

ENGLISH

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cation for All Children. Federation of the Council for Exceptional Children (Vancouver, B.C.), 1974.

Co-author of more than thirty instructional programs, including texts, tests and teacher's manuals, for Science Research Associates. Contributor of articles to education journals.†

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ENGLISH, Barbara (Anne) 1933-

PERSONAL: Born September 5, 1933, in Dundee, Scotland; daughter of David Rose (a physician) and Olive (Mackie White) Cameron; married Thomas Anthony English (a surgeon), June 11, 1960 (died, 1979); children: Hugh W., Charles E. **Education:** University of St. Andrews, M.A. (with honors), 1955, Ph.D., 1977. **Religion:** Anglican. **Home:** Westwood Close, Beverley, Yorkshire, England. **Office:** Department of History, University of Hull, Cottingham Rd., Hull HU6 7RX, England.

CAREER: National Register of Archives, West Riding, Yorkshire, England, archivist, 1958-62; Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd. (publishers), Edinburgh, Scotland, assistant editor, 1962-64; University of Hull, Hull, England, research fellow, 1979-82, currently lecturer in regional and local history.

WRITINGS: *The War for a Persian Lady*, Houghton, 1971 (published in England as *John Company's Last War*, Collins, 1971); *The Lords of Holderness, 1086-1260: A Study in Feudal Society*, Oxford University Press, 1979; (co-author) *Beverly: An Archaeological and Architectural Study*, H.M.S.O., 1982; (with John Saville) *Strict Settlement: A Guide for Historians*, University of Hull, 1983. Contributor of articles and reviews to periodicals.

SIDELIGHTS: Reviewing Barbara English's *John Company's Last War* in the *Times Literary Supplement*, a critic remarks: "It is difficult to decide which of the two characteristics of this book is the more admirable: the author's obvious mastery over a mass of diversified and complex material, or the clarity and wit with which she presents the results of her researches. Her work is so thorough, her investigation of all available sources, manuscript and printed, so complete, that this book might be put into the hands of any aspirant to a Ph.D. degree as a model to be emulated." Barbara F. Harvey, writing about English's *The Lords of Holderness, 1086-1260: A Study in Feudal Society* in the *English Historical Review*, offers the opinion that "[some] chapters suffer from a too conservative framework of ideas. Although great care is taken to relate the institutions of Holderness to the national scene, some of the chosen points of reference are rather old fashioned." D.J.A. Matthew, however, finds that "Readers with interests either in medieval Holderness or in feudal society as a whole will find that Barbara English has much to say concerning both." "Her systematic investigations," Matthew continues in the *Times Literary Supplement*, "her precise attention to the records, her accurate references and her care with the text, which is remarkably free of errors and misprints, if not immaculate—all these make the book a considerable achievement and a valuable addition to the technical literature."

BIOGRAPHICAL/CRITICAL SOURCES: *Times Literary Supplement*, March 26, 1971, September 26, 1980; *English Historical Review*, October, 1982.

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EPSTEIN, Edward Jay 1935-

PERSONAL: Born December 6, 1935, in New York, N.Y.;

son of Louis J. (an executive) and Betty (Opolinsky) Epstein **Education:** Cornell University, A.B., 1957, M.A., 1966; Harvard University, Ph.D., 1971. **Religion:** Jewish.

CAREER: Writer. Formerly assistant professor of government, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. Reporter-at-large, *New Yorker*. **Military service:** U.S. Army Reserves.

WRITINGS: *Inquest: The Warren Commission and the Establishment of Truth*, Viking, 1966 (also serialized in *True Magazine*, November, 1966); *Counterplot*, Viking, 1969; *News from Nowhere: Television and the News*, Random House, 1973; *Between Fact and Fiction: The Problem of Journalism*, Vintage Books, 1975; *Agency of Fear: Opiates and Political Power in America*, Putnam, 1977; *Legend: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald*, Reader's Digest Press, 1978; *Cartel*, Putnam, 1978; *The Rise and Fall of Diamonds: The Shattering of a Brilliant Illusion*, Simon & Schuster, 1982. Contributor of articles and reviews to *Esquire*, *Commentary*, *New Yorker*, and *New York Times*.

