



**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF  
PEACE CORPS WRITERS' BOOKS  
IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

**PEACE CORPS 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2011**



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PEACE CORPS WRITERS' BOOKS  
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**REVISED AND UPDATED  
NOVEMBER 2015**

Rex A. Hudson, Federal Research Division

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This bibliography owes its existence to an exchange of letters between Rep. John Garamendi (Ethiopia, 1966–68) and Dr. James Billington, who served as the 13<sup>th</sup> the Librarian of Congress (September 1987–September 2015). In his letter of December 17, 2010 [see <http://peacecorpsworldwide.org/pc-writers/files/2011/01/letter.pdf>], the Honorable Rep. Garamendi asked Dr. Billington to mark the special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Peace Corps on September 22, 2011, “by establishing a collection of books about the Peace Corps experience written by former Peace Corps Volunteers and Peace Corps staff.” In response, Dr. Billington offered to develop “a bibliography of books and creative works by former volunteers that could be made available through the Library’s Web site.”

The bibliographer is grateful to the following Library of Congress staffers (listed alphabetically):

- Brynda Joyce Harris, Congressional Relations Office, for conducting liaison with Congress;
- William E. Kellum, Office of Special Initiatives (OSI), for coordinating the user-friendly Web-site version of the bibliography;
- Cindy E. Moore, Office of the Librarian’s Chief of Staff, for creating the cover artwork and preparing the page layout for the printed version using Adobe’s InDesign software; and
- Sabrina C. Thomas, Program Planning Specialist, Library Services, for supporting and coordinating the project.

In addition, Elizabeth Jenkins-Joffe, a retired Library recommending officer and a returned Peace Corps volunteer (Colombia, 1963–65), recommended a collection of books sent by Peace Corps writers to the office of Rep. Garamendi in 2011 for the purpose of adding them to the LC collections. This bibliography cites many of those donated books.

The bibliographer acknowledges “The Bibliography of Books by Peace Corps Writers” (<http://www.peacecorpswriters.org/pages/depts/resources/bibliog/bib.html>). Edited and published by Marian Haley Beil, PeaceCorpsWriters.org is an associate of Amazon.com. The bibliographer relied on PeaceCorpsWriters.org as an authoritative guide for identifying most returned Peace Corps authors. However, he used the Library of Congress Catalog as the source of all bibliographic metadata. The bibliographer also acknowledges the publishers of the cited books for most of the book descriptions quoted in the annotations.

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## PREFACE

This is a selected bibliography of authors with Peace Corps service—primarily returned volunteers but a few who served only as staff members or spouses. This revised and updated edition focuses on works of fiction or nonfiction related to either “the Peace Corps experience” or the contemporary developing world in general. Thus, it does not include previously cited books on topics unrelated to the Peace Corps experience, such as war and terrorism or countries such as Cuba and North Korea. The cited books are available in the Library of Congress collections, which include more than 825 volumes related to the Peace Corps in general. Many other books on more general topics can be found in the more comprehensive online resources of Peace Corps Worldwide at <http://peacecorpsworldwide.org/> or in “The Bibliography of Books by Peace Corps Writers” at <http://www.peacecorpswriters.org/pages/depts/resources/bibliog/bib.html>.

Whatever the subject, the books cited herein are representative of the creativity, scholarship, and knowledge of the developing world of authors or editors with Peace Corps service. As such, the bibliography attests to the formative influence that Peace Corps service had on the authors. The cited books may help to bridge the cultural knowledge gap with the developing world.

The citations are listed alphabetically and in accordance with the *Chicago Manual of Style* (16th ed.). Country and years of Peace Corps service in parentheses follow the initial reference to an author. The sources for the Peace Corps service information are the “Bibliography of Books by Peace Corps Writers” of PeaceCorpswriters.org, and the National Peace Corps Association’s *Directory of the Peace Corps Community* (2006). Each book cited also has a Library of Congress Control Number (LCCN) Permalink, which takes the reader to the Library’s complete bibliographic metadata for the book. A brief annotation, usually provided by the publisher, follows the citation. This bibliography does not reflect any official endorsement or policy position by the Library of Congress or the U.S. government in general.

“We are torchbearers of a vital tradition—that of shedding light in the mythical heart of darkness.”

—Novelist Bob Shacochis (Eastern Caribbean, 1975–76)<sup>1</sup>

Adams, Jerome R. (**Colombia, 1963–65**). *Liberators, Patriots, and Leaders of Latin America: 32 Biographies*, 2nd ed. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Co., Publishers, 2010. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2009049834>

Publisher’s description: “This book features biographies of 32 of the most notable figures in Latin American history. To the 23 individuals from the first edition, consisting mostly of revolutionary, political, and military figures of the past, are added nine new biographies of contemporary Latin American presidents, providing an updated view of the region’s leadership. Several patterns run through the individual biographies. The concept of native identity is an important aspect in the stories of Malinche, Juarez, Sandino, and Zapata—profoundly affecting the politics of modern Brazil, Mexico, and Nicaragua. One also sees a continuing compulsion to rebel against overwhelming odds in the cases of Manuela Saenz, Che Guevara and Daniel Ortega.”

Albritton, Jane, ed. (**India, 1967–69**). *Even the Smallest Crab Has Teeth: 50 Years Of Amazing Peace Corps Stories: Volume Four, Asia & The Pacific*. Palo Alto, California: Travelers’ Tales, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2011033531>

❖ Jane Albritton, Peace Corps Collection Award, September 2012

Publisher’s description: “From land-locked Afghanistan to the smallest of islands in the far reaches of the Pacific Ocean, stories by Peace Corps Volunteers from this region come from (mostly) Hindu India—1,269,210 square miles worth of democracy patched together from princely states—Confucian Korea, Muslim Indonesia and Buddhist Thailand. Imagine delivering a baby—with the help of the handy Peace Corps first aid kit—on a rust bucket of a passenger ship in the Pacific or practicing agriculture with armed Pathan farmers in the Pashtun region of Pakistan. How about trekking into the far reaches of Afghanistan to inoculate women and children for small pox, or returning 25 years later to your school in India to find that, yes, your students do remember you? These stories say. ‘I Was There.’”

Alter, Bernie (**India, 1967–69**), and Pat Alter (**Paraguay, 1970–72**), eds. Jane Albritton, series ed. *Gather the Fruit One by One: 50 Years of Amazing Peace Corps Stories*, 1st ed. Palo Alto, California: Solas House/Travelers’ Tales, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2011005702>

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<sup>1</sup> As quoted in part by John Coyne, “Peace Corps Prose: Ours Alone to Make,” December 16, 2010, *Peacecorpsworldwide.org*, <http://peacecorpsworldwide.org/pc-writers/2010/12/16/why-peace-corps-writers/>.

Publisher's summary: An anthology of stories about the work of Peace Corps volunteers in Latin America, ranging "from overland journeys to the Amazon Basin, into a village in Honduras terrorized by insurgent forces, and to the ball fields of Ecuador for an unusual game of *béisbol*."

Armstrong, Sara (**Uganda, 1966–68**). *The Shattered Pearl: An Odyssey of Service, Savagery and Survival*. Victoria, B.C.: Trafford, 2001. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2004463302>

Publisher's description: "*The Shattered Pearl* is an account of the ten years the author spent in Uganda. It begins with an inside look at Peace Corps training in 1966 against the backdrop of the civil rights movement. Sara finds herself the only black Peace Corps trainee in a group of 150. Once in Uganda, Sara teaches science and math and travels around East Africa with her Peace Corps friends observing the natural beauty and abundant wildlife in the game parks. They even attempt to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. In April 1968, Sara marries a Ugandan, James Wanambwa; resigns from the Peace Corps and begins a new life. Their son Edward is born in 1970. James is trying to start a dairy farm and Sara is still teaching. On January 25, 1971, Idi Amin Dada overthrows the government of Milton Obote and plunges Uganda into a cycle of terror and bloodshed. Even the birth of their daughter, Lillian, in 1972 only temporarily distracts Sara and James from the tragedy that is unfolding. During the next five years, the situation worsens. Sara moves about the country freely, seeing many things that are not reported in the press. She lives as an ordinary Ugandan but sees the events from an American viewpoint, including the Israeli raid on Entebbe Airport. Finally, in 1977, Sara and James decide that they must leave Uganda if they are to retain their sanity and give their children a chance for a normal life. They go through the harrowing process of getting permission to leave the country, procuring travel documents, and finally are forced to leave overland when the airport becomes too dangerous to use. They arrive safely in the USA, tired, relieved and saddened to have witnessed the shattering of the Pearl of Africa."

Bailur, Savita, and Helen Grant, eds. [Peace Corps service not known]. *Volunteer Tales: Experiences of Working Abroad*. Cambridge: Lutterworth Press, 2003. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2008460277>

Publisher's description: "A great number of people consider volunteering at some point in their life and this is a nuts and bolts guide to volunteering full of honest accounts from the people who know. These are true-life accounts from people of all walks of life and ages, who decided to leave their 'normal' lives behind to take up the volunteer challenge overseas. Their stories include tales of travel and adventure, tales of hardship, tales of kindness, frustration and humor. Reading them, you too will experience culture shock in Ghana, the fear of war in Sierra Leone, helplessness in the face of poverty in Cambodia, fishing for piranha in Suriname, the struggles of an outsider in China and much, much more. They will open your eyes to new worlds and may even change your outlook in the ways they changed the volunteers. *Volunteer Tales* will appeal to those who have already

volunteered abroad or are considering it. It can be comforting and interesting to know that others have gone through similar experiences and, in the latter case, extremely useful to know what it would be like. Each contribution has something different to offer and is particularly fascinating for anyone wanting to know the reality of a country they may intend to visit. However, readers with no interest in becoming a volunteer at all will also enjoy these stories. They provide entertaining, humorous reading brimming with memories from life on the road. The collection contains eight short essays by the following RPCVs: Valerie Broadwell (**Morocco, 1981–83**), Kenneth Carano (**Suriname, 1998–2000**), George Chinnery (**Romania, 1998–2000**), Roderick Jones (**Nicaragua, 1992–96**), Paul Karrer (**Western Samoa, 1978–80**), Kathleen M. Moore (**Ethiopia, 1965–67**), Gina Peretto (**Ethiopia, 1997–99**), and Susan Rosenfeld (**Senegal, 1977–81**).”

Banerjee, Dillon (**Cameroon, 1994–96**). *The Insider’s Guide to the Peace Corps: What to Know before You Go*, 2nd ed. Berkeley, California: Ten Speed Press, 2009. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2008043720>

Publisher’s description: “In this candid guide, experienced Peace Corps volunteers give the complete lowdown on all anyone needs to know before applying and volunteering, examining everything from the highly competitive application process to living like a local to Peace Corps rules and policy. The only handbook of its kind, this pragmatic manual provides answers that cannot be found anywhere else. Containing the latest information and resources on Peace Corps programs, this is an essential reference for anyone contemplating the ‘toughest job you’ll ever love.’”

