

BookNotes

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ECKERD AUTHORS: Professor Davina Lopez

How we might engage the Apostle Paul's life and work, particularly in light of systemic injustices, has been a persistent concern in biblical scholarship. Such concern for human suffering, and curiosity about deployments of Paul as an authority to support both oppression and liberation, provided Davina Lopez with an impetus for her recent book *Apostle to the Conquered: Reimagining Paul's Mission* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2008; paperback 2010).

A methodological work, *Apostle to the Conquered* explores the premise that much that is attributed to Paul in order to legitimate unjust social relations along the lines of race and



ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation, and religious affinity is more appropriately located as our responsibility. In other words, readers blame ancient Paul for modern problems. Davina proposes a realignment of available sources, in the process reimagining Paul's mission in its Roman imperial context as one devoted to fostering solidarity and hope for a different world among the "gentiles" as the "conquered," or those most disenfranchised by imperial hierarchies. Revisiting the identity of the "gentiles" can raise significant questions about ancient and modern uses of Paul and the power relationships embedded therein. Davina's work suggests that, should we refuse to blame Paul, then we might be open to different understandings of his letters—and biblical literature more

broadly—as documents that help us think about what it means, and could mean, to be human.

Davina is a biblical scholar who believes that what we do with the Bible matters to broad audiences. Her next book, which she is co-authoring with her colleague Todd Penner at Austin College, aims to take seriously the public ethical responsibilities of teaching and research in biblical studies. Entitled *De-Introducing the New Testament*, this project traces the modern development of the field and situates biblical studies as that which fronts basic questions of humanistic inquiry—who we are, how we got here, and what we might do together—as central to the discipline. A primary objective of *De-Introducing the New Testament* is to become a resource for those interested in teaching and learning in undergraduate liberal arts settings, as the authors are committed to the important role that scholars and teachers of biblical literature can play toward fostering biblical and religious literacy and understanding in today's world.

Davina has served Eckerd College as an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies since 2006. Alongside her interests in biblical and ancient studies, as well as methodological approaches to the study of religion, she teaches courses in women's and gender studies and general education. She works with the Center for Spiritual Life's Faculty Fellows and currently coordinates the Honors Program with Bill Felice. In addition to her love of the liberal arts, she enjoys cooking and interacting with birds of all kinds. Davina invites readers of Booknotes to stop in and see her in the Letters Collegium sometime!



ECKERD COLLEGE

www.eckerd.edu/library/friends.php

OUR BIRD ETCHINGS—by Christine Eastman

In May of 2005, the Friends of the Library Board purchased a set of 20 hand-colored bird etchings by Tampa artist John Costin. Four of these lovely life-size etchings can be seen hanging in the Library. Our new showcase frame will allow us to rotate the etchings so that each can be displayed in turn. Costin, born in Detroit, received his BA in Fine Arts from USF. His studio is on N. 36th St. in Ybor City. Reproduction 8X10 lithographs of his bird etchings can be purchased for \$15. See Costingraphics@yahoo.com.

He strives to capture the rich and diverse bird life of Florida's many large birds to reveal their unique traits in their habitat. His Intaglio technique learned at USF starts with a copper plate where the image is etched by hand over 6-8 weeks. Prints on rag paper are then hand painted with oils for rich color quality and subtle nuance of detail. He has won many arts festival awards. His works hang in Tampa Museum of Art, Polk Museum of Art, and in offices of IBM, General Motors, Bank of America, the State Library of Florida, and many other locations. We depict here two of our bird etchings:



“Roseate Spoonbill”: Called “Flame Bird” for its coral pink coloration, it has a unique spatula-shaped beak used preying on crustaceans, small fishes, and aquatic insects in tidal pools. It often feeds with other ibis, egrets, and herons. All these are commonly seen on the Eckerd campus and at Isla del Sol.



“Limpkin”: Its name is derived from its jerky, halting gait. It feeds on apple snails in creeks and river edges, using its sensitive beak to locate and pry open the shells of mollusks, or scooting through thick vegetation for frogs and worms. Their distinctive call KUR-R-EE-OW evoked the name of Mourning Widow or Crying Bird.

CHAIR'S CORNER by Shari Watson-Wardrum

My third year as chairman of the Friends of the Library Board has come to an end, and I am now rotating off the board. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the board members for being so responsive and helpful these past years, but I especially wish to thank all those who like me will be going off the board. My special thanks goes to Margarita and Tom Laughlin, who served diligently as secretaries for two of those years; to Maxine Terry, who served efficiently as secretary for this past year; to Marshall Rousseau, who did many things to bring art to the library; to

Jodie DiMaria who helped us contact our alumni; to Eddy Burns who worked tirelessly and creatively to present Booknotes; and to Chris Eastman who entertained us with lovely luncheons and special events in addition to serving as chairman of the nominating committee for the past three years.

I enjoyed my time on the board immensely and will miss working with such a fine group of people.

I thank the nominating committee for giving me this opportunity.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT by Jamie Gill

The April Friends of the Library Board meeting signals the end of one term and the beginning of another. With regret we say goodbye to many long-term Board Members. I speak for everyone when I say how much we appreciate all the time and effort that these friends have given to the Friends of the Library group. Leaving us are: Shari Watson Wardrum, our chairperson; Margarita and Thomas Laughlin; Christine Eastman; Marshall Rousseau; Maxine Terry; Jodie DiMaria; and Eddy Burns. These individuals have planned the lovely dinners, ably filled roles as officers, and worked on the BookNotes newsletter. We thank them all for their hard work.

We are fortunate to have as our new officers: Eileen Deegan (chair), Sandra Ripberger (vice-chair), and Jane Beam (secretary). Our continuing board mem-

bers are: Patricia Brown, Lloyd Conover, Signe and Tom Oberhofer, Bill Parsons, Louise Chapin, Jane McBride, and Betty Shamas.

Courtesy of the Friends of the Library group, the library will soon display two new pieces of art. Two additional John Costin bird prints have been framed and will be hung in the library this summer. The new frames are made so that we can switch out the prints periodically, allowing us to display more of this beautiful print collection. The initial pairing of prints will be of the "Anhinga" and of the "Reddish Heron." A new display case purchased by the Friends of the Library will allow us to exhibit materials currently held in Special Collections and housed in the Friends of the Library Room. Please come and see these new additions to the library.

BookNotes Editorial Staff: Eddy Burns, Gary Bogart, Sandra Ripberger

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