SIDELIGHTS: Edward Jay Epstein "has made a career out of moving through vast documentation and tricky, ambiguous material," writes Kevin Buckley in the *New York Times Book Review*, describing the author's penchant for detailed investigative writing on difficult, controversial subjects. While Epstein has chosen to confront a wide variety of topics, even making a brief foray into suspense fiction, the bulk of his output is concerned with uncovering scandal and eliminating illusions. "His forte is tracking the widely publicized half-truth or myth down to its essential, usually unsensational root facts," remarks Michael Janeway in the *Atlantic*. In the process of dispelling various myths, Epstein has turned a critical eye to issues as diverse as drug abuse and the inflated value of fine diamonds, at the same time exploring the role played by the mass media in shaping public opinion and rumor.

Epstein's first book, *Inquest: The Warren Commission and the Establishment of Truth*, was published in 1966 and deals with the complex questions surrounding the body appointed to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Writing in the *New York Times*, Eliot Fremont-Smith calls *Inquest* "the first book to throw open to serious question in the minds of thinking people, the findings of the Warren Commission. It does so not as an outraged polemic, convincing only to the already convinced, but as a sober, scholarly case study of how an extraordinary government commission goes about its work—the conception of its job, the nature of internal and external pressures on such a commission and the effect these may have." At the center of Epstein's analysis is his contention that an unavoidable conflict existed between the Commission's duty to uncover and explore any facts relevant to the assassination, and its task of quelling rumors and restoring the nation's lost trust and confidence. Discussing *Inquest* in the *Saturday Review*, Arnold L. Fein summarizes the author's argument: "Its essence is that the Commission was engaged not in the pursuit of facts but of 'political truth,' that its 'dominant purpose' was 'to protect the national interest by dispelling rumors' about 'conspiracy' and to 'lift the cloud of doubts . . . over American institutions,' because 'the nation's prestige was at stake.'"

One of the difficulties associated with investigative writing on ambiguous subjects is the danger of substituting one rumor for another. A *Choice* reviewer, however, believes that set alongside the number of exploitative, fantastical books about the Kennedy assassination, *Inquest* "stands out for its crystal clear, unemotional prose and its cautious judgements." Renata Adler

Contemporary Authors Vol. 13 Linda Matzger (ed.)
 Gale Research Co. Detroit, Mich

offers a similar assessment in the *New York Review of Books*: "It was solid and meticulous, and it drew the only conclusion it was possible to draw: that the Warren Commission had been insufficiently diligent and thorough in its work. The book was at pains responsibly to ward off what was sure to be a herd of conspiracy sensationalists, charlatans and profiteers."

Following the publication of *Inquest*, Epstein returned to the subject of the Kennedy assassination in *Counterplot*, a study of claims made by New Orleans District Attorney General Jim Garrison concerning Lee Harvey Oswald, the CIA, an anti-Castro group with whom Oswald had been involved, and an alleged assassination conspiracy. Published in 1969, the book also addresses the part played by what Epstein views as an overcredulous press in publicizing and giving legitimacy to conspiracy theories and rumors concerning the assassination. Critical of the press's gullibility and of the resulting potential for the misleading of the public, Epstein delved into the problems associated with the media in his next two books, *News from Nowhere: Television and the News* (1973), and *Between Fact and Fiction: The Problem of Journalism* (1975).