Barlow, Aaron (**Togo, 1988–90**). *Hard as Kerosene*, 1st Peace Corps Writers edition. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, 2013. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2013931592>

Publisher’s description: “Whose war is it when they are shooting at you? Burkina Faso and Mali in the 1980s, two countries in an uneasy relationship marked by spasms of violence, are the backdrop for this tale of descent and, possibly, redemption. An American follows his Peace Corps girlfriend to West Africa but finds something wildly different from what he had expected, ending up staying for four years amid the chaos of a changing continent. Starting in the coastal nation of Togo before moving up into the Sahel and into the towns at the edge of the Sahara itself, this tale takes Paul Cassamude through loss and learning to the point of leaving, showing the dangers of expatriate life in third-world countries as well as possibilities found there for personal growth.”

———, ed. *One Hand Does Not Catch a Buffalo: 50 Years of Amazing Peace Corps Stories: volume one, Africa*. Jane Albritton (**India, 1967–69**), Series ed. 1st ed. Palo Alto, California: Travelers’ Tales, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010054339>

❖ Silver Award in the Travel Division, 2011 Independent Publisher Book Awards

Summary: The first of a series of four anthologies celebrating and recording Peace Corps volunteers' accomplishments and anecdotes, this one is devoted to volunteers in Africa.

Barnett, Stephen (**Sierra Leone, 1976–78**). *The Road to Makokota: A Novel*. San Francisco: MacAdam/Cage, 2003. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2003014113>

Publisher's description: "*The Road to Makokota* is set in a war-torn former British colony in present-day West Africa. Craig Allan Hammond, a black American, returns to Africa to find his former love, Oussumatu Turay, and her son—his son—Abu. Sixteen years earlier, Hammond left Oussu and Abu in Makokota after completing a road-building project; she was nineteen when he left, and his son only a few weeks old. He has not seen them since. Now the country is decimated by a civil war. Wracked by guilt and fear, Hammond needs to find mother and son and bring them out of the killing zone to safety—in order to save himself. Hammond scours refugee camps in the French-speaking country across the border from Makokota. Having no success, he journeys with a Polish nurse deep into the ravaged land and its violent and dismal reality. Before his journey is over, he will learn that you can't find anything until you've lost everything."

Begin, Lora Parisien (**Tunisia, 1989–91**). *Memoir: The Measure of a Dream: A Peace Corps Story*, 1st Peace Corps Writers ed. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, 2012. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2012937102>

Publisher's description: "West meets Middle East in this engaging story of a young American woman who follows her dream of joining the Peace Corps and is sent to live and work in a Muslim country for two years. Her Peace Corps 'dream' never included random marriage proposals, or World Heritage Sites caving in on her, or run-ins with the CIA, or war. This culture shockingly fascinating story will take readers on a very personal journey to a land—to a people—few Americans know."

Bissell, Tom (**Uzbekistan, 1996–97**). *Chasing the Sea: Being a Narrative of a Journey through Uzbekistan, including Descriptions of Life Therein, Culminating with an Arrival at the Aral Sea, the World's Worst Man-made Ecological Catastrophe, in one Volume*, 1st ed. New York: Pantheon Books, 2003. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2003042032>

❖ Peace Corps Writers Best Travel Writing Award winner, 2004

Publisher's description: "In 1960, the Aral Sea was the size of Lake Michigan: a huge body of water in the deserts of Central Asia. By 1996, when Tom Bissell arrived in Uzbekistan as a naïve Peace Corps volunteer, disastrous Soviet irrigation policies had shrunk the sea to a third its size. Bissell lasted only a few months before complications forced him to return home, but he had already become obsessed with this beautiful, brutal land. Five years later, Bissell convinces a magazine to send him to Central Asia to investigate the Aral Sea's destruction. There, he joins forces with a high-spirited young Uzbek named Rustam, and together they make their often-wild way through the ancient cities—Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara—of this fascinating but often misunderstood part

of the world. Slipping more than once through the clutches of the Uzbek police, who suspect them of crimes ranging from Christian evangelism to heroin smuggling, the two young men develop an unlikely friendship as they journey to the shores of the devastated sea. ... Sometimes hilarious, sometimes powerfully sobering, *Chasing the Sea* is a gripping portrait of an unfamiliar land and the debut of a gifted young writer.”

Black, Bonnie Lee (**Gabon, 1996–98**). *Somewhere Child*. New York: Viking Press, 1981.  
Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/81065273>

Publisher’s biographical note: “Casting caution to the wind at the age of fifty, New York caterer and food writer Bonnie Lee Black decided to close her catering business and join the Peace Corps. Posted to the tiny town of Lastoursville in the thickly rain-forested interior of Gabon, Central Africa, Bonnie taught health, nutrition, and cooking, in French, primarily to local African women and children.”

———. *How to Cook a Crocodile: A Memoir with Recipes*, 1st Peace Corp Writers ed. Oakland, California: Peace Corp Writers, 2010. Library of Congress Permalink:  
<http://lccn.loc.gov/2010480709>

Publisher’s biographical note: “In the two years she served in Gabon, Bonnie developed her own healthy recipe for a purposeful life, made in equal measures of good food, safe shelter, meaningful work, and unexpected love. Like M.F.K. Fisher's classic, World War II-era book, *How to Cook a Wolf*, Bonnie’s true stories comprise a lively, literary, present-day survival guide.”

Borg, Parker W., Maureen J. Carroll, Patricia MacDermot Kasdan, and Stephen W. Wells, eds. (**all Philippines, 1961–63**). *Answering Kennedy’s Call: Pioneering the Peace Corps in the Philippines*. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010943323>

Publisher’s description: “Fifty years after President Kennedy signed the 1961 Executive Order creating the Peace Corps, nearly 100 former volunteers who joined the new organization in the first year for service in the Philippines recall why they joined, what they experienced, and how this service in the Philippines affected their lives. ... The Peace Corps program in the Philippines was the first in Asia. Three factors set it apart from others during the early years of the Peace Corps’ existence. First, it was the largest program in the world, absorbing 25 per cent of all volunteers at the beginning. Second, all volunteers in the first years were assigned to be “teacher’s aides,” a position that was never clearly defined and that the Country Director later admitted was a “non-job.” And third, the Philippine program occurred in a nation that only fifteen years earlier had become independent from the United States.... This history gave the Philippine program a distinctly different political and social dynamic from what was the case in all of the other early Peace Corps countries.... The stories illustrate varying degrees of integration into the local culture, different ways of coping with the frustrations of their “non-job,” and what many learned as they came to terms with themselves living far from familiar comforts on a salary of about \$55 per month. Above all the stories tell of the

determination and spirit of these early volunteers in establishing a strong basis for one of the important first Peace Corps programs.”

Bourque, Peter (**Ivory Coast, 1973–75**). *Tarnished Ivory: Reflections on Peace Corps and Beyond*. Bloomington, Indiana: Xlibris, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010480717>

Publisher’s description: “As a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ivory Coast (1973-75) and a Peace Corps trainer in Mali (1986), Peter Bourque kept a personal journal and wrote over 55 letters back to the States. In them, he described the satisfactions and frustrations of living, working and traveling in West Africa as well as his reactions to the people he encountered—Ivorian, French, Malian, and American. Decades later, he reflects and elaborates on these writings with current-day observations and candid essays about idealism, world poverty, the Peace Corps, the French, and losing his religion.”

Brazaitis, Mark (**Guatemala, 1991–93**). *The River of Lost Voices: Stories from Guatemala*. Series: Iowa Short Fiction Award. Iowa City, Iowa: University of Iowa Press, 1998. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/98024437>

❖ Winner of the 1998 Iowa Short Fiction Award

Summary: This is a collection of short stories based on the daily lives of Guatemalans.

———. *Steal My Heart: A Novel*. Van Neste Books, 2000. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/99046825>

❖ Winner of the 2001 Maria Thomas Fiction Award presented by Peace Corps Writers

Subject: This is a tragicomedy set in Guatemala. Carlton James, an American ex-pat pickpocket and swindler, targets tourists visiting Panajachel. As a gringo, he escapes suspicion, at least until a detective-turned-farmer teams up with a local Peace Corps volunteer and solves the case. However, James and his female Indian accomplice resist arrest, with tragic consequences.

Brooks, Earle, and Rhoda Brooks (**Ecuador, 1962–64**). *The Barrios of Manta: A Personal Account of the Peace Corps in Ecuador*. Illustrations by Rhoda Smith Brooks, New York: New American Library, 1965. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/65022670>

Summary: Two older married volunteers “describe their training, experiences, and afterthoughts of two years of community development and teaching for the Peace Corps in a coastal fishing town of Ecuador.”

Brown, J. Larry (**India, 1966–69**). *Peasants Come Last: A Memoir of the Peace Corps at Fifty*, 2nd ed. Sunnyvale, California: LUCITA Publishers, 2012. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2012943755>

❖ Moritz Thomsen Peace Corps Experience Award (Memoir), 2012

Publisher's description: "In the tradition of popular activist scholars like Carl Sagan and Stephen Jay Gould, J. Larry Brown has spent decades linking the findings of science to the realities of human existence. He gives us a candid look at what it means to try to do good things in a harsh world. We are taken to the make-shift huts of refugees driven from their homes by the insane barbarism of the Lord's Resistance Army. We stand with Brown where Livingstone once stood, at Murchison Falls overlooking the powerful Nile filled with hippos and crocodiles. We see the grinding lives of people who eat the same meal every day. But of all the obstacles faced by Brown and his colleagues, none is as nonsensical as the tone-deaf dealings of Washington. We see how the needs of peasants come last when the realities of their lives are no match for the machinations of Washington's rigid routines."

Brown-Waite, Eve (**Ecuador, 1988–89**). *First Comes Love, Then Comes Malaria: How a Peace Corps Poster Boy Won My Heart and a Third-World Adventure Changed My Life*, 1st ed. New York: Broadway Books, 2009. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2008022034>

Publisher's description: "After meeting John, her [Peace Corps] recruiter, Eve embarks on a journey that leads her from New York to Ecuador to Uganda. She is both gung-ho and hesitant about each step, thinking about what she might be leaving behind by leaving the comfort of the United States for a poor town in Ecuador or a part of Uganda that U.S. officials are not even allowed to enter because of the danger. . . . In the process, she sheds light on important social causes and dangerous situations and introduces us to a few of the people who are working to make the world a better place. . . . *First Comes Love, Then Comes Malaria* is a memoir about love, perseverance, sacrifice, hard work, and the fact that a few dedicated people really can make a difference."

Bubriski, Kevin (**Nepal, 1975–79**). *Maobadi: Photographs*, 1st ed. Lalitpur: Himal Books, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2011321639>

Publisher's summary: "Portraits of Maoist activists."

———. *Portrait of Nepal*. Introduction by Arthur Ollman. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1993. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/92015439>

Publisher's description: "Familiar with Nepal from living and working in remote villages there, Bubriski returned in 1984 and produced this in-depth portrait of a people and culture quickly changing in the face of modern intrusions."

