

Book 'Em



Books and Publishing News

for the Hiram College Library Community

March 2013

New and improved: now includes bonus film review action!

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

There are no awards listed this month, but in late January, the American Library Association announced its 2013 youth media award winners. While several of those awards were noted in the February issue of Book 'Em, a complete list is available at <http://www.ala.org/news/pr?id=12298>. A number of the winners and honor books are on display in the library and you are welcome to check them out.

Fiction:			
Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Chung, Catherine	<i>Forgotten County</i>	F C47214f	Chung's debut novel combines Korean folklore and history with contemporary issues of immigration and identity.
Bondurant, Matt	<i>The Night Swimmer</i>	F B6409n	Modern gothic novel set in Ireland that revolves around marriage and belonging.

Juvenile:			
Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Starkey, Scott	<i>The Call of the Bully</i>	JF St285c	The further adventures of Rodney Rathbone (after How to Beat the Bully Without Really Trying) by Hiram graduate Scott Starkey, class of 1993.
Smith, Andrew	<i>Passenger</i>	JF Sm516p	Jack and Conner are drawn back to the alternate world of Marbury (you might want to read The Marbury Lens first) where war still going on and dark forces are at work.
Klassen, Jon	<i>This is Not My Hat</i>	JF K6663t	The 2013 Caldecott Medal winner in which a tiny fish has stolen a hat.

Voorhoeve, Anne C.	<i>My Family for the War</i>	JF V898L	The story of Ziska, a Jewish girl raised protestant, who is taken out of Nazi Germany to live with a Jewish family in London. The book won the Batchelder Award for the young adult book originally published in a foreign language and translated into English. It was originally published as Liverpool Street.
Pratchett, Terry	<i>Dodger</i>	JF P8872d	This honor book for the Michael Printz award, provides an alternative Victorian London in which Dodger meets Charles Dickens and helps stop the murders of Sweeney Todd.
Alexander, Claire	<i>Back to Front and Upside Down!</i>	JF AL265b	A touching little story of anxiety (Stan just can't seem to get his letters to look quite right when he tries to write them) and the need to sometimes ask for help. Winner of the Schneider Family Book Award for Young Children.

Graphic Novels & Comics:

Author/Artist	Title	Call #	Comments
Powell, Nate	<i>Any Empire</i>	F P8714a	Three young kids bond, lose touch, and come back together in a struggle for the future.

Memoir & Biography:

Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Stahr, Walter	<i>Seward: Lincoln's Indispensable Man</i>	973.7 Sew-S	The life of one of Lincoln's rivals for the Republican presidential nomination and then became, as Lincoln's Secretary of State, a valued Lincoln supporter.
Roe, Nicholas	<i>John Keats: A New Life</i>	821.78 Roe	New biography of the Romantic poet.
Brands, H. W.	<i>The Man Who Saved the Union: Ulysses Grant in War and Peace</i>	973.82 Gra-B	A new biography of the general and president.
Vauchez, Andre	<i>Francis of Assisi: The Life and Afterlife of a Medieval Saint</i>	270.5 Fra-V	Not only a biography of Francis, but also an analysis of the texts of earlier writers about Francis.
Minick, Jim	<i>The Blueberry Years: A Memoir of Farm and Family</i>	634.7370922 Min	The author's experiences, with his wife, of starting an organic blueberry farm that became a pick-your-own operation when the berries were ready to pick.

