

Friends' Book-A-Night Program

Books that would make Great Gifts!

The following books are currently in-print and readily available through local booksellers (just ask them!) or online outlets.

“Oh, the weather outside is frightful...”

The Frozen Ship: The Histories and Tales of Polar Exploration, by Sarah Moss [LHL Call G590 .M67 2000]

Quick Take – Author Sarah Moss studies expedition journals across time and analyzes common themes like the romanticization of ice and the fascination with doomed voyages.

The Ninth Circle: A Memoir of Life and Death in Antarctica, 1960-1962 by John C. Behrendt [LHL Call G850 1960 .B4A3 2005]

Quick Take – A personal, exciting memoir of a young scientist working in Antarctica at the onset of the “scientific era” of polar research inspired by the International Geophysical Year.

“An apple a day...”

iCon: Steve Jobs – The Greatest Second Act in the History of Business, by Jeffrey S. Young and William L. Simon [LHL Call QA76.2 .J63 Y67 2005]

Quick Take – An unauthorized biography of the man who provided the business acumen behind Apple (both its birth and its resurgence) and Pixar.

iWoz: Computer Geek to Cult Icon – How I invented the personal computer, co-founded Apple, and had fun doing it, by Steve Wozniak with Gina Smith [LHL Call QA76.2 .W69 W69 2006]

Quick Take – The personal and conversational autobiography of the creative genius behind the Apple I and Apple II computers.

“Understanding humanity’s place in the world...”

Jane Goodall: The Woman Who Redefined Man, by Dale Peterson [LHL Call QL31 .G58 P47 2006]

Quick Take – Big biography of a pioneer in primatology research, covering both her professional and personal life in detail.

Beyond the Outer Shores: The Untold Odyssey of Ed Ricketts, the Pioneering Ecologist Who Inspired John Steinbeck and Joseph Campbell, by Eric Enno Tamm [LHL Call QL31 .R524 T35 2004]

Quick Take – Learn the story of the man turned into “Doc” of *Cannery Row*, through his friendships and intellectual discourse with Steinbeck and Campbell.

The Evolution-Creation Struggle, by Michael Ruse [LHL Call BT712 .R89 2005]

Quick Take – A philosopher’s balanced critique of both extremes of this contentious issue, along with some suggestions of constructive ways forward.



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“Forgotten genius...”

The Devil's Doctor: Paracelsus and the World of Renaissance Magic and Science, by Philip Ball [LHL Call B785 .P24 B34 2006]

Quick Take – A book that places Paracelsus in the historical intellectual context of the Renaissance and shows him to be more complex than often presented.

The Humboldt Current: Nineteenth-Century Exploration and the Roots of American Environmentalism, by Aaron Sachs [LHL Call Q143 .H9 S23 2006]

Quick Take – Humboldt is currently little-appreciated outside of his native Germany; this book shows how Humboldt influenced the lives and works of American explorers and writers who laid the intellectual foundation of the environmental movement.

“Wonders of pervasive technology....”

Signor Marconi's Magic Box: The Most Remarkable Invention of the 19th Century & the Amateur Inventor Whose Genius Sparked a Revolution, by Gavin Weightman [LHL Call TK5739 .M3W44 2003]

Quick Take – The engrossing tale of radio, along with the cast of colorful characters beguiled by the wondrous new invention.

Bicycle: The History, by David V. Herlihy [LHL Call TL410 .H47 2004]

Quick Take – A gorgeously-illustrated history of the bicycle, its uses and impact on culture.

“Where have you gone?...”

The Jasons: The Secret History of Science's Postwar Elite, by Ann Finkbeiner [LHL Call Q141 .F46 2006]

Quick Take – The story of a secret think-tank that gathers every summer to work on problems of national defense and intelligence.

Moon dust: In Search of the Men Who Fell to Earth, by Andrew Smith [LHL Call TL789.85 .A1 S52 2005]

Quick Take – A freelance writer tracks down the nine living astronauts who walked on the surface of the Moon, and finds out what life is like after you are superstar in the “first global media event.”

