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Guide to Civil War Books

An Annotated Selection of Modern Works on the War Between the States

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ALI American Literature
AMQ American Quarterly
AHR American Historical Review
APS American Political Science
Review
CHO Choice
CRL College and Research Libraries
CWH Civil War History
CWT Civil War Times Illustrated
FHQ Florida Historical Quarterly
GHQ Georgia Historical Quarterly
HIS Historian
HRN History Reviews of New Books
JAH Journal of American History
JAS Journal of American Studies
JEH Journal of Economic History
JMH Journal of Military History
JMI Journal of Mississippi History
JSH Journal of Social History
JSO Journal of Southern History
LAH Louisiana History
LAT Los Angeles Times Book Review
LIJ Library Journal
MIA Military Affairs
MIR Military History

NCH North Carolina Historical Review
NCL Nineteenth Century Literature
NYR New York Review of Books
NYT New York Times Book Review
PUW Publishers Weekly
RAH Reviews in American History
RKH Register of the Kentucky Historical
Society
RSR Reference Services Review
SCH South Carolina Historical Magazine
SHR Southern History Review
THQ Tennessee Historical Quarterly
VMH Virginia Magazine of History and
Biography
VQR Virginia Quarterly Review
WVH West Virginia History

Preface

Guide to Civil War Books will be of interest to Civil War enthusiasts as well as to students, teachers, and librarians. The book will be a help in locating information about a specific person, battle, or campaign, as well as social or political conditions during the Civil War period. Teachers and librarians will find it useful when developing assignments or guiding students to sources for their research.

This resource guide brings together books of general interest about the Civil War published during the past twenty years. The selected works address all issues of the war, including causes of the conflict, secession, battles and campaigns, race and slavery, biographies and personal narratives, and Reconstruction. In selecting among thousands of possible titles, the authors consulted resources such as bibliographies and subject-specific indexes, both print and computerized, such as *America History and Life*.

Unlike other Civil War bibliographies, this work not only supplies basic bibliographic information about the selected titles, but also lists sources of printed reviews, providing a valuable source of information for those evaluating the relative merits of books. With few exceptions, the selection of reviews includes citations to scholarly review media. The review citation provides the name of the periodical, the volume number, the date of publication, and the page or pages where the review may be found. The publication titles are cited by three-letter abbreviations, a list of which precedes this preface.

The guide is arranged by subject, and within each subject category the materials are arranged alphabetically. Each entry is numbered and includes a brief annotation. In addition to relating the scope of the book, where appropriate, the annotation provides information about special features, such as maps or tables, and about supplementary material in appendixes.

There are three indexes: author-editor, subject, and title. The numbers listed in the indexes correspond to the numbers assigned to the entries.

We wish to thank our colleagues in the Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library for their interest, encouragement, and support during this project, particularly Elena Cevallos, Charles Sector, and Janet Wagner. The staff of the Axinn Library Interlibrary Loan Department, Maureen Brown, Maureen Hough, and Sonia McCarron, was, as always, especially helpful in assisting us in securing materials. Special thanks to Frances and Attilia Barbuto, Sara Elizabeth Kreisel, and Amanda and Ken Kaplan.

Much has been written on the Civil War. The authors hope that this book will help users quickly locate the recent literature best suited to specific projects and interests.



Art and the War

001 *The Civil War Sketchbook of Charles Ellery Stedman, Surgeon, United States Navy*. Biography and commentary by Jim Dan Hill. San Rafael, Calif.: Presidio Press, 1976. xvi, 218 pp. : ill. Includes index and references.

ISBN: 0-891-41001-5 LC: 76-004164

An astute observer and an artist of some ability, Dr. Charles Ellery Stedman served aboard the blockader *Huron* on patrol along the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina, on the monitor *Nahant* during the battle of Charleston Harbor, and on the supply ship *Circassian* operating in the Gulf of Mexico. Stedman was a narrative artist who had a sharp eye for significant, human-interest details. His caricatures are laden with the "substance of history." Serving aboard ship during this extraordinary period in naval history the transition from sail to steam and from wood to metals Stedman was able to portray the impact of this transition on the daily lives of Civil War sailors. In addition to the caricatures of men aboard ship, some wonderful sketches of ships in battle are also included. The drawings were made in 1865 from sketches taken during the war and from memory. They were compiled into an album in 1884 for the State of Massachusetts Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. The captions originally used by Dr. Stedman have been retained in their original form to preserve the original intent of the artist. A glossary of naval terms is included. Jim Dan Hill, a Navy enlisted man-

chant sailor, and a member of the Secretary of the Navy's Advisory Committee on Naval History was uniquely qualified to prepare the commentary that accompanies the Stedman drawings. Hill uses contemporary sources, such as letters from Stedman, to fit the drawings into a proper historical sequence. He discusses Stedman's early life and the background of the action Stedman saw, the capabilities of the ships that Stedman served on, and the laws and customs of the Navy.

Reviewed in:

JAH 64 (Sept. 77) 442

002 Neely, Mark E., Jr., Harold Holzer, and Gabor S. Boritt. *The Confederate Image: Prints of the Lost Cause*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1987. xiv, 257 pp. : ill., photographs. Includes index and bibliography.

