

remarkable aircraft and is highly recommended, informative reading for World War II military buffs in general, and Military Aviation History enthusiasts in particular.

Helicopters

Stanley S. McGowen

ABC-CLIO

Box 1911, Santa Barbara, CA 93116-1911
1851094687 \$85.00 1-800-368-6868

New to the "Weapons and Warfare" series, *Helicopters: An Illustrated History Of Their Impact* is an in-depth study of how the helicopter has transformed warfare, from the first successful machines in the early 1900s to the latest technological advances of the twenty-first century. Written by an adjunct professor of military history at Columbia College, *Helicopters* is the story of innovation against opposition, as time and again helicopter designers created more capable rotocraft and had to persuade doubting military planners to allocate the funds to build and deploy them. Black-and-white photographs of numerous helicopter models flesh out this extensively researched, at times technical survey that nonetheless will appeal to non-specialist general readers and military aviation history scholars alike.

Long Way Back To The River Kwai

Loet Velmans

Arcade Publishing

141 Fifth Avenue, 8th fl., NY, NY 10010
www.arcadepub.com
1559707062 \$24.95 1-800-759-0190

The inspiration for the classic book and film "Bridge Over The River Kwai", *Long Way Back To The River Kwai: Memories Of World War II* is the painfully honest true story of one man's gut-wrenching and nearly fatal three and a half year tenure as a slave laborer for the Japanese army during World War II. A prisoner of war. An insert of black-and-white photographs illustrate this testimony, which presents the unvarnished truth about inhumane, brutal, and ultimately deadly torments the POWs suffered during the course of the war. *Long Way Back To The River Kwai* also tells of the war's end, the author's rescue and slow recovery from near-death, and his gradual readjustment. The final section tells of the author's business dealings in modern-day Japan, his reflections and friendships, and his observance of the Japanese "cultural amnesia" concerning the

war and the atrocities it committed during that era. Highly recommended reading and an impressive contribution to the growing library of World War II combatant memoirs.

The Judaic Studies Shelf

Izzy's Fire

Nancy Wright Beasley

Brunswick Publishing Corporation

1386 Lawrenceville Plank Road

Lawrenceville, Virginia 23868

1556182074 \$27.95 www.amazon.com

Izzy's Fire: Finding Humanity In The Holocaust is the triumphant true story of a holocaust survivor and members of her family escaped the Kovno Ghetto in Lithuania, survived trials and successfully hid until the war's end in a hiding places granted them by a Catholic farmer. She, her husband, and other refugees dug a hole between two potato cellars, and with the unselfish aid of that selfless, risk taking Catholic family, miraculously survived the Holocaust. Afterward she and her husband emigrated to America and encountered a joyful reunion decades later. *Izzy's Fire* gives voice to those who survived the Holocaust in hiding, and is a welcome addition to Holocaust studies shelves.

The Jewish Ethicist

Asher Meir

KTAV Publishing House

930 Newark Ave., Jersey City, NJ 07306

0881258091 \$18.95 www.ktav.com

Rabbi Dr. Asher Meir, economist and ethicist, presents *The Jewish Ethicist: Everyday Ethics For Business And Life*, a practical guide to morality and ethics in an increasingly complex modern world. Presented largely in a question-and-answer format, *The Jewish Ethicist* offers frank advice to such conundrums as "Is it ethical to buy from low-wage suppliers?", "Can I be frank in a letter of reference?", and "Are Commercial Dating and Matchmaking Services Ethical?" Rabbi Meir addresses each question in depth, discussing varying circumstances under which the given situation could take place, and explaining the rationale behind judgments of modern day morality and ethics. *The Jewish Ethicist* scrupulously avoids oversimplification of diverse complex dilemmas ("principles do not exist in a vacuum", Meir comments), while at the same time

presenting Meir's wisdom in direct terms. Though *The Jewish Ethicist* scrutinizes modern morality from a distinctly Jewish perspective, its discussion and justifications reach well beyond scriptural law into the matter-of-fact realm of practical morality - actions can and are characterized as unethical not just because a holy text says so, but because they promote unhappiness, self-aggrandizement at the expense of others, or worse. Highly recommended for readers of all faiths.

