge of*

Chaos) tells the story of Lucie Blackman, a young Englishwoman who mysteriously disappeared in Japan in 2000. He vividly captures the atmosphere and culture of Tokyo, where Blackman lived before she disappeared, and tells of her family's excruciating attempts to find answers and the bizarre trial of the man accused of her brutal murder. Parry remains objective but writes sympathetically of all involved. He delves into the lives of members of the victim's family as well as of the accused man, adding layer upon layer of complexity to an already complicated case. **VERDICT** Parry's prose is reminiscent of true crime greats Truman Capote and Vincent Bugliosi. This well-written story, likely to elicit tears and even nightmares from readers, is recommended for all who enjoy true crime, thrillers, and cross-cultural narratives.—Ryan Claringbole, Chesapeake P.L., VA

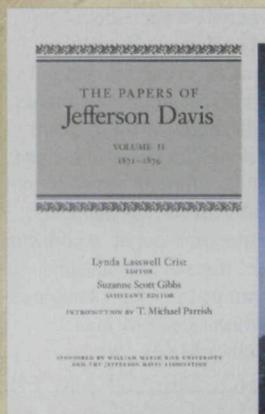
PARAPSYCHOLOGY

★ **Carpenter, James C. *First Sight: ESP and Parapsychology in Everyday Life.*** Rowman & Littlefield. 2012. c.480p. index. ISBN 9781442213906. \$39.95.

PARAPSYCH

This lengthy book offers a detailed and

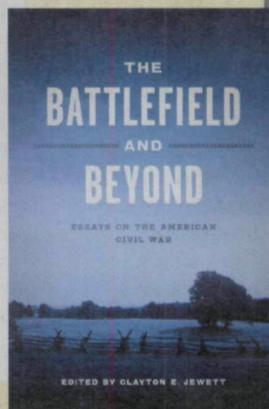
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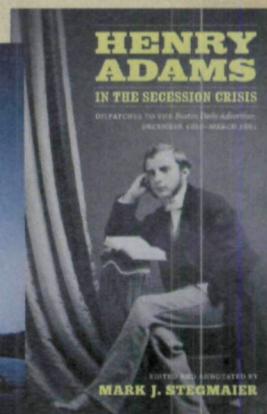
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