

Book 'Em



Books and Publishing News

for the Hiram College Library Community

April 2013

New and improved: now includes bonus film review action!

Any comments, questions, or requests can be sent to [David Everett](#).

Fiction:			
Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Kincaid, Jamaica	<i>See Now Then</i>	F K573s	Kincaid's first novel in ten years looks at a marriage in all its joys and pains.
Hoffman, Alice	<i>The Dovekeepers</i>	E H6751d	The story of four women caught in the siege at Masada.
Brown, Jason Lee and Prefontaine, Jay, eds.	<i>New Stories from the Midwest</i>	E N42069	Twenty short stories that celebrate the Midwest.

Juvenile:			
Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Seeger, Laura Vaccaro	<i>Green</i>	JF Se326g	An homage to the color green and its multitude of shades in a simple picture book .
Brenna, Beverley	<i>The White Bicycle</i>	JF B7506w	This Michael L. Printz Award Honor Book tells the story of Taylor Simon, a teenaged girl with Asperger's Syndrome, who travels to France for a summer job.
Kooser, Ted	<i>House Held Up By Trees</i>	JF K8379h	All of the trees on a lot are cleared so a house can be built. The house is eventually abandoned and overrun with trees. With illustrations from Caldecott winner Jon Klassen.
Smith, Sherri L.	<i>Orleans</i>	JF Sm65o	Set in a futuristic and quarantined New Orleans, a survivor must get a baby out of the Delta and into the Outer States before the baby contracts delta fever.

Graphic Novels & Comics:

Author/Artist	Title	Call #	Comments
Larson, Hope	<i>A Wrinkle in Time: The Graphic Novel</i>	JF L3295w	Larson has adapted and illustrated L'Engle's classic story for the graphic novel genre.

Memoir & Biography:

Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Byrne, Paula	<i>The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things</i>	823.74 Byr	A look at the events in Austen's life that shaped her writing.
Adler, William M.	<i>The Man Who Never Died: The Life, Times, and Legacy of Joe Hill, American Labor icon</i>	331.886092 Hil-A	A biography of the labor organizer and songwriter, who, in 1914, was convicted of murder in Utah and executed. The title is taken from the chorus of the song "Joe Hill," the best known version of which is probably by Joan Baez.
Bartlett, Rosamond	<i>Tolstoy: A Russian Life</i>	891.733 Tol-B 2011	Latest biography of the Russian writer.
Simmons, Sylvie	<i>I'm Your Man: The Life of Leonard Cohen</i>	782.4216409 Coh-S	Biography of the Canadian singer, songwriter, and poet, best known for songs such as <i>Suzanne</i> and <i>Hallelujah</i> .

Nonfiction:

Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Schulten, Susan	<i>Mapping the Nation: History and Cartography in Nineteenth-Century America</i>	526.097309 Sch	A history of how maps came to be used, such as a way to track epidemics or weather patterns, during this time period.
Mendoza, Louis G.	<i>Conversations Across Our America: Talking About Immigration and the Latinoization of the United States</i>	973.0468 Men	Interviews with some forty people who talk about how and why they came to America.
Jobrack, Beverlee	<i>Tyranny of the Textbook: An Insider Exposes How Educational Materials Undermine Reforms</i>	371.32 Job	A former middle school English teacher who worked for two educational publishing firms, looks at the textbook industry and how its failure to change works against educational reform.

Feature Films:

Title	Director	Call #	Comments
<i>Birth of a Nation</i>	D.W. Griffith	Feature Film B5395 1915 2011 DVD	Griffith's 1915 tale of two families, one in the north and one in the south, during and after the Civil War. The 3-disc set from Kino has the original film (remastered), plus lots of extras, including a number of Griffith's Civil War shorts.

Films:

Title	Director	Call #	Comments
<i>The Corporation</i>	Mark Achbar and Jennifer Abbott	Film 338.74 C8172 2005 DVD	Examines the rise of the modern corporation as an institution.
<i>Chicago: A&E Network Live by Request</i>	Lawrence Jordan	Film 782.42166 C4325 2003 DVD	The popular rock band performs a number of its hits in a special 2002 performance in New York City. Includes interviews with several of the band members.

Obituaries:

Chinua Achebe, 82	The Nigerian author, best known for the novel Things Fall Apart , has died at age 82. His other works included A Man of the People , No Longer at Ease , and Arrow of God . Click here for a complete list of Achebe's work available in the Hiram College Library.
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Featured Review:

***Both Flesh and Not: Essays*, written by David Foster Wallace. New York: Little, Brown and Co., 2012.**

Unless it has been checked out, you will find this title, and many others, on the new bookshelf on the first floor of the library. Once it has moved to its permanent home, you will find it on the third floor with the call number [814.54 Wal 2012](#).

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Being a huge fan of David Foster Wallace (hereafter DFW), I was excited to hear about the publication of these essays. Still, I couldn't help but approach this volume with a certain hesitance due to the nature of the material it collects. I worried that the essays here would be mere leftovers, so to speak. Happily, that is not the case at all. The texts collected in *Both Flesh and Not* – which deal with topics as diverse as Roger Federer, Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Terminator 2*, and the contemporary state of creative writing departments, just to name a few – are as rich and insightful as anything DFW has ever written. What is perhaps most impressive though is the warmth and sincerity that DFW manages to maintain even in his most cerebral moments. His critical voice just maneuvers so gracefully from the

colloquial to the scholastic. After reading these essays, one is left with a real sense of having made contact with another human being. It is this essential humanity – this intimacy – that is lacking in so much contemporary scholarship and I hope that individuals from my generation will continue to look toward DFW for inspiration and guidance.

Given that it would be impossible for me to offer substantive reviews of all the material here, I'll focus on DFW's essay about creative writing programs, "Fictional Futures and the Conspicuously Young." Here, DFW talks about the challenges that creative writing programs and MFA culture pose to literary practice and production. He argues the proliferation of creative writing programs in America is responsible for creating a new generation of 'Conspicuously Young' writers. Although there are positive aspects to this, the foremost being that it offers young people an opportunity to focus on their art and to associate with other like-minded individuals, the programs have also bred a community of writers who are predominantly good at just following institutional rules. Consequently, we have witnessed an increasing uniformity and conservatism amongst writers. What is most distressing, however, is the complete lack of serious intellectual training required of creative writing students. DFW nearly suggests that creative writing programs are an all-out scam to trick unwitting and pretentious young people into dishing out thousands of dollars for artistic validation. At one point he calls them an "unfunny joke!"

For an essay written in 1987, DFW's understanding of the situation seems almost clairvoyant. It nails many of the important issues surrounding the institutionalization of creative writing. I want to force everyone I know who cares about literature to read it, especially those students pursuing the creative writing route.

If you are not inclined to pick up this collection at the library, "Fictional Futures and the Conspicuously Young" can be read online here: <http://neugierig.org/content/dfw/ffacy.pdf>.

-Joseph Randolph