In *News from Nowhere*, Epstein examines the characteristic limitations of television news and the nightly half-hour news programs of the major networks. Though John J. O'Connor finds the book "not without flaws," in the *New York Times*, he adds that "Epstein's analysis of the relationship between the networks, their affiliates and the Federal Communications Commission is excellent." A collection of essays on the press's treatment of and influence on such events as Watergate and the publication of the Pentagon Papers, *Between Fact and Fiction* "deals with the grand structural problems of journalism—the constraints of deadline and space that twist the contents of a story, the gap between the 'truth' about an event and its rendition in the press," according to James Fallows in the *New York Times Book Review*. Focusing on Epstein's ability to reduce sensationalistic conceptions to ordinary facts, Janeway comments: "Edward Jay Epstein is a press critic who works against the grain. [He is] shrewd and thorough."

With the publication of *Agency of Fear: Opiates and Political Power in America* in 1977, Epstein turned his hand once again to a volatile subject: Richard Nixon's war on drugs and the former president's creation of the Office of Drug Abuse Law Enforcement. In *Agency of Fear* Epstein theorizes that having failed to gain complete control over government law enforcement agencies such as the CIA and the FBI, Nixon set up the Office of Drug Abuse and Law Enforcement, what Thomas Powers describes in the *New York Times Book Review* as "a White House police force unique in history." Epstein believed and set out to demonstrate that statistics regarding drug use and crime had been drummed up in order to justify the formation of the agency. According to Adler, Epstein came "to the realization that narcotics investigators had a strong incentive to exaggerate the street value of drugs recovered in any given raid, and that newspaper reporters had no incentive to dispute their claims. [He] discovered that if estimates of how much the population of addicts had to steal to support their habits were accurate, they would have to be stealing a great part of the gross national product." The author claims that the agency was of particular importance to Nixon because he had run for office on a law and order platform without taking into account the fact that the Federal Government has little control over the kinds of crimes the president had promised to reduce in his election campaign. How convincing are Epstein's charges and speculations?

Powers speaks of the "richness of his research, meticulously described in more than 60 pages of notes in keeping with Epstein's theory that you can't know what to make of a journalist's account until you know something of the motives of his informants. Epstein is scrupulous in this regard, naming more than 70 sources. If he does not substantiate every claim with equal authority . . . nevertheless he is about as careful, and therefore as credible, as it is possible for a reporter to be." Adler offers a different approach, at the same time reflecting on the author's work as a whole: "Doubtless, *Agency of Fear* exaggerates, although I don't exactly know where. The book presents a problem which, while it is not uniquely posed by Epstein's writing, occurs there with exceptional force. It is the problem of the writer on subjects about which nearly everyone already has a strong opinion—who, almost by virtue of these subjects, either enlists or antagonizes people to the point where they are incapable of reading what he says."

In 1978 Epstein renewed his exploration of the events leading to the Kennedy assassination in *Legend: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald*. Having accepted the premise that Oswald was indeed the assassin, explains Hugh Thomas in the *Times Literary Supplement*, the author "deals with a different question: who was Oswald? Epstein [works] hard, from interviews with Oswald's acquaintances and by examining papers of the FBI, CIA and other agencies of the United States Government under the Freedom of Information Act, to give a picture of a man more intelligent than the one-dimensional 'loner' whom . . . the informed public . . . has come to accept." M. Stanton Evans elaborates in the *National Review*: "[The author] traces Oswald's many connections to the Communists, including his early conversion to the Marxist creed, his dealings with Communist agents in Japan, and his carefully planned defection to the USSR."

A number of reviewers express frustration with Epstein's failure to commit his opinion on some of the issues raised in *Legend*. "Epstein deserves credit for some arduous and valuable research, but he damages his work by his odd reluctance to say what he thinks his evidence shows," says Kenneth Auchincloss in *Newsweek*. Buckley writes: "His narrative is always pregnant with possibilities and implications. His arrangements of certain facts often seem to suggest frightening conclusions. But Epstein refuses to state them. Is he a tease? Or has he simply provided a stout defense to any charges that he has gone off half-cocked? The answer must be as ambiguous as much of the material." Nevertheless, Buckley believes that "at the very least, this book demands very serious attention."

