

●●● ADULT NON-FICTION
VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR

Bibliographies of bondage: selected bibliographies of South African slavery and abolition / compiled by Robert C-H Shell, Sandra Rowoldt Shell and Mogamat Kamedien.- Nagspro Multimedia, 2007.

The compilers of this reference source on slavery are eminently suited to the task - Robert Shell is the well-known historian who specialises in slavery at the Cape and his best-known work is **Children of bondage**, his wife Sandra Rowoldt Shell heads the African Studies Library at the University of Cape Town, while Mogamat Kamedien is an independent slave scholar. As dry as the title of this book may sound, it is an interesting and essential work for anyone interested in our history, and most especially the early history of the Cape.

The book is divided into four parts. The first one lists bibliographies on slavery, reference works, online resources and primary and secondary works on slavery at the Cape. Part two contains several topical bibliographies, for example, on the architectural history of Cape Town, on slave shipwrecks (1550-1812) and slavery and the genesis of Afrikaans. These have been compiled by several contributing scholars in the field. The third section is a guide to libraries and archives one can visit when researching slavery, most of them located in Cape Town. Addresses and opening hours are provided as well as an indication of the usefulness to scholars of slavery, for example, relevant journal holdings. The last part contains several indexes, for example, places, streets and museums; ships; personalia.

The compilers and publishers are to be congratulated on bringing this vast amount of information to the attention of scholars, students and the interested public in such a professionally-produced production.

JdeB

The Billboard illustrated encyclopedia of country music.- Billboard Bks., 2007.

A wonderful overview of country music that is, much like jazz and the blues, an art form native to the United States of America. In addition to the changes experienced over the years, country music is equally diverse in its regional presentations. Further differences would come with its presentation and interpretation in adaptation to new locations.

Nowadays country music has grown and is more and more linked to pop and rock music.

This book sets out to investigate the music style's history and the many characters that have contributed to its growth and popularity.

This attractive quarto-sized title features many original photographs of the people who made country music famous, and includes classic recordings of key artists mentioned. A must read for readers interested in this music genre.

EB

Il Divo: our music, our journey, our words.- Headline, 2007.

There has been much interest focussed on these four sensational and charismatic young men who have hit the popular music scene with their melodic rendition of popular classical themes. It is through their unique performance and interpretations that they have revived and brought opera to the world of popular music.

No better name than their present name, Il Divo, which means divine performer in Italian, could have been chosen. This concept was masterminded by Simon Cowell after a two-year talent search of international opera houses and concert halls. After their historic launching in England during November 2004, there would be no looking back.

For the first time readers are able to glean some information on the four men through interviews with each member and a selection of well-produced photographs.

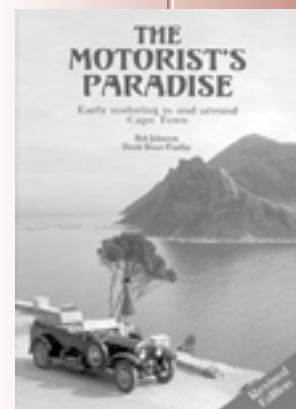
Fans of Il Divo will certainly enjoy reading about the magical music journey of these four friends and their somewhat fairytale experiences.

EB

JOHNSTON, Bob and STUART-FINDLAY, Derek
The motorist's paradise: an illustrated history of early motoring in and around Cape Town.- The Authors, 2005.

The motorist's paradise is a most attractive book, providing a pictorial history of early motoring in South Africa. The title is a bit misleading because, although the emphasis is on Cape Town and the Peninsula, the book contains pictures from much further afield: various mountain passes, Hermanus, Sutherland, Victoria Falls, and so on.

Bob Johnston is also the author of a 1975 book, **Early motoring in South Africa**. This new book follows the same format, providing an illustrated social history, covering a period of about 40 years up to the beginning of the Second World War. The book consists of black-and-white photographs with captions of varying lengths, some quite long. Unfortunately some of the photographs are of indifferent quality. Some other text is included too, mainly in boxes. An example is the two-page section on Martin Campbell and land speed records at Verneuk Pan. This will please old car enthusiasts and petrolheads, and will give others an enjoyable browse. I found the old photographs fascinating and the captions provide interesting bits of information. I learnt that after the *Maori* went aground in heavy seas off Duiker Point in 1909, Cape Town car owners were asked to help ferry survivors to Somerset Hospital. There are pictures of the first car to reach Cape Point, of the Austin Seven which took 11 hours to reach the summit of Table Mountain from Constantia Nek, loaded trucks being tested on Bellevue Road (a very steep road in Gardens), motor races at Noordhoek, Muizenberg and other beaches and pans, river crossings, picnics and other outings, car



crashes, and much, much more. Apparently the first speed trap was in 1905 when Rorich, a local mechanic and taxi driver, was fined £2 for exceeding the speed limit of 8mph down Buitengracht Street. The magistrate (who later became the second Lord deVilliers) gave the money back to him as a souvenir and a few months later hired Rorich to drive him to Simondium. Once on the open road he was instructed to 'let her go' and off they went speeding along at the grand speed of 20mph!

