

best. It was penned by Professor Jerry Stern of the English department at Florida State University in Tallahassee. It was originally aired on NPR, and Professor Stern titled it *Booklove*:

"I have just come from an exhibition that told me books will be replaced by electronic libraries, talking videos, interactive computers, cd-roms with thousands of volumes, gigabytes of memory dancing on pixillated screens at which we will blearily stare into eternity.

And so, in the face of the future, I must sing the song of the book, nothing more voluptuous do I know than sitting with bright picture, fat upon my lap, and turning glossy pages of giraffes and Gauguins, penguins and pyramids. I love wide atlases delineating the rise and fall of empires, the trade routes from Kashgar to Samarkand. I love heavy dictionaries, their tiny pictures, complicated columns, minute definitions of incarnative and lanitary, hagboat and fopdoodle.

I love the texture of pages, the high gloss slickness of magazines as slippery as oiled eels, the soft nubble of old books, delicate india paper, so thin my hands tremble trying to turn the fluttering dry leaves, and the yellow cheap, coarse paper of mystery novels so gripping that I don't care that the plane circles Atlanta forever, because it is a full moon and I am stalking in the Arizona desert a malevolent shape-shifter.

I love the feel of ink on the paper, the shiny varnishes, the silky lacquers, the satiny mattes.

I love the press of letter in thick paper, the roughness

sizzles my fingers with centuries of craft embedded in pulped old rags, my hands caress the leather of old bindings crumbling like ancient gentlemen.

The books I hold for their heft, to riff their pages, to smell their smoky dustiness, the rise of time in my nostrils.

I love bookstores, a perfect madness of opportunity, a lavish feast eaten by walking up aisles, and as fast as my hand reaches out, I reveal books' intimate innards, a doleful engraving of Charlotte Corday who murdered Marat, a drawing of the 1914 T-head Stutz Bearcat whose owners shouted at rivals, "there never was a car worse than the Mercer."

I sing these pleasures of white paper and black ink, of the small jab of the hard cover corner at the edge of my diaphragm, of the look of the type, of the flip of a page, the sinful abandon of the turned down corner, the reckless possessiveness of my marginal scrawl, the cover picture - as much a part of the book as the contents itself, like Holden Caulfield his red cap turned backwards, staring away from us, at what we all thought we should become.

And I also love those great fat bibles evangelists wave like otter pelts, the long graying sets of unreadable authors, the tall books of babyhood enthusiastically crayoned, the embossed covers of adolescence, the tiny poetry anthologies you could slip in your pocket, and the yellowing cookbooks of recipes for glance blanche dupont and Argentine mocha toast, their stains and spots souvenirs of long evenings full of love and argument, and the talk, like as not of books, books, books." 🌱

The Superintendent's Library



Books For Christmas

By Monroe S. Miller

Face it - you are soon going to have to give up a list of things you'd like to have for Christmas - a new shotgun, a new set of golf clubs or maybe a flashy boat. How about a few books for either your office or home library? Here are two fairly recent releases you for sure will want.

GOLF COURSE DESIGN by Geoffrey Cornish and Robert Muir Graves. Published by John Wiley and Sons, Inc. 1998.

It is impossible to condense in a few sentences the impression I was left with after reading this nearly 500 page magnum opus on golf course design, written by two paragons among golf course architects. This book deserves a place on the bookshelf next to Dr. Michael Hurdzan's *Golf Course Architecture*. It is a colossal work and covers all aspects of course design and construction (and reconstruction), from start to finish. It is extremely well illustrated - sketches, architectural drawings and photographs. It is also well tabulated, a great way to help organize a lot of information.

This book needed to be written, for those of us in the field and for students in the classrooms around the country wherever landscape architecture is taught. Cornish and

Graves have proven, from the GCSAA seminar classrooms to those at Harvard University, none were better suited to write it.

It is in bookstores now; I found it in Border's Bookshop in the Architecture section. I give it an unqualified recommendation!

PRACTICAL GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE: The Magic of Greenkeeping by Gordon Witteveen and Michael Bavier. Published by Ann Arbor Press. 1998.

This is a fun book that is chocked full of good, common sense information that only two veteran golf course superintendents like Mike Bavier and Gordon Witteveen could have written. Mike attended the Symposium in Milwaukee and was autographing copies of the book for people.

The book has chapters discussing everyday golf course problems like pins and markers, cart paths and traffic control, and even the clubhouse grounds. You won't find these important (albeit mundane) topics discussed anywhere else.

It occurs to me that like *Golf Course Design* this book needed to be written. They will sell a lot of copies; be sure to get one. And I know they will sign it for you in Orlando! 🌱