After completing the suspense novel *Cartel*—"Mr. Epstein has everything he needs for a high-octane thriller, including exceptional skill at maintaining top speed," writes Martin Levin in the *New York Times Book Review*—Epstein explored the workings of a nonfictional cartel in his 1982 book *The Rise and Fall of Diamonds: The Shattering of A Brilliant Illusion*. In the pages of this work Epstein scrutinizes the world-wide diamond monopoly of South Africa's De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited, and its manipulation of international diamond demand and prices through exaggerated advertising, hoarding, and acquisition of other diamond firms. Epstein's thesis is that the price of diamonds has been kept artificially high by De Beers despite a world-wide overabundance of diamonds that increases daily. Christopher Lehmann-Haupt outlines Epstein's foreboding conclusions in the *New York Times*: "One of these days very soon, he thinks, something is going to happen to destroy the diamond illusion. It might stem from the glut of gems now accumulating in Israel. Or it might arise out of

Australia's recent refusal to let De Beers gain control of its diamond production. But one of these days the market is going to be flooded and the public is going to recognize that diamonds have little intrinsic value."

Reviewing the substance of Epstein's writing career in the *New York Review of Books*, Andrew Hacker remarks "Inquest [is] still the best single study of the assassination. His *Agency of Fear* . . . again showed Epstein's mastery at discovering important material and inducing people to talk." Speaking in the context of the ongoing confusion over the assassination, Hacker continues: "What we need is someone we can trust, to guide us through this overgrown trail. Edward Jay Epstein would seem ideally suited for this job. He is one of our best national reporters."

Epstein is competent in French and Spanish.

BIOGRAPHICAL/CRITICAL SOURCES: *Look*, June 29, 1966, July 12, 1966; *New York Times*, July 6, 1966, April 5, 1973, September 20, 1977, May 17, 1982; *New York Review of Books*, July 28, 1966, December 8, 1977, May 4, 1978; *Choice*, October, 1966; *New York Herald Tribune*, Paris edition, October 5, 1966; *Saturday Review*, October 22, 1966; *Atlantic*, May, 1973, November, 1975; *New York Times Book Review*, June 3, 1973, November 2, 1975, September 4, 1977, March 5, 1978, February 4, 1979, June 20, 1982; *Newsweek*, October 17, 1977, April 10, 1978, July 5, 1982; *Times Literary Supplement*, April 28, 1978, January 7, 1983; *Washington Post Book World*, May 16, 1982; *Los Angeles Times Book Review*, July 25, 1982; *Chicago Tribune Book World*, September 26, 1982.†

—Sketch by Robert T. Wilson

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EPSTEIN, June

PERSONAL: Born in Perth, Australia; daughter of Simon (a businessman) and Annie (Walters) Epstein; married Julius Guest (a lecturer in mathematics), March 7, 1949; children: Katharine-Anne (Mrs. William Garland), John Carey, Philip Ross (deceased). **Education:** Trinity College of Music, Cambridge, licentiate; Royal Academy of Music, licentiate; Royal Schools of Music, licentiate; Australian Universities, licentiate. **Office:** c/o Melbourne College of Advanced Education, Institute of Early Childhood Development, 4 Madden Grove, Kew, Victoria, Australia.

CAREER: Australian Broadcasting Commission, Melbourne, Australia, broadcaster and scriptwriter, 1933—; director of music at Melbourne Church of England Girls' Grammar School, 1946-49; Melbourne College of Advanced Education, Institute of Early Childhood Development, Kew, Australia, senior lecturer, 1972-78. Foundation president of Kew Colleges Parents' Association, 1957. **Member:** Professional Musicians Union of Australia, Australian Society of Authors, Society of Women Writers. **Awards, honors:** Overseas scholar of Trinity College of Music, 1936-39; silver medal from Worshipful Company of Musicians, 1938; Literature Board of the Australia Council grant, 1973 and 1982; Best Children's Book Award, Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales, 1981, for *The Friends of Burrumys*; Rigby Literary Award, 1982, for *Scarecrow and Company*.