Buckler, Michael L. (**Malawi, 2006–08**). *From Microsoft to Malawi*. Lanham, Maryland: Hamilton Books, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2010937529>

Publisher's description: "In this compelling narrative, Michael L. Buckler draws readers into the challenging, yet rewarding world of the Peace Corps. Inspired by his journals, the book recounts his life as a Peace Corps teacher after a heartbreaking divorce and a demanding legal career prompted him to make a change. Assigned to a village school in Malawi, Buckler opens his tiny home to three boys, embarking with them on a journey of cross-cultural discovery, personal sacrifice, and transformative growth. Determined to help his village, Buckler collaborates with community leaders to build a boarding school for girls. As momentum builds, a powerful bureaucrat tries to shut down the project and Buckler becomes discouraged. As he agonizes over whether to leave, the village takes matters into its own hands in a moving display of the persistent, courageous spirit of Malawi."

Carrozzi, Craig J. (**Colombia, 1978–80**). *The Road to El Dorado*. San Francisco: Southern Trails Publishing, 1997. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/97091717>

Subject: This is a fictional story of a Peace Corps volunteer who struggles "to gain the trust of a tough group of juvenile delinquents and the guards and administration of a detention facility in Colombia."

Carter, Jason (**South Africa, 1998–2000**). *Power Lines: Two Years on South Africa's Borders*. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 2002. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2002022370>

❖ Peace Corps Writers Paul Cowan Nonfiction Award winner, 2003

Subject: As a Peace Corps volunteer, Jason Carter, the grandson of former president Jimmy Carter, spent two years with a rural family in a former black homeland near the Swaziland border. *Power Lines* is the author's story of a community's quest to dissolve deep racial barriers.

Carter, Lillian (**India, 1967–69**), and Gloria Carter Spann. *Away from Home: Letters to My Family*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1977. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/77008433>

Subject: At the age of 68, Lillian Carter (1898–1983), the mother of former President Jimmy Carter, joined the Peace Corps and served in India.

Casebolt, Marjorie DeMoss (**Guatemala, 1988–91**). *Margarita: A Guatemalan Peace Corps Experience*, 1st ed. Gig Harbor, Washington: Red Apple Publisher, 2000. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/00131293>

Publisher's description: "In 1988 the author was assigned to serve in the Peace Corps as a nutritionist in a health center in southeastern Guatemala. In her field of home economics and education, she started women's groups, taught public health in local schools, and worked at the health center with Guatemalan medical interns and with a nurse, especially weighing and measuring babies. Since her name Marjorie could not be translated into

Spanish, everyone called her Margarita. In her two years of living and working in the small, poverty-stricken village of Llano Grande, she felt totally accepted because of the wonderful people.”

Cazacu, Lisa Fisher (**Romania, 2002–04**), and Rosemary Colgrove. *Bread, Salt, & Plum Brandy: A True Story of Love and Adventure in a Foreign Land*, 1st ed. San Diego, California: Aventine Press, 2009. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2009924678>

Publisher’s description: “*Bread, Salt & Plum Brandy* is an insightful and eye-opening account of Lisa Fisher Cazacu’s odyssey as a Peace Corps volunteer in post-communist Romania. With humor and pathos, Lisa shares her experiences and her relationship with a charming young lawyer from Bucharest, who experienced first-hand the horrors of Nicolae Ceausescu’s reign of terror. Often humorous, sometimes heartbreaking, this collection of observations and experiences offers a unique insight into the journey of a Peace Corps volunteer, and the indomitable spirit of the Romanian people.”

Chen, Jay, ed. (**Kazakhstan, 2005–08**). Jane Albritton, series ed. (**India, 1967–69**). *A Small Key Opens Big Doors: 50 Years of Amazing Peace Corps Stories: v. 3, The Heart of Eurasia*. “Peace Corps @ 50.” Palo Alto: Travelers’ Tales, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2011026698>

Publisher’s description: “The Cold War officially ended in 1991 and opened a world of fresh opportunities for the Peace Corps. The fact that PCVs [Peace Corps Volunteers] could move seamlessly into a constellation of states that once comprised the USSR [Union of Soviet Socialist Republics] is a testament to the flexibility and durability of the organization. All Peace Corps needs is an invitation. Volunteers are always ready to step up, learn a new language, learn some new skills, and then go to work in unfamiliar lands. Of the 40 stories in this volume, some reach back to early Peace Corps years in Iran and Turkey.”

Chilson, Peter (**Niger, 1985–87**). *Disturbance-Loving Species: A Novella and Stories*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2007004210>

Publisher’s description: “In the tradition of Paul Theroux, Peter Chilson’s fiction debut delivers a fascinating, heart-wrenching view of modern African culture, filtered through the lens of the West. The collection explores the experiences of Americans struggling to cope with life in Africa, and of Africans acclimating to life in the United States. In a novella and four short stories, Chilson uses a phrase borrowed from biology to point out how our “disturbance-loving species” thrives in the most chaotic, seemingly uninhabitable situations. In the opening novella, an idealistic young college graduate teaching in Niger witnesses his colleague’s abduction by soldiers at gunpoint. “American Food,” winner of the Gulf Coast Prize for fiction, finds a West African professor trying to preserve his culinary customs while living in a small Oregon town.”

———. *Riding the Demon: On the Road in West Africa*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1999. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/98023609>

Subject: This nonfiction travel memoir focuses on Niger, a country without railroads or domestic airlines, where the roads are the only lifeline.

Christofferson, Andy (**Tanzania, 2002–04**). *The Peace Corpse: Misadventures in Love and Africa*. Charleston: South Carolina, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010480729>

Publisher's description: "Imagine a white, 22-year-old college kid from Montana volunteering to serve in the Peace Corps with the intention of bringing knowledge and friendship to the developing world. That was me, along with the others who served with me in Tanzania for two years. At least, that was the idea. I have to admit that I failed to fit the stereotype. The "wide-eyed, self-righteous do-gooder serving the noble cause." See, I may very well be the only Peace Corps Volunteer in the history of the organization to sincerely, foolishly, and romantically propose marriage to a local girl, only to have her say no. This is not only funny but cruel, considering that to the majority of Tanzanians, an American kid like me is their golden ticket to a better life. Of course, that wasn't all I did. I taught advanced chemistry at an all-girls school, kayaked my way into Zimbabwe, and learned just how little water a human being can survive on. I also spent a good chunk of time having outdoor adventures around East Africa. In my defense, I did accomplish a few useful things. My time in Peace Corps wasn't a complete waste, so I decided to share my journey. My goal with this book is to give a very raw, straightforward, analytical—but also humorous—picture of both what a typical Peace Corps experience is like, as well as offer some insight into the current conditions of life in East Africa. For kids who are thinking of joining the Peace Corps, laugh and learn. For other readers, just laugh, at me or with me. It sure is better than crying about it."

Ciullo, James A. (**Venezuela, 1969–71**). *Orinoco*. Five Star Publisher, 2007, 1st ed. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2007008154>

Publisher's summary: "Marialena Morales, a young college student, becomes a CIA agent after September 11, 2001, and is assigned to Venezuela, where she happens upon the ambush of two U.S. senators." Unknown adversaries have assassinated one senator and kidnapped the other, who is Joe LaCarta, the novel's protagonist. The plot of this mystery/suspense novel unfolds along Venezuela's mysterious Río Orinoco.

Clark, Andrew F. (**Senegal, 1978–81**), and Lucie Colvin Phillips. *Historical Dictionary of Senegal*, 2nd ed. African Historical Dictionaries, no. 65. Metuchen, New Jersey: Scarecrow Press, 1994. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/93027031>

Publisher's description: "Senegal has traditionally been the meeting place of Islamic and coastal themes in African studies, bringing together Arab, European and various African influences into its rich and fascinating history. The modern Republic of Senegal has attracted attention for its highly visible role on the international stage and its successful democratic system in an ethnically diverse area. Political scientists have focused on the country's integration of African socialism, democracy and Islam while development economists have studied efforts to alleviate the Sahelian drought and desertification. This considerably revised edition provides historical, economic, political, and social data,

maps and information on the organizations, individuals, peoples, traditions and ideas that shaped and continue to mold national and daily life.... The new introduction presents an overview of all regions of Senegal from the earliest times to the present, followed by a detailed chronology of events. An extended review of the scholarly literature in English and French precedes the extremely expanded, comprehensive and updated bibliography.”

Clarke, Thurston (**Tunisia, 1968**). *Searching for Paradise: A Journey among the Last Real Islands*. New York: Ballantine Books, 2001. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2002283351>

Subject: The author recounts his island-hopping around the oceans of the world from Más a Tierra [Isla Juan Fernández] (Daniel Defoe’s inspiration for *Robinson Crusoe*) to Jura in the Hebrides, where George Orwell wrote *1984*.

———. *Equator: A Journey*, 1st ed. New York: Morrow, 1988. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/88005197>

Summary: Following in the footsteps of Mark Twain, the author recounts his travels through the equatorial countries of French Guiana, Brazil, Ecuador, Gabon, Zaire (present-day Democratic Republic of the Congo), Sumatra, Borneo, Christmas Island (Kiritimati), and Abermama.

Clinton, Jerome W. (**Iran, 1962–64**), Donald L. Stilo, and Kamran Talattof. *Modern Persian: Spoken and Written*, 1st ed. 2 v. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1991. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2004115007>

Subject: “Volume I emphasizes speaking and understanding, and Volume 2 focuses on the written language.”

Coburn, Broughton (**Nepal, 1973–75**). *Everest: Mountain without Mercy*. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 1997. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/97010765>

Subject: “The author traces (and photographs) each step of the Mount Everest expedition of David Breashears, the first American to scale Everest twice.”

———. *Nepali Aama: Life Lessons of a Himalayan Woman*. New York: Anchor Books, 1995. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/94023630>

Summary: While living in teaching school in a farming village on the edge of Nepal’s Himalayan Mountains in 1973, Coburn developed a unique friendship with a septuagenarian native widow named Vishnu Maya Gurung. Illustrated with his own photos, *Nepali Aama* is Coburn’s account of his experiences living, working, and traveling with Aama.

———. *The Vast Unknown: America's First Ascent of Everest*. Crown Publishers, 2013. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2012040986>

Publisher's description: "By the author of the New York Times bestselling *Everest: Mountain without Mercy*, this chronicle of the iconic first American expedition to Mt. Everest in May 1963 – published to coincide with the climb's 50th anniversary – combines riveting adventure, a perceptive analysis of its dark and terrifying historical context, and revelations about a secret mission that followed. In the midst of the Cold War, against the backdrop of the Bay of Pigs fiasco, the space race with the Soviet Union, and the quagmire of the Vietnam War, a band of iconoclastic, independent-minded American mountaineers set off for Mt. Everest, aiming to restore America's confidence and optimism. Their objective is to reach the summit while conducting scientific research, but which route will they take? Might the Chinese, in a public relations coup, have reached the top ahead of them? And what about another American team, led by the grandson of a President, that nearly bagged the peak in a bootleg attempt a year earlier? *The Vast Unknown* is, on one level, a harrowing, character-driven account of the climb itself and its legendary team of alternately inspiring, troubled, and tragic climbers who suffered injuries, a near mutiny, and death on the mountain. It is also an examination of the profound sway the expedition had over the American consciousness and sense of identity during a time when the country was floundering. And it is an investigation of the expedition's little-known outcome: the selection of a team to plant a CIA surveillance device on the Himalayan peak of Nanda Devi, to spy into China where Defense Intelligence learned that nuclear missile testing was underway."

