sical department is not performance-oriented. “I took Robert Levin’s chamber-music seminar four times,” Jackiw says. “Some of the music faculty have been very excited about my career, others not. Some gave me extensions, others argued that other students were not missing classes and there was no reason to make an exception for me. There have been some tricky moments, but I have managed to combine the academic work with what I want to do, which is to practice and perform. I am also grateful for the support and interest of the master of Leverett House, [Mallinckrodt professor of physics] Howard Georgi, who is a physicist, like my parents, and also very interested in music.”

“I took my schoolwork on the road with me and faxed or e-mailed my assignments in,” he explains. “My experiences at Roxbury Latin School prepared me for intense academic experiences, and I feel I got a good education here [at Harvard]. Some of it has come from my fellow students, who are motivated and interesting and passionately doing their own thing the way I am doing mine. I would have been immersed entirely in music in a conservatory and not exposed to so many different things, so I am glad I made the decision to come to Harvard—and I was able to do everything I wanted to do musically.”

After graduation, Jackiw moved to New York, where he will pursue musical goals that come from listening to violinists of the past—in particular, Jascha Heifetz, Fritz Kreisler, Arthur Grumiaux, and Nathan Milstein. “They all had strong personalities and always did something personal with the music, but never [distorted] it, [tried] to do something different just for the sake of being different. You hear a record of Heifetz and you know immediately who is playing, but if you follow him with the score it is astonishing how exactly he follows the composer’s indications. There is a delicate balance between conveying what you believe the composer wanted to convey and expressing your own interpretation, your own emotion. You have to be straightforward and sincere, true to the composer’s desires and your own personal stance.”

Richard Dyer, A.M. ’64, wrote about classical music for the Boston Globe for 33 years.

**Off the Shelf**

Recent books with Harvard connections

*Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman’s Skiff,* by Rosemary Mahoney ’83 (Little, Brown, $23.99). “I am not afraid to die; I simply do not want to. Nevertheless, I am also a person who is drawn to doing physically difficult and sometimes even dangerous things. I cannot deny that I like to find myself in sticky situations…” Mahoney’s book is hard to put down both because of the stickiness of a woman rowing the Nile, alone, and because of the evocative beauty of her prose.

*The Americanist,* by Daniel Aaron, Ph.D. ’43, Litt.D. ’07, Thomas professor of English and American literature emeritus (University of Michigan Press, $24.95). This memoir, eloquent and witty, is about both its author and the field he did much to create. For an earlier version of a bit of it, see “The ‘Great Good Place’” (September-October 2001, page 46).

*We’re All Journalists Now: The Transformation of the Press and Reshaping of the Law in the Internet Age,* by Scott Gant, J.D. ’95 (Free Press, $26). Everyone who disseminates information and opinion to the public—your neighborhood blogger, say—should have the same press rights and privileges granted to a staff reporter for the *New York Times,* argues Gant.

*Cousin John: The Story of a Boy and a Small Smart Pig,* by Walter Paine ’49 (Bunker Hill Publishing, $17.95). This is a true and pleasant story for young readers, set in the country in Brookline, Massachusetts, in the 1930s, about a boy who finds his father difficult, nature consoling, and his pig, Cousin John, a pal.

*Bart Giamatti: A Profile,* by Robert P. Moncreiff, LL.B. ’57 (Yale University Press, $35). Social conservative Giamatti went from being the president of Yale in turbulent times to commissioner of baseball during the banishment of Cincinnati Reds manager Pete Rose for gam-bling, a struggle Moncreiff interestingly puts into legal context.

*Havana: Autobiography of a City,* by Alfredo José Estrada ’80 (Palgrave Macmillan, $24.95). Novelist and editor Estrada tells vividly the history of his hometown, from Columbus to Castro.

*The Occupation of Iraq: Winning the War, Losing the Peace,* by Ali A. Allawi, M.B.A. ’71 (Yale University Press, $28). “Magisterial,” according to Roger Owen, Meyer professor of Middle East history, “It is authoritative, incisive, dispassionate, devastating in its important judgments, and wholly original.” Allawi is senior adviser to the prime minister of Iraq.

*Miniature Books: 4,000 Years of Tiny Treasures,* by Anne C. Bromer and Julian Moncreiff, LL.B. ’57 (Yale University Press, $35). This is senior adviser to the primeminister of Iraq.


**MONTAGE**


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