

administration (VA) educational benefits. As an educational counselor working with marines, the author is knowledgeable about her topic. She explains how to choose a program of study, how to prepare an admission packet, and how to make the most of VA benefits. Discussed is the pursuit of higher education both while on active duty and after separating from the service. Vetrone's explanations of various federal and state benefit programs are comprehensive and thorough. Unfortunately, though, her delivery distracts from her message. The writing is at times dense and efforts to interject a conversational style are more annoying than encouraging. Extensive URL listings hinder the flow of the text and would be more helpful in an appendix, while sidebars would improve readability. Marines looking for a more general work may prefer Sean-Michael Green's *Marching to College*. **VERDICT** Despite its limitations, this title will appeal to marines and do well in libraries serving this population; otherwise, it is a supplemental purchase.—**Lydia Olszak, Bosler Memorial Lib., Carlisle, PA**

## HISTORY

★ **Cooney, Kara. *The Woman Who Would Be King: Hatshepsut's Rise to Power in Ancient Egypt*. Crown. Oct. 2014. 320p. illus. notes. index. ISBN 9780307956767. \$28; ebk. ISBN 9780307956781. HIST**

Despite reigning for more than 20 years, creating a stable and prosperous country, and sending expeditions to uncharted lands, King Hatshepsut, the fifth pharaoh of the 18th Egyptian dynasty of ancient Egypt, has largely been forgotten in history and often even marginalized by scholars who vilified her for doing something unconventional, though it was in line with ancient traditions. Cooney (Egyptian art and architecture, Univ. of California, Los Angeles) takes a different approach in her search for the real Hatshepsut, the woman who garnered the political and religious power to become a king. The author draws on two decades of experience studying ancient Egypt and adds her own deductions and speculations (and sometimes multiple deductions as to what might have happened when the historical and archaeological record is mute) to create a realistic character profile. Complementing the text are extensive notes, architectural drawings, an index, and further reading. **VERDICT** Cooney does a fantastic job of breathing new life into her subject and showing the woman who dared to keep herself and her nephew Thutmose III on the throne, as well as what led Hatshepsut's name to be tarnished and nearly erased from history. The book will be of great interest to those fascinated by ancient Egypt, history, and women's history. [See Prepub

Alert, 5/4/14.]—**Melissa Aho, Univ. of Minnesota Bio-Medical Lib., Minneapolis**

**Gaskill, Malcolm. *Between Two Worlds: How the English Became Americans*. Basic. Nov. 2014. 544p. illus. notes. index. ISBN 9780465011117. \$35; ebk. ISBN 9780465080861. HIST**

As a history of the English in 17th century America, and, in part, of those who remained at home, Gaskill's (*Witchfinders*) latest work is ultimately a disappointment. Though the author provides a great sense of the ambivalence of these early colonists and their continued connections with their homeland, the reader doesn't get to know these pioneers very well. Part of the reason for this may be that Gaskill is constantly introducing new people and situations. Only in the instances of major figures—Massachusetts governor John Winthrop, minister Increase Mather, and his son Cotton Mather, for example—do their stories continue throughout multiple chapters and thus become coherent. Such a start-and-stop manner of narrative means that many of the people and their lives begin to blur together and become indistinguishable. All of which is a shame because Gaskill's research was clearly thorough, and he has an immense

understanding of the period, quoting ably from hundreds of primary sources. **VERDICT** Though very different in intent and somewhat outside of the range of the period Gaskill covers, David Hackett Fischer's *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America* would be a good substitute.—**Derek Sanderson, Mount Saint Mary Coll. Lib., Newburgh, NY**

★ **Gibson, Carrie. *Empire's Crossroads: A History of the Caribbean from Columbus to the Present Day*. Atlantic Monthly. Nov. 2014. 448p. notes. bibliog. ISBN 9780802126146. \$28; ebk. ISBN 9780802192356. HIST**

Independent historian Gibson's nonfiction debut is a marvelously rich and inclusive panorama of five centuries of Caribbean history. The author characterizes the Caribbean region as a global crossroads (hence the title) where Africans, Asians, Europeans, and indigenous peoples collided and intermingled to form syncretic creole societies. The Spanish, French, British, and Dutch battled rebels and rival empires as they built exploitative colonial economies powered by slavery and sugar plantations, followed by 20th-century interventions and eventual profiteering by American interests. Also spotlighted is the disconnect between the poverty and joblessness gripping the largely

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