Cornett, Meredith W. (**Panama, 1991–93**). *Heart of Palms: My Peace Corps Years in Tranquilla*. Foreword by Florence Reed. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 2014. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2013029836>

Publisher's description: "Heart of Palms is a clear-eyed memoir of Peace Corps service in the rural Panamanian village of Tranquilla through the eyes of a young American woman trained as a community forester. In the storied fifty-year history of the US Peace Corps, Heart of Palms is the first Peace Corps memoir set in Panama, the slender isthmus that connects two continents and two oceans. In her memoir, Meredith Cornett transports readers to the remote village of Tranquilla, where dugout canoes are the mainstay of daily transportation, life and nature are permeated by witchcraft, and a restful night's sleep may be disturbed by a raiding phalanx of army ants. Combating deforestation leads Cornett into an equally fierce battle against her own feelings of fear and isolation. Her journey to Panama becomes a parallel journey into herself. In this way, Heart of Palms is much more than a record of her Peace Corps service; it is also a moving environmental coming-of-age story and nuanced meditation on one village's relationship to nature. When she returns home two years later, Cornett brings with her both skills and experience and a remarkable, newfound sense of confidence and mission."

Cornelius, Gary P. (**South Africa, 2012–13**). *Dancing with Gogos: A Peace Corps Memoir*. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, 2014. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2014945375>

Publisher's description: "*Dancing with Gogos* is the story of one man's effort to make a difference in a collection of Zulu villages in rural South Africa, while fulfilling a life-long dream of serving in the United States Peace Corps. It's the story of learning a new language, of immersing oneself in a different culture, of leaving a love 15,000 kilometers behind, and discovering the unexpected chance to find a new one half-a-world away. It's the story of South Africa's history of apartheid and the effects of that sorry legacy on tens of millions of black Africans who to this day struggle to leave behind 500 years of oppression. Gary Cornelius and 35 other would-be volunteers find themselves in a remote village in Mpumalanga Province as "trainees" for nine weeks of grueling learning before they can be sworn in as volunteers in "CHOP" – Peace Corps South Africa's Community HIV-AIDS Outreach Program – to assume front-line positions in the battle to reduce spread of the disease in a country with one of the highest rates in the world. It's an adventure none will ever forget."

Cumings, Bruce (**South Korea, 1967–69**). *Korea's Place in the Sun: A Modern History*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2005. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2006276040>

Publisher's description: "Bruce Cumings traces the growth of Korea from a string of competing walled city-states to its present dual nationhood. He examines the ways in which Korean culture has been influenced by Japan and China, and the ways in which it has subtly influenced its more powerful neighbors. Cumings also considers the recent changes in the South, where authoritarianism is giving way to democracy, and in the North, which Cumings depicts as a "socialist corporatist" state more like a neo-Confucian kingdom than a Stalinist regime. *Korea's Place in the Sun* does much to help Western readers understand the complexities of Korea's past and present."

Dambach, Charles F. (Chic) (**Colombia, 1967–69**); introduction by Congressman John Garamendi (**Ethiopia, 1966–68**); foreword by Peter Yarrow. *Exhaust the Limits: The Life and Times of a Global Peacebuilder*. Baltimore, Maryland: Apprentice House, 2010. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010022705>

Publisher's description: "Inspired by the leaders, causes, and music of his youth, Chic Dambach set out to change the world. This is the fascinating life story of a '60s antiwar and free speech leader who remained true to his values and helped build a more peaceful world. Along the way, he witnessed the torture of a black football teammate, he led a strike for his Peace Corps training group, his best friend and mentor was murdered, he donated a kidney to save his son's life, faced financial ruin, helped end two major wars in Africa, and created the first Global Symposium of Peaceful Nations. *Exhaust the Limits* is a compelling adventure story and road map for idealists young and old."

Davis, Matthew (**Mongolia, 2000–02**). *When Things Get Dark: A Mongolian Winter's Tale*, 1st ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2010. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2009039232>

Publisher's description: "At 23, Matt Davis moved to a remote Mongolian town to teach English. What he found when he arrived was a town—and a country—undergoing

wholesale change from a traditional, countryside existence to a more urban, modern identity. *When Things Get Dark* documents these changes through the Mongolians Matt meets, but also focuses on the author's downward spiral into alcohol abuse and violence—a scenario he saw played out by many of the Mongolian men around him. Matt's self-destruction culminates in a drunken fight with three men that forces him to a hospital to have his kidneys X-rayed. He hits bottom in that cold hospital room, his body naked and shivering, a bloodied Mongolian man staring at him from an open door, the irrational thought in his head that maybe he is going to die there. His personal struggles are balanced with insightful descriptions of customs and interactions, and interlaced with essays on Mongolian history and culture that make for a fascinating glimpse of a mysterious place and people.”

Deutschle, Phil (**Nepal, 1977–80**). *Across African Sand: Journeys of a Witch Doctor's Son-in-Law*, 1st ed. Salem, Oregon: DIMI Press, 2000. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/99067881>

Subject: This is a former Peace Corps volunteer's account of his experience cycling in the Kalahari Desert.

———. *The Two Year Mountain: The Gripping Story of One Man's Spiritual and Physical Odyssey in the Mountains of Nepal*. New York: Universe Books, 1986. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/86040206>

Publisher's description: “Combining adventure story, travel log, and personal confession, this absorbing account describes a wrenching experience that belies the idealistic expectations of many Peace Corps volunteers. Following a stint as a volunteer teacher in a Nepalese village, Phil Deutschle sets off alone on an expedition to conquer Pharchamo, 20,580 feet high, which has claimed several lives. This trek forms the framework of the book, and into it Deutschle weaves the story of his experiences in sharply etched, swiftly moving, often humorous anecdotes.”

D'Haem, Jeanne (**Somalia, 1968–70**). *The Last Camel: True Stories about Somalia*. Lawrenceville, New Jersey: Red Sea Press, 1997. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/97008108>

❖ Winner of the 1998 Paul Cowan Nonfiction Award given by Peace Corps Writers

Publisher's description: “*The Last Camel* is a collection of stories about the people who live in a little village in Northern Somalia. These are compelling tales about African spirits, clever women, untouchable Midgaans, sagacious elders who struggle with modern technology, bandits, and a few goats. The stories are embellished; each one illustrates a special aspect of Somali culture. The tales are told by a young American Peace Corps teacher who lived alone in the village of Arabsiyo in Northern Somalia in the late 60s. The village had no electricity, no telephone, no reliable water supply, and little food. The Somali villagers who were born in Arabsiyo, and the American who came to live among them, struggled mightily to understand each other and the changing world about them.

The book reveals the complex hearts and minds of the Somali people because it was written by a young woman who slept among the camels, spoke the language, starved, smiled, and savored life in Africa.”

Dirlam, Sharon (**Russia/Far East, 1996–98**). *Beyond Siberia: Two Years in a Forgotten Place*. Santa Barbara, California: McSeas Books, 2004. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2004302995>

Publisher’s description: “Sharon Dirlam and John McCafferty were Peace Corps volunteers in Birobidjan, capital of the Jewish Autonomous Region of Russia, a place that was cut off from foreigners for most of the twentieth century. The Russians they came to know, their relationships with these two Americans and with each other, and the passions and intrigues of the people around them are the heart of this true story.”

Donelson, Linda (**Cameroon, 1965–66; Ghana, 1966–67**). *Out of Isak Dinesen: Karen Blixen’s Untold Story*. Foreword by Don Mowatt; afterword by Anne Born. Iowa City, Iowa: Coulson; Chicago: [distributor] IPG, 1998. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/98072165>

- ❖ RPCV [Returned Peace Corps Volunteer] Writers & Readers’ Paul Cowan Nonfiction Award, 1996
- ❖ *Writer’s Digest* Grand Prize

Subject: This is a nonfiction biography of Karen Blixen (1885–1962), also known by her pseudonym, Isak Dinesen, Danish author of the classic novel *Out of Africa*. Subjects include Blixen’s home in Kenya; Kenyan social life and customs, 1895–1963; and Kenyan intellectual life in the twentieth century.

Drew, Eileen (**Zaire, 1979–81**). *Blue Taxis: Stories about Africa*. Foreword by Rosellen Brown. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Milkweed Editions, 1989. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/89012595>

- ❖ Milkweed National Fiction Prize, 1989
- ❖ *New York Times* Notable Book, 1989

Publisher’s note: “Stories deal with the interaction between native Africans and American diplomats, volunteer workers, and missionaries.”

———. *The Ivory Crocodile: A Novel*. Minneapolis: Coffee House Press, 1996. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/96003143>

- ❖ Discover Great New Writers Program, 1996
- ❖ Finalist, PEN Center USA West 1997 Literary Awards

Summary: This is a first novel narrated by Nicole Spark, a young white woman and recent college graduate who goes to the fictional Central African country of Tambala to

work as a teacher of English on behalf of AfricEd, a volunteer organization. She struggles to adapt to Tambala's culture.

D'Souza, Tony (**Côte d'Ivoire, 2000–02; Madagascar, 2002–03**). *Whiteman*, 1st ed. Orlando, Florida: Harcourt, 2006. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2005025459>

- ❖ Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters
- ❖ *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize finalist for First Fiction

Publisher's summary: "*Whiteman* is the author's debut novel about a maverick American relief worker caught in a violent conflict in an Ivory Coast village, which he refuses to abandon despite the cut-off of his funding." It is also about a white man's assimilation into Ivorian village culture.

Duncan, Nicholas (**Uganda, 2010–12**). *Tales from a Muzungu*, 1st Peace Corps Writers ed. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, 2014. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2014957199>

Publisher's description: "Imagine you are on a plane to a destination you know very little about. On top of that, you don't know anyone else, will be living there for two years, only have a vague idea of what you will be doing, or if it was the right decision. A major comfort is knowing that you aren't the only person having anxiety during this scenario. This is just the beginning of a Peace Corps volunteer's service. *Tales from a Muzungu* is about a Peace Corps Volunteer's two year experience (2010 – 2012) in Uganda. Nicholas Duncan covers the highs and lows of life in Africa by detailing the atmosphere of Uganda and the day to day life of a volunteer. Nicholas writes about his experience with non-profits, adjusting to deep village life, and the surprises of being a muzungu in Africa."

Edmisten, Patricia Taylor (**Peru, 1962–64**). *Nicaragua Divided: La Prensa and the Chamorro Legacy*. Pensacola: University of West Florida Press, 1990. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/89027505>

Subject: This book is about Nicaraguan politics and government during 1979–90 and more specifically about the struggle for press freedom by the Chamorro family, which owned the *La Prensa* newspaper.

