

Posted by [REDACTED] @ 2008-03-17 17:17:36

Tags: books, history, 9/11, reading

Mood: thoughtful

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

(U) What are you reading? (Early Spring edition)

(U) I thought it might be time to update my January post on this topic. Not sure this list is complete, but I'm trying to keep better track of the things I've read!

(U) At home:

Finished: "Troublemaker" (a biography of British historian A.J.P. Taylor); "Doomsday Book" (the science fiction cum historical thriller where a university historian gets sent back in time to 1320 Oxfordshire only she ends up in 1348); "The Genetic Strand" by Edward Ball; "Only a Few Bones" by John Philip Coletta. And also David Kahn's book about Herbert O. Yardley, but I can't remember the title at the moment.

Re-read: "The Target is Destroyed" (KAL-007 story)

In progress: "Arbella, England's Lost Queen" by Sarah Gristwood

Still in the Queue: "The Perfect Summer" (about the summer of 1911) which I may have to start again as it has been months since I dipped into it; Ian Mortimer's book on Henry IV; lots of other stuff too as we've just completed a book-buying spree.

~~(S//CCO//REL)~~ At work - Many things in progress including: "The Origins of the National Security Agency 1940-1952"; "BOURBON to Black Friday The Allied Collaborative COMINT Effort against the Soviet Union, 1945-1948 ~~(S//CCO)~~", and "Joint Inquiry Into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001".

(Still) Re-reading portions of "The 9/11 Commission Report".

409 [REDACTED] @ 2008-03-17 17:25:14

(U) Is "Doomsday Book" one with plague affecting present and past? I want to be sure I'm thinking of right book.

(U) Past weekend, I read "Hound of the Baskervilles" (Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes book.) It's an interesting read, and I hear that there is a book where Sherlock Holmes deals with codes...what would be the title? I think I will pick that one up next.

410 re 409 [REDACTED] @ 2008-03-17 17:27:32

(U) Yes, that's the book.

(U) Can't remember which Holmes story has the codes... buried in my head somewhere ... perhaps someone else will be able to retrieve the title!

411 re 410 [REDACTED] @ 2008-03-17 17:30:33

(U) The Adventure of the Dancing Men

413 re 412 [redacted] @ 2008-03-17 17:38:39

Re: Mystery of the Dancing Men

(U) Thanks to both of you for the fast replies!

414 re 413 [redacted] @ 2008-03-17 17:40:02

Re: Mystery of the Dancing Men

(U) Oops, just to you . . . thought there were two replies!

416 re 414 [redacted] @ 2008-03-17 17:51:15

Re: Mystery of the Dancing Men

There were, but the other was both more accurate and (thanks to the link) more complete, so...

417 [redacted] @ 2008-03-17 18:04:04

(U) At home: "Battle of Austerlitz" by Alexandre Berthier (after action report of one of Napoleon's great victories as penned by his chief of staff); and "Ship With Five Names," by Charles Gibson (a prize taken by the German raider Atlantis leads a brief career as a disguised minelayer during WWII).

418 re 416 [redacted] @ 2008-03-17 18:15:34

Re: Mystery of the Dancing Men

(U) Phew, I'm not going nuts! :)

420 [redacted] @ 2008-03-17 23:39:51

(U) At home, I've just started "Mistel - German Composite Aircraft and Operations 1942-1945". I'm trying to finish up "The Art of Unix Programming" (Eric Raymond), Mac OS X Power Hound, and the O'Reilly books on Pthreads Programming, and SELinux, which are in various states of being read. Though I should be getting an Amazon order this week which will probably change things.

421 [redacted] @ 2008-03-18 08:29:51

(U) Uh, Well...

I was going to confess that I have been spending a lot of time with "The World of Mr. Toast" but, uh, I guess I won't now...

[redacted]

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422 re 421 [redacted]@ 2008-03-18 09:35:49

Re: (U) Uh, Well...

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(U) Ha! All reading is good.

423 [redacted]@ 2008-03-18 11:32:28

(U) So many books, so little time!

(U) At work, I am reading Balancing Agility and Discipline: A Guide for the Perplexed by Barry Boehm and Richard Turner. This is really well-written.