ISBN: 0-8078-1742-2 LC: 86-30797

This work examines the popular lithographs and engravings that were produced during and after the Civil War. These works of art, which were highly valued by Southerners, helped revive and sustain the Southern identity after the collapse of the Confederacy. A major portion of the book is devoted to an examination of portraits of the "Immortal Three" Robert E. Lee, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, and Jefferson Davis the subjects of the majority of the prints produced at the time. Many of the prints that are reproduced in this volume are familiar to present-day readers. They come from Currier and Ives collections and from the *Southern Illustrated News*, which produced most of the wartime engravings of Confederate military heroes. Most of the reproductions, however, are of rare engravings from private collections. The introduction is a discussion of one of the most famous lithographs of the period, *The Burial of Latane*. Each chapter begins with an essay that provides a perspective for the highlighted works of art. A useful bibliography and index of illustrations are included.

Reviewed in:

GHQ 72 (Fall 88) 561562

JAH 75 (Sept. 88) 623624

JSO 55 (Feb. 89) 131133

NCH 65 (Jan. 88) 104105

THQ 47 (Winter 88) 237238

VMH 96 (Apr. 88) 232233

003 Sweet, Timothy. *Traces of War: Poetry, Photography, and the Crisis of the Union*. Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990. x, 240 pp. : ill. Includes index and bibliography.

ISBN: 0-8018-395-99 LC: 89-38436

Focusing on five texts, Sweet examines how poetry and photography could reconstruct and legitimize the Union, "sanitizing" its horrors. The book is not for the casual reader; it requires close reading. The texts that are examined are Walt Whitman's *Drum-Taps* (1865) and *Sequel to Drum-Taps* (1865/1866), Alexander Gardner's *Photographic Sketch Book of the Civil War* (1866), George Barnard's *Photographic Views of Sherman's Campaign* (1866), and Herman Melville's *Battle-Pieces* (1866). One must read this book carefully for its larger meaning. According to Sweet, Whitman, Gardner, and Barnard sought the tradition of the pastoral and the picturesque to restore the nation and heal the wounds of war. Sweet sees Melville as critical of the naturalizing of war and as one whose poetry set forth images of chaos and disruption. Whitman and others distanced themselves from the war, prompting Sweet's inquiry into the literature of the period. Sweet notes the romanticization of war in the poetry as contrasting with the representation in the photographs and private diaries and journals of the men who saw war firsthand. Sweet explores the interconnection between the artistic and the political.

Reviewed in:

AMQ 43 (Sept. 91) 510517

004 Wood, Peter H., and Karen C. C. Dalton. *Winslow Homer's Images of Blacks: The Civil War and Reconstruction Years*. Austin, Tex.: University of Texas Press, 1988. 144 pp. : ill., photographs.

ISBN: 0-292-7904-3 LC: 88-26629

During the war, Winslow Homer periodically visited the Union Army encampments in Virginia, often sketching and painting the blacks who were there. Over time, Homer's depiction of blacks in his works became increasingly sympathetic until eventually they were portrayed as citizens of significance. Eventually, Homer began to portray women and children in his works. This book is the catalog for an exhibition that was arranged in 1989 and displayed in Richmond, Raleigh, and Houston. In addition to forty-one works by Homer, Wood and Dalton have included works by other artists to help place Homer and his work in context. The text is supplemented with a chronology of Winslow Homer.

Reviewed in:

JSO 56 (Aug. 90) 544546

VMH 97 (July 89) 404

Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

005 Hanchett, William. *The Lincoln Murder Conspiracies*. Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 1983. 303 pp. : ill., photographs. Includes index, bibliography, and references.

ISBN: 0-252-01046-9 LC: 83-1065

Hanchett begins with a brief overview of recent books about Lincoln's death. He attempts to put the assassination in focus by relating it to the bitter disputes that were responsible for it: secession, fighting, political arrests, emancipation, and the tactics of total war. Hanchett also traces the formulation and influence of various interpretations of the assassination and speculates on how these have altered our perception of what happened. He contends that the assassination was sensationalized because Booth was not captured alive and never had the opportunity to tell his own story.

Reviewed in:

AHR 89 (Dec. 84) 1395

JAS 19 (Aug. 85) 292

006 Turner, Thomas Reed. *Beware the People Weeping: Public Opinion and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*. Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University Press, 1982. xvi, 265 pp. : ill. Includes index and references.

ISBN: 0-8071-7722-6 LC: 81-14252

There have been many conspiracy theories regarding the death of Abraham Lincoln. Some believed it was the Confederates, including Jefferson Davis, or Andrew Johnson or Northerners or even Lincoln's secretary of war, Edwin M. Stanton. Turner tries to place these changes in the historical context and public opinion of 1865 rather than with the guide of hindsight. Turner goes further, contending that it would not have been illogical for the Confederates to plan the assassination, nor would the execution of Mary Surratt have been

inappropriate for the times. Numerous photographs and prints of the supposed conspirators are included. Turner states that he was more concerned with understanding the events as they actually happened than trying to interpret them. He reexamines the newspapers, letters, and sermons that dealt with the assassination and the conspiracy trials, as well as the transcripts of the trial itself, to test the validity of the conspiracy theories in view of contemporary events.