Edmonds, David C. (**Chile, 1963–65**). *Lily of Peru: A Novel*, 1st Peace Corps Writers ed. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, 2014. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2014959155>

Publisher's description: "Markus goes to war-torn Peru for one reason: to take home the woman he's loved since his Peace Corps days — Marisa with the long dark hair and sparkling blue eyes. But when he arrives in Lima, he's confronted by a general with a subpoena, agents with guns, and the startling accusation that she's a key figure in one of the most bizarre terrorist movements in the world — and they want his help in bringing her to justice. His refusal to cooperate makes him a fugitive as well, and he's soon on the run, desperate to get her out of Peru. Is she the Marisa of his dreams, or is she the bomb-throwing terrorist on her wanted posters? The truth lies somewhere down the road, and

nothing is going to stop Markus from finding it — not the soldiers who dog his every step, not the terrorists who think he’s on their side, and not the hostile natives and witches who chase him through the eastern jungles.”

Eggers, Ellen K. (**Malaysia, 1976–78**). *Historical Dictionary of Burundi*, 3rd ed. Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press, 2006. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2006013959>

Publisher’s description: “Located in east central Africa, the Republic of Burundi has experienced much conflict in its brief history. Although it has been independent from European administration since 1962, Burundi has gone through several political upheavals. From 1966 to 1990, it existed as a republic under military rule. In 1993, it had its first free presidential election, which placed Melchoir Ndaday in the Presidential seat. His assassination four months later spurred violent uprisings between Burundi’s two major ethnic groups, the Hutu and the Tutsi. Ndaday’s successor likewise died under suspicious circumstances in 1994, resulting in more civil unrest in Burundi, as well as in Burundi’s neighboring country of Rwanda. Burundi’s civilian conflicts have been further strained by pressing social and economic problems, causing the leadership of this troubled country to appeal for help from its UN affiliates. *The Historical Dictionary of Burundi* contains entries on the important national figures, political parties and military personnel who have steered this tiny nation through its troubled development, as well as information on Burundi’s steadily strengthening economy and educational base. A chronology, bibliography, and detailed introduction will give the reader a perspective from which to continue study of the development of this nation.”

Eggers, Paul (**Malaysia, 1976–78**). *Saviors*, 1st ed. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1998. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/98015452>

❖ Winner of the Maria Thomas Fiction Award, 2000

Publisher’s description: “In a tale that combines the clash of cultures, the lure of the exotic, and the brutal reality of a refugee’s life into a memorable human comedy, we come to understand what it means to be an American. The saviors of this witty novel set in a Vietnamese refugee camp are a pair of Americans who find themselves fomenting rebellion.”

Erdman, Sarah (**Côte d’Ivoire, 1998**). *Nine Hills to Nambonkaha: Two Years in the Heart of an African Village*, 1st ed. New York: Henry Holt, 2003. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2003044955>

❖ Winner of the Peace Corps Writers Paul Cowan Nonfiction Award, 2004

Publisher’s description: The author, a longtime Peace Corps worker based in Washington, D.C., paints “a portrait of a resilient African village, ruled until recently by magic and tradition, now facing modern problems and responding, often triumphantly, to change. As a Peace Corps volunteer, the author was the first Caucasian to venture to

Namfonkaha since the French colonialists... Lyrical and topical, Erdman's beautiful debut captures the astonishing spirit of an unforgettable community."

Fisher, James F. (**Nepal, 1962–64**). *Sherpas: Reflections on Change in Himalayan Nepal*. With a foreword by Sir Edmund Hillary. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/89027155>

Publisher's description: "James Fisher combines the strengths of technical anthropology, literary memoir, and striking photography in this telling study of rapid social change in Himalayan Nepal. The author first visited the Sherpas of Nepal when he accompanied Sir Edmund Hilary on the Himalayan Schoolhouse Expedition of 1964. Returning to the Everest region several times during the 1970s and 1980s, he discovered that the construction of the schools had far less impact than one of the by-products of their building: a short-take-off-and-landing airstrip. By reducing the time it took to travel between Kathmandu and the Everest region from a hike of several days to a 45-minute flight, the airstrip made a rapid increase in tourism possible. Beginning with his impressions of Sherpa society in pre-tourist days, Fisher traces the trajectory of contemporary Sherpa society reeling under the impact of modern education and mass tourism, and assesses the Sherpa's concerns for their future and how they believe these problems should be and eventually will be resolved."

Fisher, Sandy (**Colombia, 1962–64**). *Colombia: Pictures & Stories*. Manakin-Sabot, Virginia: Brookview Farm, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010480738>

Lawrence F. Lihosit's summary: "This book is an example of what patience and a good team can produce. There are maps, nearly 200 photographs and expertly edited text, all printed on 9 by 12 inch sheets, bound old-school style with a stitched binding and protected with a hard cover. The text is in three handsome columns with variations of ink and font sizes between sections and chapters. An art book as well as a memoir, it is a steal and a good reminder that memoirs, like *Volunteers*, come in all shapes, sizes and flavors. They may be written as one flowing story or, as in this case, in vignettes. Likewise, the style and presentation can vary just as we do. If you are thinking about preparing your own memoir, this is a great example of how to gracefully incorporate photos into your story. It also answers all the same basic questions asked in library archival interviews: where you were six months before service, why you joined, what you did, how the place and people were and what happened when you came home. This book is what Goal 3 is all about—sharing."

Fleishhacker, David (**Afghanistan, 1962–64**). *Lessons from Afghanistan*. [S.l.]: DF Publications, 2001. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2008460279>

Publisher's description: "The events of September 11 suddenly made Afghanistan a focus of American interest. Yet a search of bookstores and libraries will reveal that no book about the country, its history, geography, or culture exists for the common reader. Using as a springboard a recounting of one of the earliest (and the smallest) Peace Corps projects that sent nine Americans to that nation in 1962, *Lessons from Afghanistan*

explores what it is really like for someone to live in an essentially medieval culture in the current century. Conventions about the use of time and space, attitudes about life stemming from thousand-year old traditions, and the practical necessities of living in a country fragmented by geography and history are the underlying facts of life in Afghanistan. These are barriers to progress but, more important, they are the realities that Americans so poorly understand and must learn of in the process of becoming re-engaged with other nations in response to international terrorism. It is a book filled with incidents and experiences that describe a remote, little-understood culture, but it is also a book that reveals the blindness of our own culture to alternative worldviews outside our borders.”

Fox, Susan (**Afghanistan, 1968–69**). *Little Women of Baghlan: The story of a nursing school for girls in Afghanistan: the Peace Corps, and life before the Taliban*, 1st Peace Corps Writers ed. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, 2013. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2013950758>

Publisher’s description: “Little Women of Baghlan is the true account of an ordinary young woman who answers the call to service and adventure during an extraordinary time in world history. Her story rivals the excitement, intrigue, and suspense of any novel, unfolding against the backdrop of changing social mores, the Cold War, the Peace Corps, and a country at the crossroads of China, Russia, India, Pakistan, and Iran. When John F. Kennedy, delivers a speech in the Senate Chambers on a hot July day in 1957, a young girl named Joanne Carter listens from the Senate gallery. Ten years later Kennedy has been assassinated and America is mired in the Vietnam War. Jo remembers Kennedy’s words and is inspired to join the Peace Corps. She flies into Afghanistan on March 21, 1968. With co-workers Nan and Mary, Jo starts a school of nursing for Afghan girls. In January, the women travel on vacation to India, prompting the Peace Corps director in Kabul to dub them the “Little Women of Baghlan.” During her two-year deployment, Jo fills the pages of a small, compact diary, never dreaming her tiny handwriting will eventually become a significant historical account. Nearly a half century later, her journal is a bittersweet reminder of a country that has since vanished—a country on the brink of becoming a modern nation, moving toward the recognition of women’s rights. Afghanistan is no longer the name of a country, it is the name of a war. The country Jo once called home has been buried under layers of recent history, and there is little evidence to suggest that such a time or place ever existed.”

Girdner, Eddie James (**India, 1968–69**). *Confessions of a Renegade Peace Corps Year*. New Delhi: Gyan Publishing House, 2015. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2014360102>

Publisher’s description: “This book is the story of one American Peace Corps volunteer who lived and worked in Banga Block of Jalandhar district in Punjab. The group was India 53 which arrived in India in June 1968. After additional training at the Gram Sevak Training Center in Batala, the 23 volunteers in the group were sent to different development blocks in Jalandhar and Kapurthala districts. Projects included new high yielding varieties of wheat, rice and other crops. It was also a time when farmers in Punjab were being encouraged to grow soyabeans as an alternative to rice in the summer season. Perhaps the cultural exchange aspects of the Peace Corps were equally if not

more important than the technical aspects. Volunteers made many friends in the villages where they lived and the surrounding areas. Indians learned something about Americans and the volunteers learned a vast amount about India and their local area. This changed the lives of many young Americans and greatly enriched the United States in terms of having citizens knowledgeable about distant and remote parts of the world.”

Gottlieb, Alan (**Ecuador, 1980–81**). *Ultimate Excursions: A Novel*, 1st ed. Boulder, Colorado: Paandaa Entertainment, 2007. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2007924065>

Publisher’s description: “Seeking a respite from the stresses of Peace Corp life in rural Ecuador, Tim Lake embarks on a vacation to Peru that starts as an innocent journey that devolves into chaos. *Ultimate Excursions* will keep readers transfixed. At once gripping, darkly funny, and ultimately redemptive this magnificent novel is part thriller, and part meditation on what makes us tick as human beings.”

Goyal, Rajeev (**Nepal, 2001–03**). *The Springs of Namje: A Ten-Year Journey from the Villages of Nepal to the Halls of Congress*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2012. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2012009321>

Publisher’s description: “In 2001, Peace Corps volunteer Rajeev Goyal was sent to Namje, a remote village in the eastern hills of Nepal. Brimming with idealism, he expected to find people living in conditions of misery and suffering; instead, he discovered a village full of happy, compassionate people. After organizing the villagers to build a water-pumping system in the midst of the dangerous Maoist war that had gripped the country, Goyal learned how complex rural development truly is. He also witnessed how the seemingly lowliest villager can hold profound power to influence not only his or her own village but also the highest rungs of government.”

Gray, Jason (**Gabon, 2002–04**). *Glimpses through the Forest: Memories of Gabon*, 1st Peace Corps Writers ed. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, 2013. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2013934691>

Publisher’s description: “Situated in Central Africa, the nation of Gabon is a vibrant and mysterious place full of rich history, diverse culture, and stunning biodiversity. In the midst of the African rainforest, a Peace Corps volunteer from Montana is thrust into a new life of adventure and discovery. From close encounters with forest elephants to classroom teaching challenges, this vivid retelling of one man’s experiences takes readers on an extraordinary journey through daily life, cultural events, and ongoing conservation efforts, and shares his love affair with a country that will forever own a piece of his heart. This new book by Jason Gray leaves us with a powerful impression of having shared in his experiences. Gray’s underlying reverence for Gabon and its people comes out strongly in this recounting of his three years of work there with the Peace Corps and World Wildlife Fund International, and shows the importance of understanding other cultures while enhancing individual awareness of the global community. *Glimpses through the Forest: Memories of Gabon* is an engaging read for eco and cultural travel enthusiasts, conservationists, nature lovers, and other adventure seekers.”