The first Cape Town Grand Prix was held in 1937 on a specially-constructed circuit at Pollsmoor. The only woman in the race was the rather glamorous Kay Petre, nicknamed Blue Peter because of her 'eggshell blue overalls' and blue 1,486cc Riley. When asked later whether the race had tired her, Petre replied: 'Not a bit. Why, on Saturday we danced at Kelvin Grove until midnight. Then we went to a night club and then we went visiting.' There is a photograph of a loudspeaker van which drove from Kalk Bay to Sea Point broadcasting a ball-by-ball commentary of a cricket test match against England and another of a cockatoo called Old Sam who would let the air out of car tyres and then flap his wings 'as the air ruffled his head feathers'.

The motorist's paradise is a real pleasure to read.
SCG

KENNEDY, Sarah

The swimsuit.- Carlton Bks., 2007.

Sarah Kennedy, a British journalist associated with fashion delivers a comprehensive and unique look at the history of swimwear.

During the nineteenth century the actual act of swimming was almost impossible for women due to the cumbersome outfits they were forced to wear for modesty's sake. The modesty and decency laws of the day cost them dear and women were known to drown in the simple act of trying to take a swim. It took the First World War to shake off Victorian attitudes to swimwear, and France took the lead in this revolutionary change.

French women wore more daring versions of English swimming outfits to make them more manageable, but it was the American knitwear manufacturers that ensured the future changes in female swimwear. French fashion designers like Coco Chanel would eagerly adopt this new invention during the 1920s and the evolution of swimwear was now underway.

The reader is treated to a well-illustrated and extremely interesting overview of how swimwear changed and how designs would be influenced by fashion trends, the motion-picture industry, sports and travel.

The book also looks at the role of the swimsuit in the beauty pageant and its role as a vehicle for calendar and pin-up girls.

The swimsuit is a glossy, informative and extremely entertaining guide to the development of the female swimsuit from its early cumbersome examples to the revolutionary changes experienced

after the introduction of the notorious and now famous bikini.

EB

MARTIN, Desmond

Walking Long Street.- Struik, 2007.

The author, who lived in this historic street at the YMCA during his student days in 1955, offers the reader a nostalgic look at many interesting buildings still to be found here. Many of these buildings reflect a combination of different architectural styles that include Victorian, Edwardian and Art Deco, captured in the author's appealing and realistic watercolour artwork.

The history and description of each building is covered, and is compellingly interwoven with entertaining anecdotes from the author's past.

Readers who enjoy local history will certainly appreciate this tribute to one of Cape Town's most historic byways.

EB

MEIKLE, Denis

Roman Polanski: odd man out.- Reynolds, 2006.

Much has been written about Roman Polanski over the last four decades, much of which was focussed on the sensational. The author of this biography fortunately offers a much more serious approach to the director's life and career.

The opening chapters vividly describe the young Polanski's childhood in the ghetto during World War Two. This experience would later serve as an inspiration and guide to his production of the 2002 Oscar-winning film **The pianist**.

In fact, much of the book provides insight into the films of Polanski as extensions of his personal life and outlook at the time he was making them.

This biography is as gripping as a novel and at times is very hard to put down. The insight provided into modern cinema and Polanski's contribution to it is fascinating and compelling.

Film enthusiasts will find much to enjoy in this definitive biography of a complex and intriguing man, responsible for some of the 20th century's most significant films.

EB

PALIN, Michael

New Europe.- Weidenfeld, 2007.

The author, known for his roles in several Monty Python films, has also written books to accompany six other successful BBC travel series. This is his latest journey, and is just as appealing and entertaining as the former travelogues.

The focus here is on the countries and sections of Eastern Europe that existed behind the Iron Curtain. Since the early 1990s when the Berlin Wall came down, travel in these areas has become more accessible. Michael fills what has been a void in his own experience and that of many of his own generation. As with his previous series, Palin's **New Europe** takes the form of a journey through countries that have

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rich and complex cultures. Few, such as former Yugoslavia, have survived intact due to unstable conditions of war.

