

8-1-2017

Logical family, Armistead Maupin (book review)

Kathleen McCallister

William & Mary, krmccallister@wm.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wm.edu/librariespubs>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

McCallister, Kathleen, Logical family, Armistead Maupin (book review) (2017). *Library Journal*, 142(13), 82,92.

<https://scholarworks.wm.edu/librariespubs/35>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the William & Mary Libraries at W&M ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in W&M Libraries Publications by an authorized administrator of W&M ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@wm.edu.

arts & humanities

FINE ARTS

Harrison, Stephen & others. **The Jazz Age: American Style in the 1920s.** Yale Univ. May 2017. 360p. photos. notes. bibliog. ISBN 9780300224054. \$60. DEC ARTS

The 1920s Jazz Age, an era of great social and artistic change in America, also heralded a new design sensibility that was applied to all manner of built, manufactured, and crafted goods, from hulking skyscrapers to intricate jewelry. As the freedom and exuberance of jazz music flowed from the United States to Europe, modernism in design flowed back to the States. This jazz metaphor and international exchange provide the premise of a new exhibition at the Cooper Hewitt, the Smithsonian's design museum, of which this book is the catalog. As such, it presents a collection of topical essays instead of a single continuous narrative. Coauthors Harrison (Cleveland Museum of Art), Sarah D.

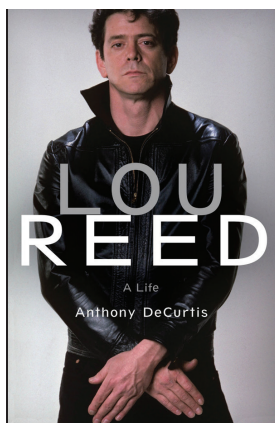
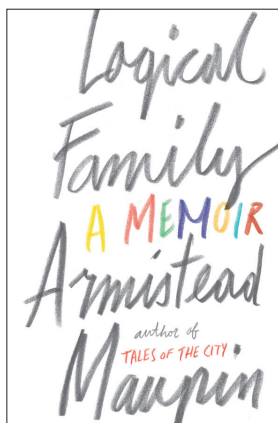
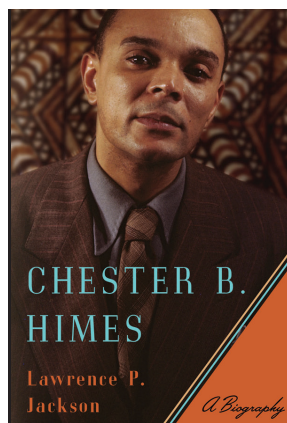
9780300225846. \$75. DEC ARTS

Celebrating the 70th anniversary of designer Christian Dior's "New Look" collection, this book chronicles the history of the House of Dior through catwalk photography. An overview essay by Vogue.com editor Fury discusses the importance of silhouettes and femininity to the label and how these themes have been reinterpreted over the years. With text by fashion editor Sabatini and chapter introductions by Fury, the book progresses chronologically. Quotes from fashion and other publications and the designers themselves describe each collection. A look at Dior's first ten years at the helm highlights the "H Line," the "Tulip Line," and other collections. Yves Saint Laurent took over after Dior died in 1957, but his designs proved too radical for the house. Marc Bohan, the longest creative director at Dior (1960–89) fit well as

320p. ed. by Adriaan Waiboer. illus. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780300222937. \$60.

FINE ARTS

Johannes Vermeer (1632–75) is the best known of the Dutch genre painters, whose most prolific period spanned the years 1650–75. His paintings depicting ordinary life are breathtaking in their almost photographic detail. Though Vermeer is frequently portrayed as an enigmatic loner, this title, compiled by Waiboer (head curator, National Gallery of Ireland), reveals through essays and visual comparisons the symbiotic relationship among several Dutch painters of the 17th century. In addition to Vermeer, Gerrit Dou, Gerard ter Borch, Jan Steen, Pieter de Hooch, Gabriel Metsu, and Frans van Mieris are all represented. Formulating a comparative study of these artists, with essays contributed by experts in the field to accompany the exhibition in Dublin, Paris, and Washington, DC, Waiboer illustrates how they frequently drew inspiration and borrowed from one another, copying and perfecting techniques with similar subject matter. The 180 gorgeous illustrations depict side by side the different artists' interpretations of the same subjects. **VERDICT** A beautiful representation of Dutch genre painting and a true enlightenment of Vermeer and his contemporaries.—Sandra Knowles, South Carolina State Lib., Columbia