Leading The Passover Journey

Rabbi Nathan Laufer

Jewish Lights Publishing

PO Box 237, Woodstock, VT 05091

www.jewishlights.com

1580232116 \$24.99 1-800-962-4544

Rabbi Nathan Laufer presents *Leading The Passover Journey: The Seder's Meaning Revealed, The Haggadah's Story Retold*, brings the fifteen pieces of the traditional Seder into plain-terms, contemporary rendition of the Passover story. Combining scholarly insight with an uplifting conviction in the power and meaning of the Passover journey to reinforce one's Jewish identity and relationship with God, *Leading The Passover Journey* transforms the experience and the history behind it into a message readily accessible to readers of all backgrounds and levels of familiarity with Jewish tradition. Highly recommended particularly as an introductory to lay readers and novice scholars striving to better understand the Seder and the Haggadah's story.

The Hunting/Fishing Shelf

Ron Schara's Minnesota Fishing Guide

Ron Schara

Tristan Publishing

2300 Louisiana Avenue North

Golden Valley, MN 55427

097265044 \$19.95 tristanoutdoors.com

Ron Schara's Minnesota Fishing Guide is the ideal angler's guide to all of the best fishing Minnesota's lakes, rivers, streams and ponds have to offer. Compiled by expert fisherman Ron Schara (who can be seen on "Backroads with Ron and Raven" over the ESPN2 television channel, and on "Minnesota Bound" over KARE 11) this superbly organized and thoroughly "user friendly" 276-page guidebook will prove to be an indispensable planning guide for

✓ anyone wanting to enjoy casting for fish against the outdoor wonders that Minnesota has to offer. Schara begins with present the basis that range from equipment, to the weather, to lures, "catch and release", trip planning essentials, fishing with kids, and even "Where Anglers Gather". Then he proceeds with chapters devoted to panfish, walleye, trout, largemouth and small mouth bass, muskie and northern, catfish, carp, and more. Enhanced with DNR Charts, an Index, as well as "Fish Stories", *Ron Schara's Minnesota Fishing Guide* is enthusiastically recommended for the novice, and holds much of valued interest for even the seasoned angler.

The Comix/Graphic Novels Shelf

The Wandering Schoolgirl: Book 01
Gary L. Gallegos & Louis C. Gallegos
Icecat Books
1243 Old Canyon Drive
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
0976430800 \$9.95 icecatbooks.com

The Wandering Schoolgirl: Book 01 debuts a lighthearted graphic novel series following Breanna Cota, a young Hispanic girl called upon to save the princess of a faraway land... a land that is peculiarly reminiscent of Japanese anime, from the Chibi village filled with perky tiny girls to fierce mecha-suit battles! The princess is under a terrible curse of seven governors, and until the curse is lifted, she will embody each of the governor's worst traits - sloth, envy, gluttony, anger, lust, covetousness, and deadliest of all, pride. Aided by a magical talking backpack shaped like a pig and other friends, Breanna must break the spell by defeating each of the seven, starting with the lascivious Governor of Lust! Humorously poking fun at the conventions of Japanese popular culture television ("try attacking without letting her know what you're going to do," Breanna suggests to a warrior who insists on yelling things like "Extreme Neon Blast!" whenever he fights). The Wandering Schoolgirl doesn't take itself too seriously and as a result the story breezes by so quickly the reader is left eager for the next installment. The black-and-white artwork is in a simple, uncluttered style that is easy on the eyes and fits the upbeat tone of the story perfectly. Highly recommended for all ages, and especially for fans of Japanese anime and manga.

