

and newborn brother and near deaths of both her parents in the following year, hardened her determination to meet fully her father's expectations of preserving his art collections as his monument. Sanger demonstrates that Frick's philanthropic interests, such as the creation of a wilderness park and a vacation home for Massachusetts female textile workers, could not match her persistence to erect fitting monuments to her father. Thanks to her efforts he is now memorialized at his birthplace in West Overton, Pennsylvania, the family home in Clayton, the New York-based Frick Collection, the Frick Art Reference Library, and the fine art department and library of the University of Pittsburgh. Helen Clay Frick repeatedly contested other Frick Collection trustees, particularly her brother, Childs Frick, and John D. Rockefeller Jr., who attempted to seize control of the board and allow changes she deemed incompatible with her father's preferences. In her keen desire to guard her father's reputation she sued the historian Sylvester K. Stevens over his description of Henry Clay Frick, appealed the ruling, and celebrated the appeal's settlement as the validation of her argument.

The author successfully explicates her subject's idiosyncrasies. Frick's enduring dislike of Germans, expressed in the exclusion of Germans and those with German-sounding names from the Frick Art Reference Library, was rooted in the devastation she had witnessed in Europe during her war-relief work in 1918. Her European excursions with her father shaped her appreciation of art and led to her aversion of modern creations.

The biography's strength is in its disclosure of a life of a privileged woman through the greatest part of the twentieth century and of the dynamics of a museum board. It also documents an elite woman's notable effort to preserve single handedly her father's memory at a time when few women of her rank succeeded in leaving monumental family legacies. Although the biography could have benefited from a closer analysis of gender and class, particularly in Frick's interaction with the trustees of the Frick Collection and in her philanthropy with working-class women, it is highly recommended to scholars interested in the history of Pennsylvania, women, philanthropy, art administration, and memory.

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The Gentle Subversive: Rachel Carson, Silent Spring, and the Rise of the Environmental Movement. By MARK HAMILTON LYTLE. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. x, 277 pp. Notes, bibliography, index. \$23.)

This book is part of Oxford's New Narratives in American History series based on vivid biographical portraits of important people and their place in the history of their time. Mark Hamilton Lytle presents the life of Rachel Carson by interweaving her works with the events of the period from 1907 to 1964. He sets

Carson's story in the context of the flow of seasons. This is a particularly appropriate device for her because of her love of nature and the interconnection of her writing with her life and aspirations.

"Spring" covers her early childhood and education and her first excursions into writing, her career working for the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, and the completion of her first book, *Under the Sea Wind*. "Summer," "Fall," and "Winter" similarly cover the periods of her life and parallel each of her other books, *The Sea Around Us*, *The Edge of the Sea*, and, finally, *Silent Spring*, which she wrote during the last months of her life as she battled cancer. Lytle skillfully sets out the prevailing trends and threads of events surrounding Carson's journey from government scientist to spokesperson for the emerging field of ecology. He offers perspectives on the outraged onslaught against Carson. He notes that, "Where the entomologists were personally and professionally offended, the chemical companies and agribusinesses feared major financial losses if the public heeded Carson's warnings" (174).

Lytle's storylike approach to her life shows the great personal cost she endured in her failing health, family stresses, and financial burdens. She becomes a heroine not only through her writing but also through her loyalty and dedication to family and to her obligation to support and sustain them all through her own work.

The epilogue is most informative. Its discussion of Carson's legacy shows how her message evolved from conservationists like John Muir, Henry David Thoreau, Theodore Roosevelt, and Gifford Pinchot to men like Albert Schweitzer and E. B. White. We see how the institutional protections were established as an outgrowth of her raising of public awareness of the importance of the human ecology of the earth as our essential habitat. She impacted the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Drug Administration and the legislation that addressed the ban of DDT, and movements to provide safe drinking water and clean air. The active involvement of citizen organizations owes its vigor to her insistence that the public has a right to know about environmental and health concerns and an obligation to act in defense of the earth. For this, many labeled her a subversive!

Lytle's historical biography of Rachel Carson is engaging and balanced. It provides good background information on a complex and intriguing author and scientist. Carson remains a force in our time not only because of the prophetic truth of her concerns but also because of her bold success in conveying technical and complex concepts to the public in language that evoked vivid images. Her war of words has been supplanted by an endless stream of videos, multimedia presentations, and larger-than-life projections that somehow lack the perspective and human scale of her refined observations.