(U) This post reminded me to finish up I, Robot by Isaac Asimov, which I did this morning at breakfast.

(U) Still reading Elizabeth: Struggle for the Throne by David Starkey.

(U) Hadn't quite finished the books above because I got caught up in The Lost Memoirs of Jane Austen by Syrie James. Like the movie, Becoming Jane, it took elements from the Austen novels as though they were actual moments of inspiration in Jane Austen's life. James also imitates Jane's witty, eloquent writing style. A very good read for Jane Austen fans although (I thought) her love interest was a bit too contrived.

(U) Trying to decide which of my Alison Weir biographies to read next: Henry IV (started but stopped), Eleanor of Aquitaine, another Elizabeth I, or Lady Jane Grey.

424 re 423 [redacted]@ 2008-03-18 11:37:48

Re: (U) So many books, so little time!

(U) "Balancing Agility and Discipline: A Guide for the Perplexed" sound very interesting ... I'll have to put that on my list.

(U) Did you read Weir's book on Queen Isabella (wife of Edward II)? It and Ian Mortimer's book on Edward III provide fairly convincing evidence that Edward II was not murdered, escaped captivity and lived out his life on the European continent.

425 [redacted]@ 2008-03-18 11:41:59

"People of the Book"

(U) Just finished this book and it was a great read. Can't wait to go back and read others by the same author. I couldn't put it down. Also loved Doomsday. If you liked that, you might like others by the same author (her name is escaping me; is it Willis?). I've read almost all of hers and found them very interesting.

426 re 424 [redacted]@ 2008-03-18 11:43:15

Re: (U) So many books, so little time!

(U) No, I haven't heard of those. I'm still caught up reading about the Tudors, but I enjoy

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just about any biography on the kings and queens of England. Know of any good biography/novel about William the Conqueror?

427 re 425 [redacted]@ 2008-03-18 11:45:34

Re: "People of the Book"

(U) Yes, it was Connie Willis I believe. I'll have to look for her other stuff and will put "People of the Book" on my list! Thanks!

428 re 426 [redacted]@ 2008-03-18 11:48:26

Re: (U) So many books, so little time!

(U) You know, I don't know of one . . . I'll look into that. There should be something out there. I was in France last summer and visited William's birthplace and tomb (among other things). Will get back to you on this.

429 re 428 [redacted]@ 2008-03-18 11:59:25

Re: (U) So many books, so little time!

(U) Neat. Years ago, my husband and I visited Battle, England where William defeated King Harold, if I remember the name correctly. The farmer, whose bed-and-breakfast we stayed at, said that William's army camped on his land the night before the battle. As to France, the closest we got to William there was riding in a bus past the fortress at Caen. Too bad.

(U) I'd love to know what you dig up biography/novel-wise.

430 re 429 [redacted]@ 2008-03-18 12:01:53

Re: (U) So many books, so little time!

(U) Oh oh! Saw the Bayeaux Tapestry, too.

431 [redacted]@ 2008-03-18 12:04:13

(U) "SHIP 16" : memoir by Ulrich Mohr, adjutant and boarding officer of the WWII German raider "Atlantis."

(Atlantis was a disguised, militarized cargo vessel carrying guns, mines, torpedoes and a seaplane).

432 re 430 [redacted]@ 2008-03-18 12:04:39

Re: (U) So many books, so little time!

(U) Me too! It was a good trip, perhaps I'll blog about it sometime. Now I'm off to do an oral history, more later.

433 re 411 [redacted]@ 2008-03-18 14:55:55

Other Holmes Ciphers

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(U) There are other Sherlock Holmes mysteries with codes. One, "The Gloria Scott", is described [here](#). Another, named "The Valley of Fear", involves a cipher described [here](#). (Clicking either link will spoil the mysteries for you).

435 [redacted] @ 2008-03-19 13:11:48

(U) "The Twelfth Vulture of Romulus," (historical fiction not ornithology) the collapse of the Western Roman Empire as seen through the eyes of Orestes, secretary to Attila the Hun and father of Romulus Augustus, the last Western Roman Emperor.

436 re 435 [redacted] @ 2008-03-19 13:26:16

(U) That sounds REALLY interesting ... I'm going to put it on my to-read list. Thanks!