Halloran, John (**Philippines, 1962–63**). *A Wedding in Samar: An American Love Story*, 1st ed. Elkhorn, Wisconsin: Puzzlebox Press, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010914993>

Publisher's description: A memoir by an early Peace Corps Volunteer that describes his experiences in a remote setting on the island of Samar in the Philippines. Rich in the details of adapting to a life that included living in a town with no electricity, no water system, no automobiles, and no public market where fresh meat and fish might be had. Nonetheless, the memoir is a story about the diverse people of the town, including an attractive Filipina school teacher who captured the author's heart.

Hanner, Eloise (**Afghanistan, 1971–73; Paraguay, 1999–2000**). *Letters from Afghanistan*. Boston: Branden Books, 2003. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2002153045>

Publisher's description: "The year was 1971... The Russians hadn't invaded and the Taliban didn't exist. Eloise Hanner now takes us back to a simpler time and shares her story as a young teacher, living in Afghanistan as an American Peace Corps volunteer. Her letters to her mother bring to life the challenges she and her husband faced living as young volunteers and let us experience for ourselves the people and the customs of Afghanistan."

Hanson, Thor (**Uganda, 1993–95**). *The Impenetrable Forest: My Gorilla Years in Uganda*. Warwick, New York: 1500 Books, 2008. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2009279184>

Publisher's description: "For two years, Thor Hanson lived in a remote village on the edge of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest where he worked with the local trackers to save one of the world's most magnificent endangered species, the mountain gorilla. He survived the local moonshine, baboons stealing his vegetables and army ants attacking in his sleep with grace and good humor. In *The Impenetrable Forest*, Thor offers an unforgettable glimpse into the world of mountain gorillas and the African cultures that surround them." Hanson is also author of *Feathers: The Evolution of a Natural Miracle* (New York: Basic Books, 2011) and *The Triumph of Seeds: How Grains, Nuts, Kernels, Pulses, & Pips, Conquered the Plant Kingdom and Shaped Human History* (New York: Basic Books, a member of the Perseus Books Group, 2015).

Hazuka, Tom (**Chile, 1978–80**). *In the City of the Disappeared: A Novel*, 1st ed. Bridgehampton, New York: Bridge Works Publisher, 2000. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/99055391>

Subject: This is historical fiction involving Americans and the Peace Corps in Chile during the military regime of 1973–88.

Hellstrom, Travis, ed. (**Mongolia, 2008–11**). *Unofficial Peace Corps Volunteer Handbook*, 1st ed. United States: Advance Humanity Publishing. Distributed by Lulu and Amazon.com,

2010. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010480733>

Publisher's description: "Peace Corps may be "the toughest job you'll ever love" but you don't always have to learn that the hard way. This is the handbook we wish someone would have given us, something no one has provided before: a companion book that allows you to learn from the experiences of outstanding Volunteers and catalog your own experience from the very beginning of your service to the end. This is a guide and journal in an easy-to-use and easy-to-write-in handbook designed to be with you before you join, while you serve and after you come back from your Peace Corps experience."

Hemminger, William J. (**Senegal, 1973–75**). *African Son*. Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, 2012. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2012931663>

Publisher's description: "Records the author's many trips to Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer, Fulbright scholar, teacher, and traveler over four decades. These personal essays range from sympathetic descriptions of village life in Senegal and Cameroon to detailed accounts of the rich physical and natural worlds in Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Madagascar."

Herrera, Susana (**Cameroon, 1992–94**). *Mango Elephants in the Sun: How Life in an African Village Let Me Be in My Skin*. Boston: Shambhala, 1999. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/98041764>

❖ Winner of the 2000 Paul Cowan Nonfiction Award given by Peace Corps Writers

Publisher's description: "When the Peace Corps sends Susana Herrera to teach English in northern Cameroon, she yearns to embrace her adopted village and its people...and to forget a bitter childhood and painful past. To the villagers, however, she is a rich American tourist, a *nasara* (white person) who has never known pain or want. They stare at her in silence. The children giggle and run away. At first her only confidant is a miraculously communicative lizard. Susana fights back with every ounce of heart and humor she possesses, and slowly begins to make a difference. She ventures out to the village well and learns to carry water on her head. In a classroom crowded to suffocation she finds a way to discipline her students without resorting to the beatings they are used to. She makes ice cream in the scorching heat, and learns how to plant millet and kill chickens. She laughs with the villagers, cries with them, works and prays with them, heals and is helped by them."

Hessler, Peter (**China, 1996–98**). *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze*, 1st ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2000. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/00049872>

❖ Peace Corps Writers Paul Cowan Nonfiction Award winner, 2002

Publisher's description: "Records the author's experiences as a Peace Corps English teacher in the small Chinese city of Fuling, during which time he witnessed such events as the death of Deng Xiaoping, the return of Hong Kong to the mainland, and the construction of the Three Gorges Dam."

———. *Country Driving: A Journey through China from Farm to Factory*, 1st ed. New York: Harper, 2010. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2009027502>

Publisher's description: "In this penetrating narrative account, Hessler investigates China's lurch into modernity as he survives the advent of the nation's uniquely terrifying car culture, probes the transformation of village life, and explores China's frantic industrialization."

———. *Strange Stones—Dispatches from East and West*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2013. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2012032099>

Publisher's description: "Full of unforgettable figures and an unrelenting spirit of adventure, *Strange Stones* is a far-ranging, thought-provoking collection of Peter Hessler's best reportage—a dazzling display of the powerful storytelling, shrewd cultural insight, and warm sense of humor that are the trademarks of his work. Over the last decade, as a staff writer for *The New Yorker* and the author of three books, Peter Hessler has lived in Asia and the United States, writing as both native and knowledgeable outsider in these two very different regions. This unusual perspective distinguishes *Strange Stones*, which showcases Hessler's unmatched range as a storyteller. "Wild Flavor" invites readers along on a taste test between two rat restaurants in South China. One story profiles Yao Ming, basketball star and China's most beloved export, another David Spindler, an obsessive and passionate historian of the Great Wall. In "Dr. Don," Hessler writes movingly about a small-town pharmacist and his relationship with the people he serves. While Hessler's subjects and locations vary, subtle but deeply important thematic links bind these pieces—the strength of local traditions, the surprising overlap between apparently opposing cultures, and the powerful lessons drawn from individuals who straddle different worlds."

———. *Oracle Bones: A Journey between China's Past and Present*, 1st ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2006. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2005052607>

Publisher's description: "From the acclaimed author of *River Town* comes a rare portrait, both intimate and epic, of twenty-first-century China as it opens its doors to the outside world. A century ago, outsiders saw China as a place where nothing ever changes. Today the country has become one of the most dynamic regions on earth. That sense of time—the contrast between past and present, and the rhythms that emerge in a vast, ever-evolving country—is brilliantly illuminated by Peter Hessler in *Oracle Bones*, a book that explores the human side of China's transformation. Hessler tells the story of modern-day China and its growing links to the Western world as seen through the lives of a handful of ordinary people. In addition to the author, an American writer living in Beijing, the narrative follows Polat, a member of a forgotten ethnic minority, who moves to the United States in search of freedom; William Jefferson Foster, who grew up in an illiterate family and becomes a teacher; Emily, a migrant factory worker in a city without a past; and Chen Mengjia, a scholar of oracle-bone inscriptions, the earliest known writing in East Asia, and a man whose tragic story has been lost since the Cultural Revolution. All

are migrants, emigrants, or wanderers who find themselves far from home, their lives dramatically changed by historical forces they are struggling to understand. Peter Hessler excavates the past and puts a remarkable human face on the history he uncovers. In a narrative that gracefully moves between the ancient and the present, the East and the West, Hessler captures the soul of a country that is undergoing a momentous change before our eyes.”

Highland, Frederick (**Micronesia, 1967–69**). *Night Falls on Damascus*, 1st ed. New York: Thomas Dunne Books, 2006. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2006042919>

Publisher’s description: “Set in the exotic and turbulent world of Syria in the 1930s, *Night Falls on Damascus* tells the story of a French-Syrian police inspector, Nikolai Faroun, caught up in a complex murder investigation of a beautiful and controversial woman from a prominent Damascus family.... A gripping murder mystery, *Night Falls on Damascus* richly evokes a time and place where the deadly conflict between modernism and tradition in the Middle East first came into play.”

Hillmann, Michael Craig (**Iran, 1965–67**). *Iranian Culture: A Persianist View*. Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, 1990. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/89029018>

Publisher’s description: “In light of the great importance Iranians themselves attach to their imaginative Persian literature and in light of the underutilization of literary figures, works, and evidence in existing studies of Iranian culture, this work focuses on leading authors and classic literary works in attempting to discern enduring cultural features and values. It is a Persianist account of the pivotal features of Iranian cultures through the eyes of six Persian literary figures, three from the pre-modern and three from the modern literary history of Iran. The work examines the literary dimensions of the Persian culture as well as the political, social and religious significance of the dimensions within the culture. The author reveals the ancient Persian tradition of the struggle between two opposing forces and the way in which it relates to the present political turmoil in that country.”

Hiltebrand, Ellen (**Guatemala, 1991–93**). *When I Was Elena*. Sag Harbor, New York: Permanent Press, 2006. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2005056137>

Summary: This is a memoir of a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala named Ellen Urbani. Although a privileged Southerner, she has the fortitude to persevere in the face of daunting challenges.

Hirsch, Jane Brown (**Nigeria, 1966–68**). *Alhaji: A Peace Corps Adventure in Nigeria*. Santa Barbara, California: Fithian Press, 1994. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/94007825>

Subject: This is a Peace Corps teacher's account of her encounter with Nigerian social life and customs and the Hausa tribe in the village of Katsina.

Hobbie, Charles A. (**Korea, 1968–71**). *The Time of the Monkey, Rooster, and Dog: A Peace Corps Volunteer's Years in Korea*. Bloomington, Indiana: iUniverse, 2011.  
<http://lccn.loc.gov/2011912165>

Publisher's description: "The year 1969 was a time of war in Vietnam; it was a time of peace in Korea, however, as an armistice held on the Korean peninsula, two thousand miles north of Saigon. Almost three hundred Peace Corps volunteers were serving in Korea then as teachers and health workers. In *The Time of the Monkey, Rooster, and Dog*, author Charles A. Hobbie details his service in Korea as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching English. It was a time of awakening for both Korea and for Hobbie. Filled with insights into the times and the people both in Korea and the Peace Corps, this memoir captures the essence of a rapidly changing nation. Hobbie narrates the experiences of his three unforgettable, challenging years in Korea from 1968 to 1971. He describes the people, streets, and markets of Daegu, the friendships and fellowship of students and fellow teachers, the rugged mountain ranges, the exuberance of Korean drumming and dancing, and the laughter and kindness of Korean families. Told through the eyes of a young Peace Corps volunteer, this firsthand account provides a look at the early years of Korea's transformation while telling Hobbie's own life-changing story."

