



COVER TO COVER

The Accidental President

Gerald Ford was faced with more than just Nixon and Vietnam.

In his careful and comprehensive analysis, *The Presidency of Gerald R. Ford*, John Robert Greene provides an excellent addition to the unparalleled American Presidency Series. Reaching beyond the caretaker and healer characterizations often attributed to Ford, Greene seeks to uncover the deeper meaning of the two-and-one-half years that were the Ford presidency. In this attempt, the author was confronted with the difficult task of extricating Richard Nixon and the Nixon administration from his examination of Gerald Ford and the Ford presidency. In essence, Greene,

pass at breakneck speed. From its honeymoon, which lasted only one month, to its dealings with an endless succession of domestic and foreign policy brush fires, the Ford presidency was unable to catch its institutional breath.

In one sentence, Greene captures the overwhelming nature of the political events that surrounded the Ford White House: "When the *Mayaguez* was captured...it was only 13 days after Ford's Tulane speech proclaiming the end of the Vietnam debacle, only two months after the collapse of peace talks in the Middle East and the beginning of reassessment, and the New York City fiscal crisis was white hot."

If these events were not enough to occupy the administration, Ford was also dealing with an economic downturn, congressional investigations of the CIA, internal debate over détente with the Soviet Union, and the fall of Cambodia. Of course, all of these issues followed Ford's inaugural actions of pardoning Richard Nixon and offering amnesty to Vietnam draft evaders.

With these multiple crises endlessly at hand, even as the election approached in 1976, Ford was unable to articulate a clear vision for his presidency, suffering from the same political ailment that felled George Bush under less difficult circumstances.

Greene, in his final assessment of Ford and his presidency, asserts that "Ford was reduced to dealing with policy

matters on a case-by-case basis, a position that challenged his abilities as a political leader. Yet, as a moral leader, Ford surpassed the examples of every president since 1960."

For those readers whose memories of Ford are based on Chevy Chase skits on *Saturday Night Live* or his errant golf shots, this book provides important insights into the man and the institution he occupied.

—RONALD G. SHAIKO



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

The Presidency of Gerald R. Ford

By John Robert Greene G'85

256 pp. University Press of Kansas. \$15.95

in writing about Ford, was confronted with the same problems that Ford himself faced in defining his own presidency in the aftermath of the Nixon years. Greene, however, was far more successful in this effort than Ford was in his.

What is most striking in reading about the Ford presidency two decades after the fact is the importance of political time. During the Ford presidency, political time seemed to

Other Alumni Books

New York to Hollywood: The Photography of Karl Struss

By Barbara McCandless '71, et al.

256 pp. University of New Mexico Press. \$35

Karl Struss (1886-1981) was a master of both still and motion picture photography. This book surveys the artist's long career with the camera, including his discoveries in color photography using the autochrome process; his photographic explorations of New York and Europe before World War; his images of Hollywood stars, western landscapes, and seascapes; and his motion picture work.



Guild Hall of East Hampton—An Adventure in the Arts: The First 60 Years

By Enez Whipple '52

264 pp. Harry N. Abrams Publishers. \$45

In an evocative narrative with hundreds of photographs, *Guild Hall of East Hampton* takes readers center stage and behind the scenes of the first art center in America to combine a theater, museum, and community meeting place under one roof. The result is a remarkable tale of Guild Hall's "experiment" in the arts, an experiment that will continue well into the 21st century.

The Cutoff

By Jay Rogoff G'78, G'81

64pp. *The Word Works*. \$10

Rogoff's first published book is a sequence of lyrical monologues set in the world of minor league baseball. It covers the life of a Class AAA outfield-

er who turns 30, becomes a father, and must face the fact that he may never make the major leagues. These poems explore the love of baseball, the country that produced it, and the sense of order the game promises.

Good Guys, Bad Guys, Big Guys, Little Guys: Upstate New York Stories From the Herald-Journal, Herald American

By Dick Case '56

294 pp. Pine Tree Press. \$10

Newspaper columnist Dick Case shares his scrapbook of 18 years of favorite stories written for the Syracuse *Herald-Journal* and *Herald American*. Case's gift for storytelling reveals for readers the soul of Central New York through such memorable characters as the Swan Lady, a millionaire who steals door-knobs, and a one-legged pigeon named Blackie.

All Things Herriot: James Herriot and His Peaceable Kingdom

By Sanford Sternlicht G'62

175 pp. Syracuse University Press. \$24.95

Sternlicht delves into the life of James Alfred Wight (James Herriot), exploring how the veterinarian became a writer (*All Creatures Great and Small*) and later a television personality. The author, an adjunct professor at Syracuse University, offers the most detailed biography yet of the beloved Herriot, and how he captured the hearts and minds of his readers and viewers.

The Year in Flowers

By Katy Gilmore G'92

128pp. Alaska Northwest Books. \$19.95

The Year in Flowers is a unique garden journal with essays and paintings by Alaskan watercolor artist Katy Gilmore. Her poetic essays tell about life in Alaska, where a brief, vibrant summer quickly gives way to a long, dark winter. But even in such an environment, Gilmore fills her year with flowers, substituting imported blooms when hers are locked under the frozen ground.

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