WRITINGS: *The Nine Muses*, Robertson & Mullens, 1951; *Mermaid on Wheels: The Story of Margaret Lester*, Ure Smith, 1967, Taplinger, 1968; *Image of the King: A Parent's Story*

of Mentally Handicapped Children, Ure Smith, 1970, Drake, 1971; *Enjoying Music with Young Children*, Allans, 1972, 2nd edition, 1984; "A Paltry Affair," first produced in Victoria, Australia, November, 1976; *Mr. Nightingale*, Allans, 1978; *Boy on Sticks*, National Press, 1979.

No Music by Request: A Portrait of the Gorman Family, Collins, 1980; *A Golden String: The Story of Dorothy J. Ross*, Greenhouse, 1981; *The Friends of Burrumys*, Oxford University Press, 1981; *Big Dipper*, with cassette, Oxford University Press, 1981; *Big Dipper Rides Again*, with cassette, Oxford University Press, 1982; *A Swag of Songs*, with cassette, Oxford University Press, 1984; *Scarecrow and Company*, Rigby, 1984; *The Icecream Kids*, Jacaranda-Wiley, 1984; *The Emperor's Tally*, Jacaranda-Wiley, 1984; *Concert Pitch: The Story of the National Music Camp Association and the Australian Youth Orchestra*, Hyland House, 1984.

Also author of educational recordings for children and composer of music. Music critic, *Australian Journal of Music Education*.

SIDELIGHTS: June Epstein told CA: "I've always combined the two professional careers of music and writing. In music I began in childhood as a concert pianist, studied on an overseas scholarship, returned to tour Australia as a concert pianist for the Australian Broadcasting Commission, and later became involved in music education.

"In writing I have been influenced by my great interest and involvement with handicapped people and have written three full-length biographies of people with different handicaps. I am now chiefly interested in writing for children."

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ERDMAN, Paul E(mil) 1932-

PERSONAL: Born May 19, 1932, in Stratford, Ontario, Canada; son of Horace Herman (a clergyman) and Helen (Bertram) Erdman; married Helly Elizabeth Boeglin, September 11, 1954; children: Constance Ann Catherine, Jennifer Michele. **Education:** Concordia College, St. Louis, Mo., B.A., 1954; Georgetown University, B.Sc., 1955; University of Basel, M.A., 1956, Ph.D., 1958. **Religion:** Lutheran. **Home:** 1817 Lytton Springs Rd., Healdsburg, Calif. 95448.

CAREER: Writer. European Coal and Steel Community, Luxembourg, economist, 1958-59; Stanford Research Institute, Menlo Park, Calif., and Zurich, Switzerland, economist, 1959-62; Electronics International Capital Ltd., Hamilton, Bermuda, executive vice-president, 1962-65; Salik Bank in Basel, Basel, Switzerland, vice-chairman, 1965-69; United California Bank in Basel, Basel, vice-chairman, 1969-70. **Member:** Mystery Writers of America, Authors Guild, Authors League of America. **Awards, honors:** "Edgar" Award from Mystery Writers of America, 1974, for *The Billion Dollar Sure Thing*.

WRITINGS: *Swiss-American Economic Relations*, J.C.B. Mohr, 1958; *Die Europaeische Wirtschaftsgemeinschaft und die Dritt-laender* (title means "The European Economic Community and Third Countries"), J.C.B. Mohr, 1960; *The Billion Dollar Sure Thing* (novel), Scribner, 1973 (published in England as *The Billion Dollar Killing*, Arrow Books, 1974); *The Silver Bears* (novel), Scribner, 1974; *The Crash of '79* (novel), Simon & Schuster, 1976; *The Last Days of America* (novel), Simon & Schuster, 1981; *Paul Erdman's Money Book: An Investors Guide to Economics and Finance*, Random House, 1984. Also