The Religion/Spirituality Shelf

Sacred Sanskrit Words
Leza Lowitz & Reema Datta
Stone Bridge Press
PO Box 8208, Berkeley, CA 94707
1880656876 \$14.95 stonebridge.com

Sacred Sanskrit Words For Yoga, Chant, And Meditation is the collaborative work of experienced and expert yoga instructors Leza Lowitz and Reema Datta. Introducing more than 160 spiritually significant Sanskrit words (including some of which like karma, nirvana, and chakra have entered the English language) with Devanagari scripts, pronunciations, chants, and brief cultural as well as historical explanations, *Sacred Sanskrit Words* is a practical and exceptionally portable paperback reference book with native script renderings large enough to reproduce as tattoos or decorative art. Especially recommended as a resource for dedicated students of yoga, and meditation, *Sacred Sanskrit Words* is an invaluable addition to personal and academic library Eastern Religion reference collections and supplemental studies lists.

The Language Studies Shelf

Understanding Chinese Characters
Ping-gam Go
Simplex Publications
575 Larkspur Plaza, Suite 4
Larkspur, CA 94939
www.simplexpublications.com
0962311375 \$15.95 1-415-924-6508

Now in its fourth edition, *Understanding Chinese Characters By Their Ancestral Forms* by Ping-gam Go reveals the meaning of Chinese writing by providing and describing the historical pictograph for each Chinese character, thereby materially aiding the reader to identify, learn and memorize the most widely used Chinese characters with a minimum of effort. Enhanced with a full-color photo survey of business establishment signage in San Francisco's Chinatown, and a dictionary of 288 Chinese characters containing both Mandarin and Cantonese pronunciation), students and tourists are offered dozens of practice exercises to memorize the meanings of those Chinatown signs. There are even flashcards for 41 of the most prevalent characters found on a Chinese restaurant menu! Compact and portably, with alphabetical and subject indexes to dic-

tionary entries, *Understanding Chinese Characters By Their Ancestral Forms* is a welcome and "user friendly" resource for learning to decipher Chinese writing whether for simply fun or serious business. Also very highly recommended from Simplex Publications are two other Chinese language instructionals by Ping-gam Go: *Read Chinese Today: A Walk Through San Francisco's Chinatown, Understanding Chinese Characters By Their Ancestral Forms With Photographs And Map* (0962311332, \$6.95); *What Character Is That?: An Easy-Access Dictionary Of 5,000 Chinese Characters, 2nd Edition* (0962311359, \$19.95).

The Needlecraft Shelf

Patchwork Puzzle Balls
Jinny Beyer
Breckling Press
283 Michigan Street, Elmhurst, IL 60126
0972121854 \$19.95 brecklingpress.com

In *Patchwork Puzzle Balls*, needlecraft expert Jinny Beyer shows how to play with fabric in a truly unique and creative way through combining simply patchwork shapes in the creation of a colorful and perfectly round ball which can be used as a child's or pet's plaything, a holiday ornament, or a decorative accent. Featuring nine quick and easy patterns, four challenge designs, step-by-step drawings and photography, each project requires only basic sewing skills to create truly memorable works of the needlecrafting art. *Patchwork Puzzle Balls* is especially commended to the attention of anyone who quilts from the aspiring novice to the seasoned expert wanting to do something a little different for gift giving or toy making.

The Amish Circle Quilt
Rosemary Youngs
KP Books/F&W Publications, Inc.
4700 East Galbraith Road
Cincinnati, OH 45236
0873498917 \$24.99 1-800-289-0963

Award-winning quilter Rosemary Youngs presents *The Amish Circle Quilt: 121 Quilt Block Patterns That Tell A Story*, an anthology of 121 actual-size piece and applique quilt block patterns and correspondence between 11 women who maintained their friendships lifelong. A brief introduction walks readers through the basics of quilting, but most of the *The Amish Circle Quilt* is devoted to the patterns