The author's journey begins in the mountains of Slovenia, through Croatia and the former Yugoslavia to Albania, before venturing northwards to include Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, the Ukraine and other countries along the way right up to the three Baltic states Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

Along the way the author meets interesting people and touches on history and descriptions of the places visited.

This very visual travelogue will enchant and entertain many armchair travellers who may never get the opportunity to visit these parts.

EB

PARKER, John

The world encyclopedia of submarines: an illustrated reference guide to underwater vessels of the world through history, from the Nautilus and Hunley to modern nuclear-powered submarines.- Lorenz, 2007.

This well-illustrated title offers a detailed history of the submarine, starting from its earliest beginnings to the modern nuclear-powered submarines of today. It looks at historical events that fuelled global production encouraged by superpower nations who wanted naval supremacy, especially during the two World Wars and during the Cold War period.

The book is divided into three sections, the first of which covers important developments as well as major conflicts and incidents. The other two sections cover technical developments from 1900-1945, and then from 1945 to the present day. The arrangement is according to country and offers a descriptive overview of the important examples of submarine production. It also includes information boxes that highlight important details such as displacement, length, beam, armament, propulsion, speed and complement. The original historical photographs used as illustrations complement the readable text.

Enthusiasts and historians will relish this comprehensive and accessible record of naval history.

EB

STIRLING, Richard

Julie Andrews: an intimate biography.- Portrait, 2007.

'A charmed life' - many would think this phrase a more suitable title for a biography of Hollywood's sugar sweet sweetheart. Yet those who read this excellent account of the life of Julie Andrews might be surprised to learn the true facts of her early life and rise to fame.

Julie was a toddler in war-torn England. She lived through the divorce of her parents (Andrews is the surname of her stepfather) and, as a child, was practically the sole breadwinner for her family.

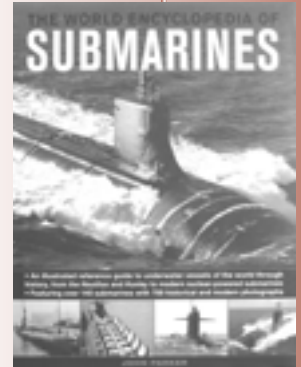
Richard Stirling's biography reveals many interesting facts about the star. One amusing revelation is that 'Mary Poppins' swears like a trooper in real life. However, this does not detract from the fact that the actress adopts a clean lifestyle and has been described by many of her co-stars as the consummate professional. Paul Newman, who starred opposite Julie in Alfred Hitchcock's film **Torn curtain**, once described her as 'The last of the great dames'. Indeed an appropriate accolade as she was honoured by Queen Elizabeth II in 2000, and made Dame Commander of the British Empire.

This biography astounds the reader with its depth of detail, from her birth and childhood to her days in Music Hall and her move to Broadway and Hollywood.

Finally, the book brings us up to date right up to the tragic loss of her remarkable singing voice a few years ago.

Anyone interested in the mechanisation of Broadway, Hollywood and the stars that inhabit it, will find this biography a treat. Those who are fans of the star will find it a revealing insight into the life of one of the 20th century's most famous entertainment personalities.

EB



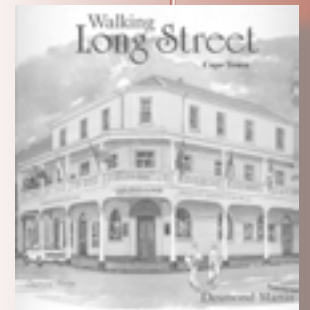
●●● ADULT FICTION
VOLWASSE VERHALENDE
LEKTUUR

AMIRREZVANI, Anita

The blood of flowers.- Headline Review, 2007.

A first novel set in 17th century Persia. The narrator's hopes of a good marriage are dashed with her father's sudden death when she is 14. Reduced to poverty, she and her mother travel from their village to Isfahan to seek refuge with relatives. There they are treated more like servants than family, but the girl's exceptional carpet-making skills impress her uncle, a prosperous carpet designer. Despite many vicissitudes, carpet making plays an important part in her life. Folktales narrated by the mother form a counterpoint to the story. This is readable historical fiction with an exotic and interesting setting.

MJI



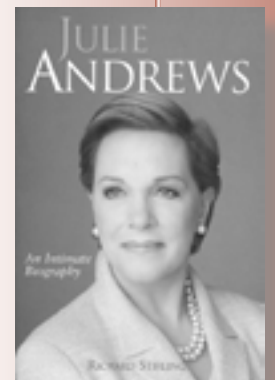
MURPHY, Yannick

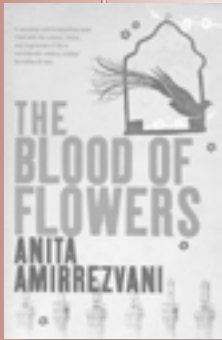
Signed, Mata Hari.- Abacus, 2007.

