

This book, culmination of several decades of research and intended as a synthesis accessible to broadly informed readers as well as specialists, appeared in 1989 to general acclaim. . . . Buffon is more, here, than the versatile, fecund, and contentious mind that, it is true, was Roger's basic reason for writing his life; we find also a self-assured and ambitious personality and a skilled operator in a wondrously intricate social and intellectual environment."

Kenneth L. Taylor, *Science* 278, No. 5342 (Nov. 21, 1997): 1409–10.

Bush, George

George Bush: The Rise of a Lone Star Yankee. Herbert S. Parmet. New York: Lisa Drew/Scribner, 1997. 576 pp. \$32.50.

George Herbert Walker Bush: A Photographic Profile. David Valdez. College Station: Texas A & M UP, 1997. 168 pp. \$39.95.

"Parmet, a professor of history at the City University of New York, has given us a sympathetic portrait of a moderate Republican in the doomed lineage of Wendell Wilkie and Nelson Rockefeller, who tried to refashion himself for the Sunbelt politics of Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan. He even finds a hint of tragedy in this career—as Bush fails despite his rise to the Presidency, to preserve the core value of the tradition from which he came, which Parmet sums up as 'mitigating the excesses of capitalism' for those who gain or lose too much from the workings of the free market. . . . For coffee table fans, there is [*A Photographic Profile*]*—compiled by the former President's personal photographer—a feel-good album ranging from boyhood photos to snapshots of the 'grandkids.'*"

Andrew Delbanco, *NYTBR*, Dec. 14, 1997: 9–11.

Bush, Vannevar

Endless Frontier: Vannevar Bush, Engineer of the American Century. G. Pascal Zachary. New York: The Free Press, 1997. 518 pp. \$32.50.

"As G. Pascal Zachary observes in 'Endless Frontier,' no wartime figure in the world marshaled such enormous engineering and scientific resources."

Thomas P. Hughes, *NYTBR*, Oct. 26, 1997: 25.

Byrd, Harry

Byrd of Virginia. Ronald L. Heinemann. Charlottesville: U of Virginia P, 1996. 511 pp. \$29.50.

"This meticulously researched study will undoubtedly stand for decades as the definitive work on Byrd and the political organization that he dominated from the 1920s to the 1960s."

James R. Sweeney, *The Historian* 60.1 (Fall 1997): 132–3.

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Cagney. John McCabe. New York: Knopf, 1997. 439 pp. \$29.95.