Holloway, Kris (**Mali, 1989–91**). *Monique and the Mango Rains: Two Years with a Midwife in Mali*. John Bidwell, consulting editor. Long Grove, Illinois: Waveland Press, 2007.  
Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2007296716>

Summary: This is a memoir about a white volunteer assigned to a remote village in Mali to assist a midwife, Monique. Together they make changes in how African women are treated.

Howard, Christopher R. (**Mongolia, 1997**). *The Tea of Ulaanbaatar: A Novel*. A Seven Stories Press 1st ed. New York: Seven Stories Press, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010040155>

❖ National Magazine Award finalist

Publisher's description: "...Christopher Howard's debut novel, *Tea of Ulaanbaatar*: the story of disaffected Peace Corps volunteer Warren, who flees life in late-capitalist America to find himself stationed in the post-Soviet industrial hell of urban Mongolia. As the American presence crumbles, Warren seeks escape in *tsus*, the mysterious "blood tea" that may be the final revenge of the defeated Khans—or that may be only a powerful hallucinogen operating on an uneasy mind—as a phantasmagoria of violence slowly envelops him. With prose that combines Benjamin Kunkel's satiric bite, William Burroughs's dark historical reimagining, and a lush literary beauty all his own, Christopher Howard in *Tea of Ulaanbaatar* unfolds a story of expatriate angst, the dark

side of globalization, and middle-class nightmares—and announces himself as one of the most inventive and ambitious of the new generation of American novelists.”

Hudson, Rex A., ed. (**Bolivia, 1970–71**). *Colombia: A Country Study*. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress / Federal Research Division, 2010. For sale by USGPO. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010009203>  
Online PDF version: [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/pdf/CS\\_Colombia.pdf](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/pdf/CS_Colombia.pdf)

Summary: This in-depth country profile includes insightful chapters by the late historian emeritus, Dr. David Bushnell (“The Historical Setting”); Colombian economists Drs. Roberto Steiner and Hernán Vallejo (“The Economy”); Dr. Arlene B. Tickner (“Politics and Government”); and Dr. Ann C. Mason (“National Security”). This study is an attempt to treat in a concise and objective manner the dominant historical, social, political, economic, and national security aspects of contemporary Colombia, which is emerging as one of South America’s most dynamic economies. Other online books in the worldwide Country Studies Series can be found at: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>

Ingold, Doug (**Brazil, 1965–67**). *The Henderson Memories: A Novel*, 1st ed. Garberville, California: Wolfenden Publishers, 2010. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2009939091>

Publisher’s description: “*The Henderson Memories* is a story of idealism and loss, of passions felt and lessons learned. In 1965, two young American Peace Corps Volunteers arrived at a small town in the Brazilian state of Bahia. Kyle and Jolene Henderson were determined to confront the poverty and social inequality surrounding them, but a few months later the Hendersons suddenly left Brazil. They returned to the States, established careers, raised a family and eventually died, having never spoken to their children of Brazil or the Peace Corps. What happened to the Hendersons in Brazil? Daughter Connie Scheel thinks Clint Estergard knows the answers and she flies to Vancouver, B.C. hoping to get them. But Professor Estergard has a tale to tell, and he’s going to insist on telling it his way.”

Jacobs, Mark (**Paraguay, 1978–80**). *Stone Cowboy*. New York: Soho Press, 1997. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/97020257>

❖ Winner of the Maria Thomas Fiction Award in 1998

Publisher’s summary: “Agnes, an American social worker, comes to Bolivia to look for her brother, who is a magician for a drug lord. Roger, a stranded American, offers to be her guide in return for help to leave the country, and the two fall in love. A tour of the drug world.”

Jochum, John S. (**Zaire, 1975–78**). *Letters from Zaire: A Peace Corps Life in Africa*. Enumclaw, Washington: Winepress Publisher, 2005. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2004093847>

Subject: This appears to be a memoir about Peace Corps service in Zaire (present-day Democratic Republic of the Congo) and social life and customs of the country.

Joseph, Stephen C. (**Nepal, 1964–65**). *River of Stone, River of Sand: A Story of Medicine and Adventure*. Santa Fe: Sunstone Press, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2011036083>

Publisher's description: "In 1964, newly-minted physician Stephen C. Joseph, just out of his internship, undertakes a two-year assignment as the Peace Corps Physician in Nepal. The job has two facets: responsibility for the health and medical care of a hundred young Peace Corps Volunteers scattered over the roadless hills and valleys along the uplift of the Himalayas, and "do whatever else you want to do in medicine." Many lessons not learned in medical school challenge his ingenuity and inexperience: learn to carry your office in a backpack trekking two-week circuits through the countryside visiting volunteers and holding impromptu clinics in isolated villages; struggle with the contrasting responsibilities of being both the "Company Doctor" and the patients' trusted confidant; rely on your own judgment without medical peers or teachers within reach to guide you; and come to grips with the realities of Third World poverty, whose determinants are not easily remedied by Western medicine. Some of the lessons are baffling. Some are brutal and terrifying. Some are humorous, and some rewarding beyond measure. And Dr. Joseph finds what is to become a life-long heart's desire: "doing what you can with what you have," especially in the more-remote places of the world. Later, back again in the Third World, Dr. Joseph is part of a small international team starting a country's first medical school, and has responsibility for the crowded "Under-Five's Ward" in the medically primitive conditions of the Capitol City's hospital in Yaounde, Cameroun. But it is mysterious Chad, on the edges of the Sahara, to which he is most drawn, a little older and a little wiser, but just as restless."

Kaldi, Leita (**Senegal, 1993–96**). *In the Valley of Atibon*, 1st Peace Corps Writers ed. Foreword by Bob Shacochis. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, 2012. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2012952037>

Publisher's description: "In Leita Kaldi's memoir, *In the Valley of Atibon*, she chronicles her experiences as a middle-aged white woman who goes to Haiti filled with good intentions to manage Hôpital Albert Schweitzer and its community development program. What unfolds for her, however, is a hell filled with young revolutionaries and vagabonds who threaten her life, and the very existence of the hospital and the program. Prompted by these experiences she delves into the mysteries of Voudou, and learns first-hand about the undercurrent of terror that drives rural Haitians. In contrast with numerous shocking incidents that occurred during her five years in Haiti, Kaldi also tells of tender adventures of her daily life, and of being inspired and comforted by many of the Haitians with whom she works — the doctors, nurses, agronomists, her housemaid, and others who teach her surprising lessons in dignity, faith and forgiveness. Also providing joyful respite are visits from Kaldi's son that culminate with his marrying a woman of the Haitian elite class, which provides a keyhole for Kaldi through which she observes the dynamics of class and prejudice among the layers of Haitian society. Entwined with her story, Kaldi narrates the uplifting story of Dr. Larimer Mellon, and his wife, Gwen Grant Mellon, who

founded the hospital in 1956 and spent their lives serving people in the Valley. Theirs too was an experience fraught with problems that demanded their courage, resourcefulness and dedication to the Haitian people.”

Kempers, Anne Grimshaw (**Zaire, 1976–78**). *Heart of Lightness: Experiences of a Peace Corps Volunteer in Africa*. Portsmouth, New Hampshire: Peter E. Randall, 1993. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/93222241>

Publisher’s description: “Mother of four and a teacher of French for twenty years, author Kempers had an experience different from that of the majority of (Peace Corps) Volunteers. Her “totally positive” tour of duty also contrasts sharply with Joseph Conrad’s grim tale of the Congo, *Heart of Darkness*. Assigned to a teachers college to teach English and language teaching methods to mature students, she lived in a large city located at a relatively high altitude with consequent temperate climate. She enjoyed good health and many modern conveniences. This was not the situation of most volunteers, who lived in rural settlements helping villagers with agricultural, sanitary or domestic projects.”

Kendall, Laurel (**Korea, 1970–71**). *Shamans, housewives, and other restless spirits: Women in Korean ritual life*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1985. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/84024138>

Author’s description: “This is an ethnography of Korean women’s ritual realm...the rites that demarcate, the supernatural beings who inhabit it, and the shamans who diagnose its vicissitudes and heal its ills. The rituals women perform in public and private, alone or with the help of shamans, reveal a complex system of beliefs and practices encapsulating significant notions of household, family, and kin. Whether as shaman or housewife, Korean women wield positive powers. In cooperation, they perform socially essential ritual work. Their religious activities are a measure of Korea's distinctiveness within the Confucian world. I describe in these pages the system of belief and practice I found among women and shamans in and around Enduring Pine Village, Republic of Korea.”

Kennedy, Geraldine, ed. (**Liberia, 1962–64**). *From the Center of the Earth: Stories Out of the Peace Corps*. Santa Monica, California: Clover Park Press, 1991. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/91071570>

Subject: This is a collection of 13 stories written by former Peace Corps volunteers and mostly based in Africa.

Kennedy, Geraldine. *Harmattan: A Journey Across the Sahara*. Santa Monica, California: Clover Park Press, 1994. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/93073120>

❖ RPCV Writers & Readers’ Paul Cowan Nonfiction Award, 1995

Subject: This is a Peace Corps teacher’s account of her travels in the Sahara from Liberia to Algeria with four other Peace Corps women.

Khalil, Dawn Stutzman (**Botswana, 1990–92**). *Letters from Botswana: A Peace Corps Odyssey*. Cranston, Rhode Island: Writers' Collective, 2003. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2003012337>

Subject: This is the author's memoir of her Peace Corps service in Botswana, where her American idealism clashed with the Botswanan way of life.

Kitterman, Barry (**Belize, 1976–78**). *The Baker's Boy: A Novel*, 1st ed. Dallas, Texas: Southern Methodist University Press, 2008. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2007042696>

Publisher's description: "Set in Central America and in Middle Tennessee, *The Baker's Boy* gives us two intertwined stories: In the first, Tanner Johnson, nearing midlife, has left his pregnant wife and taken a job as a baker, working nights, trying to avoid a shadowy presence that haunts him from the past. In the second, Tanner relives his painful experiences as a Peace Corps volunteer in Belize, where he taught at a boys' reform school nearly a quarter century ago. Haunted by the past, he struggles to find the courage to accept his role as a husband and prospective father."

Klein, Henry (**Ethiopia, 1974–76**). *Through Ferengi Eyes: The Diary of a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia, 1974–1976*, 1st ed. Hicksville, New York: Exposition Press, 1979. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/79115082>

Subject: This is a memoir of a former Peace Corps volunteer in Ethiopia, who discusses his service and Ethiopian politics and government, 1974–91.

Klein, Robert (**Ghana, 1961–63**). *Being First: An Informal History of the Early Peace Corps*. Tucson, Arizona: Wheatmark, 2010. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2010925686>

Summary: The author, one of the initial Peace Corps volunteers, describes the creation of the Peace Corps and the experiences of the first contingent of volunteer teachers serving in Ghana.

