
NEW TITLES

History

THE ANATOMY OF HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE

by Maurice Mandelbaum
Johns Hopkins, 1977
232 pp. \$12.95
L of C 76-46945
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Johns Hopkins philosopher Maurice Mandelbaum once characterized himself in a seminar as one of only two "real gestalt psychologists" still around. This lucid book supports that contention. Must reading for anyone interested in the analytical philosophy of history, it begins with the author showing the unity of historical inquiry while simultaneously suggesting valuable distinctions among various modes of historiography. Mandelbaum next analyzes the concept of causality, arguing that "the more evidence a historian possesses concerning what occurred in a society at a particular time, the less arbitrary and perfunctory his assertion of causal connections can be." Finally, he offers a penetrating discussion of objectivity and of the extent to which different forms of history can be objective. Throughout, he conveys his own profound reflections and an exhaustive knowledge of earlier inquiries.

LIFE IN CUSTER'S CAVALRY: Diaries and Letters of Albert and Jennie Barnitz, 1867-1868

edited by Robert M. Utley
Yale, 1977, 302 pp. \$15
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ISBN 0-300-02094-5

U.S. Cavalry officer Albert Barnitz and his bride Jennie spent most of their first two years of marriage apart. He participated in the Army's campaign against the Plains Indians, and she waited in Cleveland until he came home after being wounded in 1868 at the Battle of the Washita. This collection of the couple's letters and entries from both their journals is remarkable for its coherent picture of 19th-century frontier army life, complete with notes on "roast hind quarter of a nice fat buffalo calf" and "chasing Antelope with Genl. Custer's Greyhounds." Albert was plagued by floods, locusts, deserting and drunken soldiers, and by Custer, whom he calls "the most complete example of a petty tyrant that I have ever seen." ("Mrs. Custer did not leave the house as clean as she