Beyond the page and stage: crime novelist Himes, Southern storyteller Maupin, rock legend Reed

Coffin, and Emily Orr (Cooper Hewitt) delve into the surprising diversity of style in the era, which art deco dominates. Extensively illustrated by contemporary and period photographs, the wide-ranging text mostly covers American consumption of the pinnacles of design in the era, primarily luxury goods ranging from fine art to automobiles, designer clothing, and interior décor. **VERDICT** A specialized work that distills broad cultural influences and social context into representative objects of beauty and delight.—Megan Farrell, Central Michigan Univ. Libs., Mount Pleasant

Sabatini, Adélia & Alexander Fury. **Dior: The Collections, 1947–2017.** Yale Univ. Aug. 2017. 632p. photos. notes. index. ISBN

the aesthetic counterpart to Dior, as did Gianfranco Ferré, with the unabashed femininity of his designs. From 1996 to 2000, the time was ripe for John Galiano to redefine the brand through more daring themes such as "Chinese Pin-Up Girls" and "Barbie Goes to Tibet." Lastly, from the most recent years, the work of designers Raf Simons and Maria Grazia Chiuri is included. **VERDICT** With its lavish photography, this comprehensive chronology of one of the most well-known and esteemed French fashion houses is recommended for those interested in the history of high fashion.—Sandra Rothenberg, Framingham State Univ. Lib., MA

Vermeer and the Masters of Genre Painting: Inspiration and Rivalry. Yale Univ. Apr. 2017.

LITERATURE

Bloom, Harold. **Cleopatra: I Am Fire and Air.** Scribner. (Shakespeare's Personalities). Oct. 2017. 160p. ISBN 9781501164163. \$24; ebk. ISBN 9781501164187. LIT

Prolific literary critic Bloom (Sterling Professor of the Humanities and English, Yale Univ.; *How To Read and Why*) provides an analysis of "the most seductive woman in all of Shakespeare." Bloom lists Cleopatra alongside Hamlet and Falstaff, characters whose imagination and emotional capacity are seemingly endless. Readers familiar with Bloom's *Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human* will recognize his argument that our modern concept of human consciousness comes from Shakespeare, especially from figures such as Cleopatra. This is a close reading of the 17th-century play *Antony and Cleopatra*, with liberal excerpts from the text interspersed with insights into the characters. Bloom draws upon his extensive reading to place the characters and the story in context alongside the histories from which the plot was adapted as well

9781683581079. \$24.99. SPORTS

George, former *New York Times* sports-writer and current SBNation.com national columnist, ultimately concludes in this brief treatise that NFL teams gamble on rookie signal callers because a franchise quarterback is the most important slot to fill for a Super Bowl run. In what reads like a long newspaper article filled with commentary from current and recent coaches and quarterbacks, the author focuses primarily on the contemporary game, with nearly half the book covering 2016 draftees Carson Wentz, Jared Goff, and Dak Prescott. The rest centers on what a rookie quarterback needs to be successful beyond the physical tools: communication and leadership skills, an open relationship with the head coach, football intelligence, a strong work ethic, the ability to process information quickly, and the knowledgeable support of a veteran backup quarterback. **VERDICT** While there are several interesting quotes from the coaches interviewed, overall the book lacks depth and historical perspective, resulting in a fast read without much lasting impact.

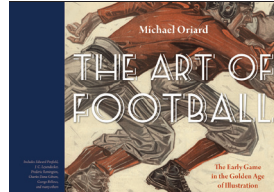
Myers, Gary. *My First Coach: Inspiring Stories of NFL Quarterbacks and Their Dads*. Grand Central. Aug. 2017. 288p. index. ISBN 9781455598465. \$28; ebk. ISBN 9781455598472. SPORTS

Myers, a longtime sportswriter who has written about the Tom Brady/Peyton

Manning rivalry in *Brady vs. Manning* and Joe Montana's first NFC championship game with the San Francisco 49ers in *The Catch*, revisits those three quarterbacks and talks with eight others to discuss a father's ability to shape young signal callers. The tone is inspirational, and the content is similar in almost every story—a supportive father figure who attended all of their son's games and often played the role of best friend. Myers sometimes varies his approach. For former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Montana, dad was the one who coached him in football and basketball; for current Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick, success always has been a bit out of reach. The strongest chapter depicts former New York Giants quarterback Phil Simms's struggles with a nonsupportive father, contrasting that with his attentiveness to his less-successful quarterback sons, Chris and Matt. **VERDICT** This book suffers from some repetitiveness and is more a tribute to fathers than the sport, making it a nice Father's Day gift.