Reviewed in:

AHR 88 (Oct. 83) 1070

CHO 20 (Oct. 82) 341

JAS 18 (Apr. 84) 115

JSO 48 (Nov. 82) 587

LIJ 107 (Apr. 82) 728

007 Weichmann, Louis J. *A True History of the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the Conspiracy of 1865*. Edited by Floyd E. Risvold. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1975. xxxii, xvi, 492 pp. : ill., photographs. Includes index and references.

ISBN: 0-394-49319-2 LC: 74-21278

Louis Weichmann, a twenty-three-year-old clerk in the War Department, was a boarder in Mary Surratt's house during the time that John Wilkes Booth and his coconspirators were meeting in the house to plan the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Weichmann and John M. Lloyd were the government's two principal witnesses during the trial. Weichmann knew many of the participants personally; and although much of his testimony was circumstantial, he proved to be a reliable witness. After the trial, Weichmann left Washington, D.C., to work in the Philadelphia Customhouse. In 1886 he moved to Anderson, Indiana, where he opened a stenographic school. It was while he was in Indiana that Weichmann wrote his vivid account of the conspiracy that led to Lincoln's death, in part to prove that he had been telling the truth during the earlier trials. Weichmann's account is significant because it is the only one kept by a participant who was intimately associated with the conspirators.

Reviewed in:

CHO 12 (Feb. 76) 1624

JAH 63 (June 76) 137

JSO 42 (May 76) 288289
RKH 74 (July 76) 247248
VQR 52 (Winter 76) 18

Battles and Campaigns

008 Adams, Michael C. *Our Masters the Rebels: A Speculation on Union Military Failure in the East, 1861-1865*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1978. x, 256 pp. Includes index and references.

ISBN: 0-7837-2213-3 LC: 78-017107

Adams carefully considers the many traditional explanations for the military result of the Civil War and the reasons for the difference in operation of the Eastern and Western theaters. Fostered by stereotypes and upheld by Northern perceptions, the Northerners with their industrial background perceived themselves as inferior to the genteel Southerners. The author compares the Northweathier, more industrialized, and possessing the better of the transportation systemsto the South, which chose "to fight a conventional war in the face of a stronger opponent." Adams reassesses the thought that Union victory was merely the result of numerical advantage, however, and considers alternative explanations and connections among culture, perceptions, combat. Further, he sees the well-bred and professional Northerner, in a true crisis, as lacking sufficient "faith in democracy and industrial capitalism." Adams's main contribution lies not in the well-known arguments but in the connections between culture and combat. He reminds the reader that Civil War military history must be studied in the wider circle of currents that made up nineteenth-century America.

Reviewed in:

AHR 84 (Dec. 79) 1479

HIS 42 (May 80) 514

JAH 66 (Dec. 79) 658

JAS 5 (Aug. 81) 281282

JSO 46 (Feb. 80) 118

RAH 8 (March 80) 63

009 Bergeron, Arthur W., Jr. *Confederate Mobile*. Jackson, Miss.: University Press of Mississippi, 1991. xii, 271 pp. : ill., photographs, maps. Includes index, bibliography, and references.

ISBN: 0-87805-512-6 LC: 91-15776

This work offers a descriptive account of the role of the port of Mobile, Alabama, in the Confederacy's military strategy. Mobile was an important link in the South's transportation and supply networks, especially following the fall of New Orleans. After 1862 Mobile functioned as the only rail link between the states of Alabama and Mississippi, supplying agricultural and manufactured goods in both the Eastern and Western theaters of war. Mobile also served as the principle base of operations for Confederate blockade runners in the southeastern Gulf region. Aware of the city's strategic importance, Confederate leaders carefully fortified Mobile against Union attacks. Most of this book is concerned with the construction of this defensive system, which included two forts Morgan and Gaines. Bergeron claims that the fortifications surrounding Mobile ultimately proved so formidable that Union commanders hesitated to attack the city. The author provides limited coverage of the experiences of the city's population, which was forced to endure food shortages, among other hardships, notable because of the popular protests against them organized by the women of Mobile.

Reviewed in:

CHO 29 (Apr. 92) 1287

JSO 59 (May 93) 377

010 Castel, Albert E. *Decision in the West: The Atlanta Campaign of 1864*. Maps by Laura Kriegstrom Poracsky. Lawrence, Kans.: University Press of Kansas, 1992. xvi, 665 pp. Includes index and references.

ISBN: 0-7006-0562-2 LC: 92-10882

Castel's treatment of the Atlanta campaign, not explored so fully since the nineteenth century, is written in the present tense, conveying the feeling of the battles and the campaigns as the commanders may have experienced them. The Atlanta campaign was a large and decisive operation its outcome, according to Castel, decided as much by the generals' flaws as their capabilities. The appendixes include short essays: "Sherman and Stoneman," "Sherman, Stanley, Thomas, and the Second Battle of Jonesboro" (showing how faulty their memories