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Book 'Em



Books and Publishing News for the Hiram College Library Community January 2012

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

Fiction			
Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Kim Edwards	<i>The Memory Keeper's Daughter</i>	F Ed969m	As he is helping his wife deliver twins, a doctor sees that his daughter has Down's syndrome. He gives the baby to the nurse who, instead of giving the child to an institution as she promised, raises the the little girl as her own.
Jeffrey Eugenides	<i>The Marriage Plot</i>	F Eu44m 2011	The newest novel from the Pulitzer Prize winner is about a love triangle, but with an obvious Eugenides spin.
Cherie Priest	<i>Dreadnought</i>	F P9333d	Have you been curious about Steampunk but don't know where to start? I recommend Cherie Priest, "the high priestess of steampunk."
Karen Russell	<i>Swamplandia</i>	F R914s 2011	One sentence from a summary I found should be enough: "The Bigtree alligator wrestling dynasty is in decline, and Swamplandia!, their island home and gator wrestling theme park, formerly no. 1 in the region, is swiftly being encroached upon by a

			fearsome and sophisticated competitor called the World of Darkness."
Jesmyn Ward	<i>Salvage the Bones</i>	F W213s	A fictional treatment of the build up to Katrina from the perspective of a group of siblings.

Juvenile

Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Jay Asher	<i>Th1rteen R3asons Why</i>	JF As353t	A young woman had thirteen reasons for committing suicide, and she recorded them on cassettes and shared them with the protagonist. (Reading level: ages 12 & up)
Thanhha Lai	<i>Inside Out & Back Again</i>	JF L140i	This National Book Award winner uses poetry to tell the story of a Vietnamese family as they resettle in Alabama. (Reading level: ages 8 & up)
Robert C. O'Brien	<i>Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH</i>	JF Ob68m	No, it's not a new book. Heck, it's not even new to us. This copy was purchased to replace one that went missing. I'm including it here because if you've never read it, you really need to do so. (Reading level: ages 8 & up)
Jewell Parker Rhodes	<i>Ninth Ward</i>	JF R3467n	A twelve-year-old girl and her grandmother are forced to stay in the ninth ward as Hurricane Katrina descends on New Orleans. A Coretta Scott King Honor Author, 2011. (Reading level: grades 5-8)

Graphic Novels

Author/Artist	Title	Call #	Comments
Alison Bechdel (edited & introduced by)	<i>Best American Comics 2011</i>	F B4642 2011	As always with this series, there are some well known artists and some new faces included.
Floyd Gottfredson	<i>Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse Volume 1, "Race to Death Valley"</i>	741.5973 v.1	A collections of "Mickey Mouse" strips from the 1930s.

Memoir/Biography

Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Robert Douglas-Fairhurst	<i>Becoming Dickens: The Invention of a Novelist</i>	832.83 Dou	Exactly what you'd expect from the title.
Ian Frazier	<i>Travels in Siberia</i>	957 Fra	See extended review below.
J. L. Heilbron	<i>Galileo</i>	509.45 Gal-H	Heilbron set out to create a more complete picture of Galileo in his setting, and this book was the result.
John Waters	<i>Role Models</i>	791.430233 Wat	Love him or hate him, it's hard to ignore John Waters.

Nonfiction

Author	Title	Call #	Comments

Philip Goldberg	<i>American Veda: From Emerson and the Beatles to Yoga and Meditation: How Indian Spirituality Changed the West</i>	294.50973 Gol	Written by someone who has been involved with Taoism, Buddhism, and Vendata (both as a student and as a teacher) since the 1970s.
Arthur Herman	<i>To Rule the Waves: How the British Navy Shaped the Modern World</i>	359.00942 Her	Since the subtitle tells you all to need about the topic, I'm going to use this space to share a jacket blurb that made me smile: "A cracking good read and a model of intelligent concision..."
Michael G. Kammen	<i>Digging Up the Dead: A History of Notable American Reburials</i>	393.10973 Kam	Looks at the propensity to rebury historical figures and how the size of the gravestone compares to reputation.
Colin Tudge	<i>The Tree</i>	582.16 Tud	This book has a mix of science and humanities. There are chapters about specific trees, like baobabs and bristlecone pines, alongside illustrations such as "The Buddha Receiving Enlightenment Under a Peepul Tree."
E. Paul Zehr	<i>Inventing Iron Man: The Possibility of a Human Machine</i>	629.8 Zeh	Looks at the science behind the superhero. A lovely idea, but I'd still rather be a <u>mutant</u> .

Awards

Award	Details	Comments
2012 Frost Medalist	Marilyn Nelson (Source: Poetry Society of America)	We have multiple books by Marilyn Nelson.
Edgar Awards	The nominees have been selected. Winners will be announced in late April.	We have some, but not many, of the nominees. I'm waiting for the winners to be named before making any purchases. Also worth noting is the fact that one of the nominees in the play category was produced right here in Northeast Ohio (<i>The Game's Afoot</i> by Ken Ludwig, Cleveland Playhouse).

Obituaries

Simms Taback, 79	Taback was a Caldecott Award winning illustrator of children's books. He died from pancreatic cancer, in his home, on December 25, 2011. (Source: LA Times)
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Featured Review

***Travels in Siberia*, by Ian Frazier, published in 2010 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.**

I've always been curious about Siberia. The name of the region alone is enough to kick start my imagination. To me, Siberia has always meant [frozen landscapes](#), [Lake Baikal](#), and [Doctor Zhivago](#). So picking up a book written by a local (Ohio born & bred, even if he does live in New Jersey now) seemed like a good way to appease my curiosity.

And now that I've read it, what do I think? It's a book review cliché, but I'm still going to say it: at 529 pages, this book was too short. I could easily have spent double that basking in the reflection Frazier presented of Siberia. His writing style is exactly what you'd expect of someone who is [a staff writer for The New Yorker](#). Frazier is witty, accessible, and a bit self-effacing. He writes about being ill with the same ease as he does about the breath-taking landscapes. I'm also indebted to Mr. Frazier for saving me from ever going to Siberia myself. I don't want to give away too much, but his discussion of dealing with insects during his summer excursion to the region is more than enough to keep me firmly rooted in the US. My curiosity has definitely been satisfied.

Travels in Siberia by Ian Frazier is an admirable addition to the long list of books that go by this same

title. 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 other books about Siberia, under [957 Fra](#).

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