★ Oriard, Michael. *The Art of Football: The Early Game in the Golden Age of Illustration*. Univ. of Nebraska. Aug. 2017. 280p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780803290693. \$39.95. SPORTS

Oriard is a former professional foot-



ball lineman who later spent nearly four decades as a professor of literature at Oregon State University. He combined those interests to establish himself as the premier academic studying football in American culture, perhaps most notably in *King Football* and *Brand NFL*. Here, he takes a focused look at the graphic depiction of the game from 1880 to 1920, a period that witnessed not only the growth of American football but the evolution of illustration techniques and styles in the popular press. Oriard's four-part essay that complements this lavishly illustrated volume investigates the transition from woodcut engraving and halftone printing to cartoons and caricatures, posters and magazine covers, story illustrations and paintings. Through this exploration, the author plumbs the cultural meaning of the messages conveyed, especially as they express the idea of excess, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. **VERDICT** A gorgeous and thoughtful overview of the visual record of the early years of the game. Highly recommended.

Savage, Phil with Ray Glier. *4th and Goal Every Day: Alabama's Relentless Pursuit of Perfection*. St. Martin's. Aug. 2017. 336p. index. ISBN 9781250130808. \$26.99; ebk. ISBN 9781250130815. SPORTS

Savage, an announcer for the University

and chronicled plants and animals, both wild and domestic. A chapter describes the New York boyhood of Wilder's husband, Almanzo. Charming line drawings along with both color and black-and-white photographs lavishly illustrate the lives and surroundings of the Wilders and their daughter, Rose, as they settled and farmed land in wildly different landscapes. An appendix lists the plants that Laura knew and grew and identifies the books in which they are mentioned. **VERDICT** A well-researched, beautifully illustrated title that entwines the natural world depicted in Wilder's books with her life as a settler, farmer, and writer.—Sue O'Brien, Downers Grove P.L., IL

★ Maupin, Armistead. *Logical Family*. Harper. Oct. 2017. 304p. photos. ISBN 9780062391223. \$27.99; ebk. ISBN 9780062391230. LIT

It was in Maupin's *Tales of the City* that he coined the term *logical family* as a phrase to describe the people we find and choose to love, unlike our biological family. There could be

no more appropriate title for Maupin's own tale, which relates his coming of age from a rigidly conservative Southern childhood to one of the most notable writers of the 20th century. Maupin writes vibrantly of his youth, his navy tours in Vietnam, his work on *Tales of the City*, and his acceptance of his sexuality and friendships within the LGBTQ community. But central to this memoir is the painful conflict that can come when one has both a logical and a biological family, for Maupin's growth into himself is always balanced against his lingering emotional ties to his hidebound father and beloved mother. **VERDICT** Maupin's long career as a storyteller serves him well with his own biographical material, and he leavens the varied events of his life with just the right amounts of humor, thoughtfulness, and poignancy.—Kathleen McCallister, Tulane Univ., New Orleans

Mavor, Carol. *Aurelia: Art and Literature Through the Mouth of the Fairy Tale*. Reaktion. Aug. 2017. 256p. illus. bibliog. ISBN 9781780237176. \$39.95. LIT

In this work, author Mavor (art history & visual culture, Univ. of Manchester, UK; *Blue Mythologies*) draws connections among the stories, themes, and imagery found in fairy tales, nursery rhymes, literature, art, film, and more. Chapters center on a theme or subject (e.g., innocence) often addressed or represented in story (e.g., Jacques-Henri Bernardin de Saint-Pierre's *Paul and Virginia*), analyzed and expanded to an in-depth, enriched examination of the topic. An impressive number of references span countries, cultures, and time, employing allegory, linguistics, visuals, history, etc., to support the author's discourse. For example, in her discussion of glass and its association with transformation, vision, and epiphany, she references fairy tales (Cinderella's glass slippers), art (Jonny Briggs's glass *Shoe*), the natural world (the transformation of sand into glass), and more. **VERDICT** Expansive and compelling yet accessible, Mavor's work provides readers with a unique and thoughtful examination of her topic. Recommended for scholars, subject experts, and

Copyright of Library Journal is the property of Media Source, Inc. and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.