Nonfiction:

Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Stauffer, John and Trodd, Zoe, eds.	<i>The Tribunal: Responses to John Brown and the Harper's Ferry Raid</i>	973.7116 Tri	A collection of reactions to Brown's raid. The reactions, from both the North and the South, are from letters, newspaper articles, and other sources.
Winchell, Meghan	<i>Good Girls, Good Food, Good Fun: The Story of USO Hostesses During World War II</i>	940.53082 Win	The subtitle makes it pretty clear what this book is about.
Knoedelseder, William	<i>Bitter Brew: The Rise and Fall of Anheuser-Busch and America's King of Beers</i>	338.766342 Kno	Once again the subtitle says it all.
Danziger-Russell, Jacqueline	<i>Girls and Their Comics: Finding a Female Voice in Comic Book Narrative</i>	741.5973 Dan 2013	A history of comics with an emphasis on girls comics and how comics can express the voices of marginalized girls.
Hesterman, Oran B.	<i>Fair Food: Growing a Healthy, Sustainable Food System for All</i>	338.1973 Hes	The president and CEO of Fair Food Network lays out a plan to change how food is grown, packaged, delivered, marketed, and sold.
Wallach, Jennifer Jensen	<i>How America Eats: A Social History of U.S. Food and Culture</i>	394.120973 Wal	Attempts to answer the question of what it means to be American by looking at what Americans have eaten throughout the country's history.
Klausmann, Ulrike, Meinzerin, Marion, and Kuhn, Gabriel	<i>Women Pirates and the Politics of the Jolly Roger</i>	910.45082 Kla	A series of essays on the role of women pirates around the world. Essays are grouped by geographic location, such as China Sea or Caribbean.
Stiglitz, Joseph E.	<i>The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future</i>	305.50973 Sti	Stiglitz, a Nobel Prize in Economics winner, looks at the impact of the increasing income divide between wealthy and poor.
Myers, Marc	<i>Why Jazz Happened</i>	781.655 Mye	A social, rather than musical, history of jazz.

Films:

Title	Director	Call #	Comments
<i>Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee 50th Anniversary</i>	SNCC Legacy Project	Film 323.1196073 St9417 2011 DVD	This 38-disc set presents the formal addresses, panel discussions, and programs that happened at a conference and reunion to mark the 50 th anniversary of the founding of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. The four-day event occurred in 2010 at Shaw University in North Carolina.

Featured Review:

***The Letters of Samuel Beckett: 1941-1956*, edited by George Craig, Martha Dow Fehsenfeld, Dan Gunn, and Lois More Overbeck. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.**

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, under [822.91 Bec 2009 v. 2](#).

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Samuel Beckett is regarded as one of the last great beasts of modernism and, in many ways, as the essential harbinger of postmodernism. While his early work is clearly indebted to Joyce, Beckett's friend and mentor, his later work eschews the linguistic and privileges the immediacy rather than the superfluity of meaning. Broadly speaking, his output can be characterized into three general periods, beginning with his early period lasting up until World War II in 1945, his middle period stretching until the early 1960s, during which most of his best known works, including [Waiting for Godot](#), appeared, and his final period lasting until his death in 1989. Cambridge's publication of Beckett's letters from 1941-1956, the second volume of his letters to be translated from the original French and released so far, therefore, chronicles the post-war period during which Beckett achieved literary fame (there are no letters during the war period). In this sense, it serves as a significant document of a writer struggling with the pressures of achieving international recognition for his art.

Overall, it is difficult to offer any sort of synopsis of the letters contained within the volume. As one might expect, a great deal of the letters shelter relatively prosaic material, from correspondence on the publication status of Beckett's work to routine exchanges with various friends. For this reason, the collection offers little to interest casual readers. At least one exception, however, is Beckett's correspondence with Georges Duthuit, the editor of *Transition*, an English-language journal of primarily French culture, with whom Beckett co-wrote 1949's "Three Dialogues." One of the more interesting correspondences with Duthuit, for example, recounts Beckett's engagement with the paintings of their mutual friend Bram van Velde, a Dutch painter living in Paris. What is exciting here is the way in which Beckett comes to see in Velde's paintings a reflection of his own artistic convictions. In reading these letters, one is thereby led to question the role of the critic; that is, whether it is possible for the critic to offer an assessment of a given work of art without an act of personal projection. Speaking more formally, the correspondence provokes the question of

when exegesis begins and eisegesis ends. Again, though, I would insist that this work has appeal only for those readers who are already intensely interested in Beckett's work and person.

-Joseph Randolph