

In Print

A SAMPLING OF BOOKS BASED ON RESEARCH IN THE COLLECTIONS



WHAT BLOOD WON'T TELL: A HISTORY OF RACE ON TRIAL IN AMERICA

Ariela J. Gross
Harvard University Press, 2008

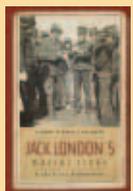
Over the past two centuries, individuals and groups have fought to establish their whiteness in order to lay claim to full citizenship in local courtrooms, administrative and legislative hearings, and the U.S. Supreme Court. These trials often have turned less on legal definitions of race as percentages of blood or ancestry than on the way people presented themselves to society and demonstrated their moral and civic character. Gross' book examines the paradoxical and often circular relationship of race and the perceived capacity for citizenship in American society.



SHADOWS AT DAWN: A BORDERLANDS MASSACRE AND THE VIOLENCE OF HISTORY

Karl Jacoby
Penguin Press, 2008

On April 30, 1871, a combined party of Americans, Mexicans, and Tohono O'odham Indians murdered nearly 150 Apaches at a camp in the Arizona borderlands. The Camp Grant Massacre generated unparalleled national attention but has now largely faded from memory. Jacoby traces the escalating conflicts, as well as the alliances, that transpired among the groups living in the borderlands over the course of several hundred years, beginning with the 17th-century arrival of the first Spanish missionaries.

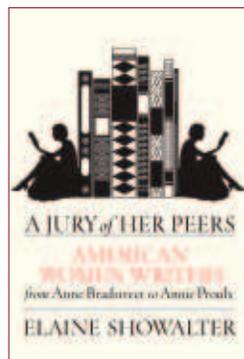


JACK LONDON'S RACIAL LIVES

Jeanne Campbell Reesman
University of Georgia Press, 2009

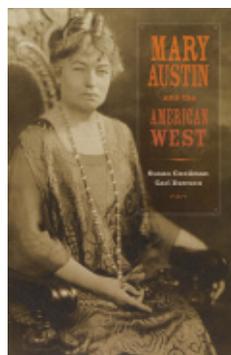
Although Jack London promoted white superiority in his novels and nonfiction, he sharply satirized racism and meaningfully portrayed racial others—most often as protagonists—in his short fiction. With new readings of *The Call of the Wild* and *Martin Eden*, and many other works, such as the Pacific stories, Reesman reveals that London employed many of the same literary tropes of race used by African American writers of his period: the slave narrative, double-consciousness, the tragic mulatto, and ethnic diaspora.

Postscript



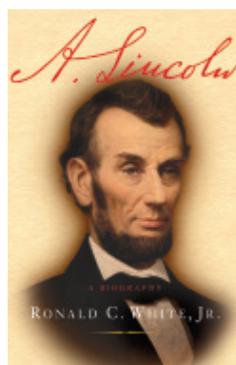
In 2004–05, Elaine Showalter spent a year at The Huntington as the Avery Distinguished Fellow. An article in *Huntington Frontiers* (fall/winter 2005) profiled her efforts to read the forgotten novels of American women writers from 1650 through 2000. She focused on the 19th

century, saying, “The Huntington’s holdings in American literature pre-1900 are astonishing.” The result of her efforts was published in February, *A Jury of Her Peers: American Women Writers from Anne Bradstreet to Annie Proulx* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2009).



One better known author that appears in Showalter’s book is Mary Austin (1868–1934), who is also the subject of a new book by Susan Goodman and Carl Dawson: *Mary Austin and the American West* (University of California Press, 2009). The spring/summer 2006 issue profiled the writing team following the release of

their book *William Dean Howells: A Writer's Life* (University of California Press, 2005).



Ronald C. White Jr. also has remained active since we announced the publication of *The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln Through His Words* (Random House, 2005). This winter, White published *A. Lincoln: A Biography* (Random House, 2009) as the country commemorated the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth.