The author has written a heartbreaking and deeply poetic mock-autobiography of perhaps the most notorious woman of the 20th century.

Over the years Mata Hari's name has become synonymous with treason and women of ill repute, but Murphy's book portrays another, softer, side to this much-maligned woman. In October 1917, the French executed Mata Hari as a German spy charged with treason.

The beautifully-written narrative moves between Mata Hari's final times in prison to recollections of her past. We learn about her bleak youth in the





Netherlands where she was born as Margaretha Zelle. Her abusive first marriage was to a drunken Scotsman called MacLeod and early years of married life were spent in Java, where she would gain inspiration for her later career as an exotic dancer.

The author has an exceptional way with words and manages to create some truly evocative images of Mata Hari's past as a precocious child, a naïve bride, and an emancipated woman of the world.

This well-written novel is a haunting and visual imagining of the life and death of an exceptional, modern day martyr:

EB

VENTER, Rudi

Terugkeer.- Human, 2007.

Net een kyk na Rudi Venter se omslag van sy nuwe verhaal, **Terugkeer**, en die leser weet: 'iets onheilspellends is op pad'. Die seun wat in die lug staar; met die grys hoë boomtakke in die agtergrond voorspel moeilikheid, wat dan ook so gebeur.

Vier boesempelle, Stefan, Gerhard, Anton en Henk vertrek op 'n fietstoer na Boendesbaai. Alles verloop glad totdat hulle Henk langs die pad verloor: 'n Dreigende donderstorm noodsaak die oorblywende drie om inderhaas skuiling te soek. So beland een op 'n afgeleë plaas by 'n eenaardige man, wat nie skroom om 'n haelgeweer te gebruik nie, en sy parapleegma. Die ander beland op 'n nabygeleë plantasiendorp, **Terugkeer**; 'n plek vol geraamtes... geraamtes wat plek-plek dreig om uit die kas te val... Hierdie is 'n spanningsverhaal van begin tot end. Grillerig verby!

EMW



●●● JUVENILE FICTION JEUGLEKTUUR

DAHL, Roald

Songs and verse.- Cape, 2005.

What a wonderful gift for any Roald Dahl fan - a selection of his poems, ranging from verses that appeared in his children's novels and picture books, his poetry collections like **Dirty beasts** to poems that were written while he was still at school or to date unpublished.

They have each been newly illustrated, either by an established and well-loved or a new and upcoming illustrator: Here we see the work of Chris Riddell, Babette Cole, Axel Scheffler; Lauren Child and Mimi Grey, to mention a few. And there are a few by Quentin Blake who says in his foreword that seeing new illustrations for Dahl's work is like seeing a new performance of a Shakespeare play and 'saying to yourself, yes, that's another way of doing it and that's right as well'. The editors at Jonathan Cape

who have put this book together have done an outstanding job in adding another level of enjoyment and pleasure to Dahl's work. This will be enjoyed by young and old alike.

JdeB

DALY, Niki

Happy birthday, Jamela.- Tafelberg, 2007.

Another title in Niki Daly's series about Jamela. Here she, her mother and grandmother go shopping for a pair of shoes for her birthday. She wants the fancy white shoes with sparkly buckles and satin bows to go with her new birthday dress, but her mother gets her the sensible black shoes that can be worn to school too.

Jamela is resourceful and not one to sulk for long. When she gets home, she gets out her box of beads and sequins and turns the plain black shoes into a pair of sparkly birthday shoes fit for a birthday princess. Her mom is so upset when she sees what she has done, that a sad Jamela goes and sits outside on the pavement. It isn't long before her shoes are admired by Lily, the bead lady from down the road. She asks Jamela to help decorate shoes for her market stall. The princess' shoes prove such a hit that she is able to repay her mother with her share of the takings. On her birthday, she gets a big carrier bag from her mother. Inside it are new school shoes and the original pair of white sparkly birthday shoes she had fallen in love with. This story will resonate with many children, especially little girls who long for something pretty to wear on a special occasion. This title is also available in Afrikaans, isiXhosa and isiZulu.

JdeB

Note: At the time of going to press, some of these titles were still on order.

EB	Erich Buchhaus
JdeB	Johanna de Beer
SCG	Sabrina Gosling
MJI	Margaret Iskandar
EMW	Ethney Waters

