

10-15-2015

## Richard III: a ruler and his reputation, David Horspool (book review)

Kathleen McCallister

*William & Mary*, [krmccallister@wm.edu](mailto: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, Richard III: a ruler and his reputation, David Horspool (book review) (2015). *Library Journal*, 140(17), 96.

<https://scholarworks.wm.edu/librariespubs/48>

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](mailto:scholarworks@wm.edu).

writes amusingly and has her facts in order, she provides no fresh analysis or recontextualization. In addition, she takes some poorly advised swipes at other historians of the period that add nothing to her narrative or scholastic credibility. **VERDICT** Those who enjoyed Hilton's previous books will most likely want to read this one, as will die-hard fans of Elizabeth. Readers seeking a more nuanced look at the queen and Tudor politics should turn instead to works by Antonia Fraser or Alison Weir.—**Hanna Clutterbuck, Harvard Univ. Lib., Cambridge, MA**

**Horspool, David. *Richard III: A Ruler and His Reputation*. Bloomsbury USA. Dec. 2015. 336p. illus. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781620405093. \$30; ebk. ISBN 9781620405116. BIOG**

Whether as a villainous usurper or a decent king unfairly maligned, Richard III (1452–85) has never ceased to be an object of interest. This enthusiasm gained a boost when the king's remains were discovered under a Leicester car park in 2012. The resulting furor has given Horspool (*Alfred the Great*) a fine launching point for his new biography. The author's interest is in both Richard III and the ways in which his detractors and defenders have affected his legacy in popular culture. Accordingly, the narrative attempts to take a neutral viewpoint and is up-front about the lack of conclusive information regarding much of Richard's life and decisions, dutifully noting instances in which these historical gaps occur as he lays out his subject's days from birth and childhood to the 1485 Battle of Bosworth Field. **VERDICT** This timely biography should be a fine choice for those with a recent interest in Richard III, written straightforwardly and providing a mostly balanced view of its subject as well as a look at the enduring fascination with the last Plantagenet king.—**Kathleen McCallister, Tulane Univ., New Orleans**

**Oppenheimer, Margaret A. *The Remarkable Rise of Eliza Jumel: A Story of Marriage and Money in the Early Republic*. Chicago Review. Nov. 2015. 352p. illus. notes. index. ISBN 9781613733806. \$29.95; ebk. ISBN 9781613733837. BIOG**

At the time of her death in 1865, 90-year-old Eliza Jumel was one of the richest women in the United States. The subsequent lengthy legal battle among her heirs over her estate produced scandalous headlines for years. Oppenheimer (*The French Portrait*) presents the unlikely story of Jumel's dramatic rise from humble origins as an indentured servant to wealthy art collector, astute and ruthless businesswoman, and short-term wife of Aaron

Burr. Oppenheimer's well-researched biography of an exceptional woman who defied societal expectations provides an illuminating window into the history and expectations of women in 19th-century society in both New York and France. The author convincingly refutes false stories about Jumel's life and addresses her subject's darker sides in reasonably evenly structured prose. However, Oppenheimer's writing is sometimes dry and flat, and Jumel's deeper personality often remains stubbornly enigmatic. **VERDICT** Despite some problems, this volume is ideal for researchers, history fans, or general readers interested in women's history, gender roles, or 19th-century New York society.—**Ingrid Levin, Salve Regina Univ. Lib., Newport, RI**

**Williams, Kate. *Young Elizabeth: The Making of the Queen*. Pegasus. Nov. 2015. 336p. photos. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781605988917. \$28.95; ebk. ISBN 9781605988924. BIOG**

Elizabeth II (b. 1926) was never supposed to be queen. When her uncle abdicated, Elizabeth's father, George VI, became king and Elizabeth heir to the throne. Precocious, neat, and conscientious, Elizabeth seemed tailor-made for royalty and was the darling of the public. Though treated as a child well into her teens, the current queen exhibited an old soul at a young age, eager to do the right thing and always anxious to please. Her courtship with Prince Philip of Greece was a rare occasion when she insisted on her way. Williams (*Ambition and Desire; Becoming Queen Victoria*) traces the path of Elizabeth, from a girl playing pony in her nursery to the woman who accepted the throne at age 26. This biography, previously published in the UK, assumes a prior knowledge of the royal lineage. A family tree, starting with Queen Victoria, and a short glossary of royalty-related terms would have been a welcome addition. Offering a gracious yet honest viewpoint of the strengths and weaknesses of the longest-reigning monarch, Williams tours Elizabeth's beginning years and illuminates the often overlooked humanity of her personal life. **VERDICT** This eloquent and engaging account will appeal to those interested in British history and the early life of Queen Elizabeth II.—**Stacy Shaw, Orange, CA**

## COMMUNICATIONS

**Vogan, Travis. *ESPN: The Making of a Sports Media Empire*. Univ. of Illinois. Oct. 2015. 288p. photos. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780252081224. pap. \$19.95. COMM**

Losing his job with the World Hockey Association in May 1978 seemed like a tragedy for communications executive Bill Rasmussen. Thankfully, for sports fans, this

loss prompted him to have a vision—and to create an entirely new platform for viewing sports games of all kinds. On September 7, 1979, ESPN debuted with a now-famous show named *SportsCenter*. Originally named “ESP,” which was an acronym for “Entertainment and Sports Programming,” Rasmussen's creation became the largest 24-hour sports television network in the world. In this book, Vogan (journalism, mass communication, & American studies, Univ. of Iowa; *Keepers of the Flame*) deftly describes the rise of ESPN and its continued relevance as an authority on sports entertainment. He also shows how ESPN has thoroughly embedded itself into our culture and changed our relationship with sports. Vogan's research provides him ample fodder to engross readers with stories and insights into the world behind their notable shows. **VERDICT** Sports fans will enjoy this well-researched and fascinating look at how ESPN has impacted both television and the viewing habits of millions of watchers.—**Gus Palas, Ela Area P.L., Lake Zurich, IL**

## ECONOMICS

**Akerlof, George A. & Robert J. Shiller. *Phishing for Phools: The Economics of Manipulation & Deception*. Princeton Univ. Oct. 2015. 288p. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780691168319. \$24.95; ebk. ISBN 9781400873265. ECON**

Nobel Prize-winning economists Akerlof (economics, Georgetown Univ.) and Shiller (Sterling Professor of Economics, Yale Univ.), who previously collaborated on *Animal Spirits*, here look at the concepts of manipulation and deception from the idea that markets give and take away. Narratives in this impressive book tell how to avoid being tricked by means of better enforcement and being told of pending scams. The authors show how money is spent up to the limit and the resulting concern about meeting the next month's bills. They also provide a useful explanation for the Great Recession. Actions of rating agencies such as Moody's and Standard & Poor's, explain the authors, have been built up over a century and generally do a good job of evaluating the probability of a default of bonds. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, however, the agencies took on the job of assessing more complex securities that were almost impossible to rate accurately, yet the public still relied on the assessments. **VERDICT** As one of the few titles dealing with fraud in the marketplace, this should be a part of any collection strong in business and economic holdings. A background in economics is presupposed. Readers might also consult *Scambusters!* by Ron Smith.—**Claude Ury, San Francisco**

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.