MUSTANG: THE SAGA OF THE WILD HORSE IN THE AMERICAN WEST

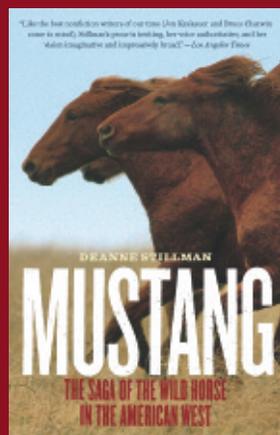
Deanne Stillman

Houghton Mifflin, 2008 (in paperback June 2009)



When Spanish conquistador Hernando Cortés arrived in the New World in 1519, he came with hundreds of men and 16 horses. His scribe, Bernal Díaz del Castillo, carefully recorded the exploits of the expedition, noting also the names, colors, and personality traits of most of the horses. More than 400 years later, in 1923, Walter Camp published his report on the Battle of Little Big Horn. Buried in his findings of the famous last stand of 1876 are the names of the horses that fell, including Dandy Jim, Silverheels, and Custer's own horses, Vic and Dandy.

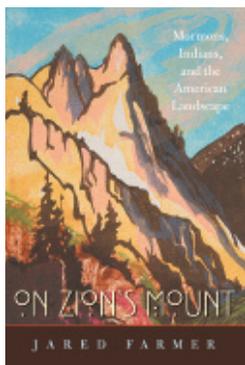
The history of the mustang in the American West, says writer Deanne Stillman, can't be separated from



America's history of violence. Her research began in earnest in late 1998 when she read about a massacre of 34 horses in the mountains outside Reno, Nev. Her concern for a diminishing population of just 28,000 wild horses in the West eventually led to a book, just released in paperback. In it she traces the history of the mustang from its Ice Age ancestor in North America and its reemergence with Cortés through the frontier era of cattle drives and into the age of Hollywood and its plight today. Stillman currently teaches creative writing in the MFA program at the Palm Desert Graduate Center of the University of California, Riverside.

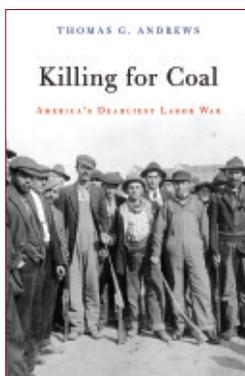
For Stillman, the roll call of names from Cortés' scribe through 19th-century cavalry records is also an indication of the strong bond that has long existed between riders and their steeds. At The Huntington, Stillman discovered the works of Charles Siringo, thanks to a tip from Peter Blodgett, The Huntington's H. Russell Smith Foundation Curator of Western American Manuscripts. In the book *A Texas Cowboy, or, Fifteen Years on the Hurricane Deck of a Spanish Pony—Taken from Real Life* (1886), Siringo wrote heartbreakingly about the brutality endured by working horses on cattle drives of the frontier era. In her own book, Stillman has attempted to capture two historical narratives that can't be separated—one of the mustang's hardship in service of a master prone to violence, the other of its genuine partnership with conquistadors, cowboys, Native Americans, entertainers, and conservationists.

Above: The author with Bugz, a survivor of the 1998 massacre in Reno, Nev. Photo by Betty Lee Kelly.



Two scholars received honors for books that appeared in 2008. Jared Farmer, who wrote about California's eucalyptus trees for the spring/summer 2007 issue of this magazine, won the 2009 Francis Parkman Prize for *On Zion's Mount: Mormons, Indians, and the American Landscape*. The

prize was awarded by the Society of American Historians. Farmer was the Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow with the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West for 2005–07.



Thomas G. Andrews garnered a prestigious Bancroft prize for *Killing for Coal: America's Deadliest Labor War*, a book described in the fall/winter 2008 issue of this magazine. The Bancroft prize, three of which are awarded annually by the trustees of Columbia University, goes to authors of books of exceptional

merit in the fields of American history, biography, and diplomacy. The two prize-winning books were published by Harvard University Press.

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