442 [redacted] @ 2008-03-19 16:42:07

(U) I just finished "Angels in Iron" by Nicholas Prata, the story of the siege of Malta (1565) when 48,000 Ottoman Empire soldiers invaded the island of Malta, and were defeated by 6,000 Knights Hospitaller of St. John of Jerusalem (Known today as the Knights of Malta). Many people do not know this but the history of Western Civilization would have been very different if not for the valor of these 6000 men.

(U) I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The fact that these events actually happened make the siege of Helms Deep look like a Sunday afternoon picnic!

446 [redacted] @ 2008-03-19 19:50:01

(U) At home - in progress

- *Cross of Iron: The Rise and Fall of the German War Machine, 1918-1945*, John Mosier. Mosier, a former film critic and professor of English at Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana, is also a controversial revisionist military historian. His two previous military histories are *The Myth of the Great War* and *The Blitzkrieg Myth*.
- *Dismantling Utopia: How Information Ended the Soviet Union*, Scott Shane. Shane was the Moscow bureau chief for the Baltimore Sun in the period 1988-1990.
- *The First World War in Photographs*, Richard Holmes
- *Men Who Play God: The Story of the Hydrogen Bomb*, Norman Moss
- *Yanks: The Epic Story of the American Army in World War I*, John S. Eisenhower. Eisenhower is the son of Dwight D. Eisenhower, a Brigadier General in the U.S. Army Reserves, the author of two additional military histories and a biography.

(U) While commuting

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(U) Audio books - Finished

- *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*, Malcolm Gladwell
- *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*, Malcolm Gladwell
- *The Christmas Box Miracle: My Spiritual Journey of Destiny, Healing, and Kope*, Richard Paul Evans

(U) Audio books - In-progress

- *Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest*, Stephen E. Ambrose

(U//~~FOUO~~) Work-related

- *Eclipse*, Steve Holzner
- *High Performance Linux Clusters with OSCAR, Rocks, openMosix, and MPI*, Joseph D. Sloan
- *How to Build a Beowulf: A Guide to the Implementation and Application of PC Clusters*, Thomas L. Sterling, John Salmon, Donald J. Becker, and Daniel F. Savarese
- *Knowledge and Competitive Advantage: The Coevolution of Firms, Technology, and National Institutions*, Johann Peter Murmann. A comparison of the development of the synthetic dye industry in Great Britain, Germany, and the United States through the lens of evolutionary theory by an Assistant Professor of Management and Organizations at Northwestern University.
- *PVM: Parallel Virtual Machine - A Users' Guide and Tutorial for Networked Parallel Computing*, Al Geist, Adam Beguelin, Jack Dongarra, Weicheng Jiang, and Viady Sunderam
- *Programming for Linguists: Java Technology for Language Researchers*, Michael Hammond
- *Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs*, Harold Abelson and Gerald Jay Sussman with Julie Sussman

(U//~~FOUO~~)



462 re 446 [redacted] @ 2008-03-20 10:40:21

(U) Wow, that's quite a list!

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481 [redacted] @ 2008-03-21 10:26:45

(U) Generalissimos of the Western Roman Empire by JM O'Flynn (Stilicho, Alaric, Aetius, Ricimer, Orestes et al plus the hijinks of Attila)

487 [redacted] @ 2008-03-24 13:19:28

(U) Still in the Late Roman mode: "THEODOSIUS: The Empire at Bay" and "BARBARIANS WITHIN THE GATES OF ROME" (Roman Military Policy and the Barbarians 375-425).

488 [redacted] @ 2008-03-24 14:02:24

what are you reading

(U) The immediate past book was John Ferling's Almost a Miracle, about the American Revolution. It really was amazing that the rebellion/revolution wasn't extinguished in the first couple of years. Currently, I'm reading Edward Miller's War Plan Orange, which deals with Navy planning over a period of four decades for a general war with Japan. It helps make clear a lot of the reasoning behind what actually happened in the Pacific in WWII. Before these two, I read an Icelandic mystery, the basis for the new movie "Jar City".

491 re 488 [redacted] @ 2008-03-25 15:19:20

Re: what are you reading

(U) RE Jar City: Hopefully you weren't eating a sheep's head for lunch!

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