Montage

Picturing Frederick Douglass, by John Stauffer, professor of English and of African and African American studies, Zoe Trodd, Ph.D. ’09, and Celeste-Marie Bernier (Liveright, $49.95). An “illustrated biography” built around a sumptuous catalog focused on the 160 poses of the man the subtitle calls “the nineteenth century’s most photographed American,” from c. 1841 to a posthumous image of 1895. A fascinating exploration of early photography, as Douglass tried expressions and gestures from “defiant citizen” to “elder statesman,” and wrote about the evolving medium.

Exposed: Desire and Disobedience in the Digital Age, by Bernard E. Harcourt, J.D. ’89, Ph.D. ’00, S.J.D. ’05 (Harvard, $35). A Columbia law professor brings to light just how “exposed” everyone is in the Internet era, and issues a call for “digital resistance” and for “courage and ethical choice…to do everything we can to resist the excesses of our expository society.”

Witches of America, by Alex Mar ’98 (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, $26). The author (Alexandra Marolachakis in her Crimson phase), a writer and filmmaker, proceeded from one of the latter proj-

How the Internet Became Commercial, by Shane Greenstein, MBA Class of 1957 professor of business administration (Princeton, $35).

How We Live Now, by Bella DePaulo, Ph.D. ’79 (Atria/Simon & Schuster, $26). Tract houses there may be, but a social psychologist documents the increasingly nonnuclear families living within, and explores multigenerational households, housemates, cohousing, singledom, and more.

The Love of God, by Jon D. Levenson, List professor of Jewish studies (Princeton, $34.95).
ter more. For all their emphasis on the “design process” that is supposed to undergird the refashioning of universities, Crow and Dabars remain frustratingly silent on how to do so. The chapter on ASU during Crow’s tenure lists examples of departments joined in thematic and multidisciplinary entities, but offers little insight about either the results or other paths toward interfaculty collaboration. The larger question posed by “disruptive innovation” theorists Clayton M. Christensen and Michael B. Horn (see “Colleges in Crisis,” July-August 2011, page 40)—whether universities will be forced to separate their research, teaching, and civic-preparedness functions—is never addressed head-on. Should ASU be a research university, or is remaining so a legacy issue too politically costly to raise with faculty members and the public officials who control the purse strings? Finally, Designing the New American University simply has too little to say about teaching, which is at the core of ASU’s self-identified mandate to become “an adaptive knowledge enterprise in real time and at scale”—especially given its aggressive, extensive use of technologically based teaching, and its ambition to enroll 100,000 “online and distance-education degree-seeking students.”

The potential of online education itself is the subject of The End of College (Riverhead Books, $27.95), a journalistic tour of the evolving technology of teaching by Kevin Carey of the New America Foundation, a frequent contributor to The New York Times and other media. Carey’s title may suggest a fatal, and unwanted, disassembling of higher education, à la Christensen—and he is indeed critical of the high cost and poor quality of much undergraduate instruction. But his subtitle points in the more positive, or utopian, direction of “Creating the Future of Learning and the University of Everywhere.” In his UoE, unanchored from, say, desert Arizona, “education resources that have been scarce and expen-

$29.95). A close interpretation of the core notion of love of God in Judaism’s texts, extending from the legal notion of disparity of power between God and mortals, to personal gratitude for God’s gifts, to the erotic symbolism inherent in this foundational relationship.

This Gulf of Fire, by Mark Molesky, Ph.D. ’00 (Knopf, $35). A young historian, now at Seton Hall, comprehensively reconstructs the earthquake, tsunami, and fire that destroyed Lisbon in 1755—an “apocalypse in the age of science and reason” (as the subtitle puts it) every bit as shattering and consequential in its era as mankind’s more recent experiences in Aceh, Fukushima, and elsewhere.

Houses for a New World: Builders and Buyers in American Suburbs, 1945-1965, by Barbara Miller Lane, Ph.D. ’62 (Princeton, $49.95). The Bryn Mawr historian emerita examines the 20 years during which homebuyers and merchant builders transformed house types, suburban tracts, and their wider communities—to the tune of 13 million ranches, split-levels, etc., accommodating more than one-fifth of the population by the 1970 census.

Ametora: How Japan Saved American Style, by W. David Marx ’01 (Basic Books, $26.99). A cultural history touching on such revealing moments as how rebellious Japanese youths adopted the classical American traditional (ametora) style. Cameras and television sets may go out of fashion, but Japanese fashion icons like Uniqlo have come to dominate the world, in part by sustaining made-in-America statements about clothing.

The Journey of “A Good Type,” by David Odo (Peabody Museum/Harvard, $45). In an entirely different vein, Odo—a Harvard Art Museums curator and anthropologist lecturer—examines the Peabody’s holdings of nineteenth-century photographs of Japan. His arguments about museum collections and anthropology aside, casual viewers will be struck by the preindustrial views of Mount Fuji, the samurai armor and imperial court costumes, chair-bearing porters, and pensive girls—as if from a different, yet familiar, universe.

Database of Dreams: The Lost Quest to Catalog Humanity, by Rebecca Lemos, associate professor of the history of science (Yale, $35). A young historian of social science whose teaching examines such subjects as brainwashing and coercive interrogation—examines a pioneering 1950s Harvard-anchored attempt to catalog dreams and other “soft” human experiences, anticipating contemporary databases and “big data” research.

The Secret of Our Success, by Joseph Henrich, professor of human evolution-