Kleymeyer, Charles D. (**Peru, 1966–68**). *Padre Sol, Madre Luna: Cuentos del desarrollo de base pluricultural = Inti Tayta, Killa Mamma: Runallaktakunapak Tauka Yachaykuna = Father Sun, Mother Moon: Stories of Pluricultural Grassroots Development*, 1st ed. Quito, Ecuador: Abya Yala, 2000. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/00403919>

Subject: Fiction related to rural and social conditions in Ecuador, Indians and blacks in Ecuador, popular stories in Ecuadorian literature, and Quechua literature and folklore.

Klobe, Tom (**Iran, 1964–66**). *A Young American in Iran*. 1st Peace Corps Writers edition. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, 2014. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2014957198>

Publisher's description: "In November 1963, a bright Hawaiian morning is shattered by news of the assassination of the President. This marks the beginning of a journey to a remote Iranian village where a young American Peace Corps Volunteer sets out with rebellious tenacity to do what is right, unaware of America's loss of innocence — and his own. From a youthful determination to perpetuate Kennedy's legacy, to coping with the reality of America's faults and ambitions, to grappling with unfamiliar customs and languages, to discovering the friendship and love of Iranians, Tom Klobe discovers that being "Tom of Iran" is as fulfilling as being "American Tom.""

Kluge, Paul F. (**Micronesia, 1967–69**). *The Edge of Paradise: America in Micronesia*, 1st ed. New York: Random House, 1991. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/90053145>

❖ RPCV Writers & Readers' Paul Cowan Nonfiction Award, 1992

Publisher's description: "In 1967 the Peace Corps sent P. F. Kluge to paradise—or so the American possessions in Micronesia seemed. His assignment was as noble as it was adventurous: to help the people of those half-forgotten Pacific islands move from old to new, so that paradise would have prosperity and freedom as well as physical beauty. He immersed himself in the lives of the diverse peoples of the islands. He composed speeches for their leaders. He wrote a stirring manifesto that became the Preamble to the Constitution of Micronesia. He began a friendship with a man who would one day be president of Palau. And then, a generation later, P. F. Kluge went back.... *The Edge of Paradise* shows the impact and ironies of America's presence in an undeveloped part of the world, how perhaps there's no way 'a big place can touch a little one without harming it.'"

Larson, Charles R. (**Nigeria, 1962–64**). *The Insect Colony: A Novel*, 1st ed. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1978. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/78004701>

Publisher's summary: "Set in West Africa at the end of the 1960s and across the border from the war in Biafra, this is an arresting novel of sexual obsession, self-deception, and self-discovery."

LeBard, George (**Belize, 1981–86**). *A School for Others: The History of the Belize High School of Agriculture: A Memoir*. Bloomington, Indiana: Xlibris Corporation, 2010. <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010910636>

Publisher's description: "A School for Others covers my time in Belize, Central America as a Peace Corps Volunteer. It is about my personal growth, some adventure, unintentional altruism, and finding true love, despite my best efforts not to. I live in a Mayan village and one day I discover an abandon school in the jungle. It is the beginning of a vision to develop a school for students who are unable to continue their education in a system that is designed to weed out the "academically challenged." They are the "other" kids who don't have the privilege of attending secondary school.

Levitt, Leonard (**Tanzania, 1963–65**). *An African Season*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1967. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/67012159>

Subject: This memoir is about the author's first year serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in a rural upper-primary school in Tanzania.

Levy, Michael (**China, 2005–06**). *Kosher Chinese: Living, Teaching, and Eating with China's Other Billion*. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010040319>

Publisher's summary: "An irreverent account of the author's experiences as a Jewish-American Peace Corps volunteer serving in rural China describes his observations about the lives of China's interior populations and their complex relationships with local traditions and the rapid changes of modernization."

Lihosit, Lawrence F. (**Honduras, 1975–77**). *Peace Corps Chronology, 1961–2010*, 2nd ed. New York: iUniverse, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010480705>

Publisher's description: "Useful for anyone interested in the Peace Corps, this easy-to-read book includes all notable activities related to America's most iconic program. It describes the first half century of service during which more than 200,000 Americans volunteered to work in 139 countries. Inspired by John F. Kennedy's inaugural call— "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country"— volunteers from all 50 states traveled to tropical cloud forests, savannahs, prairies, deserts and frigid mountainous steppes to learn a new language and lend a hand."

Linden, Anne Bates (**Ukraine, 1992–95**). *Assumptions and Misunderstandings: Memoir of an Unwitting Spy*. Ivano-Frankivsk: Misto NV, 2006. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2007617383>

Publisher's description: "*Assumptions and Misunderstandings* is a memoir based strictly on letters written family and friends between November 15, 1992, and February 1, 1994, about the first 15 months of my stint as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ukraine. The end of central planning, an annual inflation rate of 2000 percent, and reform that was "virtually nonexistent" made living there both incredibly difficult and fascinating."

Lorentz, John H. (**Iran, 1962–64**). *Historical Dictionary of Iran*, 2nd ed. Lanham, Maryland, Scarecrow Press, 2007. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2006028034>

Publisher's description: "Iran is a country with a deep and complex history. Over several thousand years, Iran has been the source of numerous creative contributions to the spiritual and literary world, and the site of many remarkable manifestations of material culture. The special place that Iran has come to hold in contemporary historical events, most recently as a center state actor in the unfolding and interconnected drama of worldwide nuclear arms proliferation and terrorism, is all the more reason to explore the

characters and personality of Iran and Iranians. This second edition of *Historical Dictionary of Iran* is designed to give the reader a quick and understandable overview of specific events, movements, people, political and social groups, places, and trends. Through its extensive chronology, introduction, bibliography, appendixes, and more than double the number of cross-referenced dictionary entries as in the previous edition, the work allows for considerable exploration of a number of historical and contemporary topics and issues. In particular, the modern period, defined as 1800–present, is covered extensively.”

Lowerre, Susan (**Senegal, 1985–87**). *Under the Neem Tree*. Sag Harbor, New York: Permanent Press, 1991. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/90043906>

Subject: This is a Peace Corps volunteer’s anthropological study of her experience living in the Senegalese village of Walli Jalia, its fish culture, social life and customs, and the Fula tribe.

Lowther, Kevin G. (**Sierra Leone, 1963–65; Peace Corps/Washington, 1965–68**), and C. Payne Lucas. *Keeping Kennedy’s Promise: The Peace Corps, Unmet Hope of the New Frontier*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1978. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/77021187>

Publisher’s description: “Special expanded edition of the 1978 Peace Corps classic. Reprinted to mark the Agency’s 40th anniversary.”

Luloff, Joanna (**Sri Lanka, 1996–98**). *The Beach at Galle Road: Stories of Sri Lanka*, 1st ed. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2012. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2012019881>

Publisher’s description: “When rumors of civil war between the ruling Sinhalese and the Tamils in the northern sector of Sri Lanka reach those who live in the south, somehow it seems not to be happening in their own country. At least not until Janaki’s sister, Lakshmi—now a refugee whose husband has disappeared—comes back to live with her family. And when Sam, an American Peace Corps worker who boards with Janaki’s family, falls in love with one of his students, a young girl from the north, he, too, becomes acutely aware of the dangers that exist for anyone who gets drawn into the conflict, however marginally. Skillfully weaving together the stories of these and other intersecting lives, *The Beach at Galle Road* explores themes of memory and identity amid the consequences of the Sri Lankan civil war. From different points of view, across generations and geographies, it pits the destructive power of war against the resilient power of family, individual will, and the act of storytelling itself.”

Luz, Susan [Corry] (**Brazil, 1972–75**), and Marcus Brotherton. *The Nightingale of Mosul: A Nurse’s Journey of Service, Struggle, and War*. New York: Kaplan Publishing, 2010. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010534953>

Publisher's description: "The true story of a female soldier in Iraq who was awarded the Bronze Star—not for fighting, but for fighting to care. She is today's Florence Nightingale. At age 56, Susan Luz was deployed to Iraq. By the time she returned home, she had helped save the lives of 30,000 wounded soldiers, contractors, Iraqi civilians, and detainees. But this was not the first time Luz responded to the call of duty: this is the inspirational story of a life dedicated to service and to the ideal of fighting for what truly matters. As a young woman, Luz served in the Peace Corps in Brazil, where she experienced the brutality of poverty and violence. As a public health nurse, she has worked in jails, psychiatric wards, and a violent inner city high school. But nothing prepared her for what she would see in Iraq. Working under constant fire, Luz routinely witnessed the most horrific effects of the war. Her dedication to her job earned her the Bronze Star in honor of her selflessness and the life-saving work she carried out under unfathomably difficult circumstances. Susan Luz is a true hero and her story will resonate in the hearts and minds of readers for generations to come."

Magnarella, Paul J. (**Turkey, 1963–65**). *Tradition and Change in a Turkish Town*. Cambridge: Schenkman; New York: John Wiley, 1974 (revised ed. Schenkman, 1981). Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/74014927>

Subject: The book is an expansion of the author's Harvard University dissertation thesis.

Maskarinec, Gregory G. (**Nepal, 1979–81**). *The Rulings of the Night: An Ethnography of Nepalese Shaman Oral Texts*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1995. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/94023024>

Publisher's description: "It is impossible to discuss what shamans are and what they do, contends Gregory G. Maskarinec, without knowing what shamans say. When Maskarinec took an interest in shaman rituals on his first visit to Nepal, he was told by many Nepalis and Westerners that the shamans he had encountered in the Himalayan foothills of western Nepal engaged in "meaningless mumblings." But in the course of several years of fieldwork he learned from the shamans that both their long, publicly chanted rituals and their whispered, secretive incantations are oral texts meticulously memorized through years of training. In *The Rulings of the Night*, he shows how the shamans, during their dramatic night-long performances, create the worlds of words in which shamans exist."

Mass, Leslie Noyes (**Pakistan, 1962–64**) *Back to Pakistan: A Fifty-Year Journey*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2011019782>

Publisher's description: "In 1962, Leslie Noyes was one of the first to answer the call of President Kennedy. She found herself in a remote village in Pakistan, 21 years old, and fresh from college graduation, with the only directive to "find something to do" in a Muslim village with no other Peace Corps volunteers, no other Westerners, no program, and scarce resources. Coming face to face with her naiveté, youthful arrogance, and inexperience, she muddles her way through her first year of service, moves on to a larger city with other volunteers, then returns home to pursue a career as an educator. Forty-

seven years later, she returns to Pakistan—a much-changed woman to a much-changed country. She intersperses the current-day tale with the journal entries from 1962, thereby providing a colorful and poignant comparison between a country in its infancy and a country in transition, and the woman of 21 with the woman of 68.”

Mather, David J. (**Chile, 1968–70**). *When the Whistling Stopped: A Novel*. 1st Peace Corps Writers edition. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, 2014. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2014941666>

Publisher’s description: “Tom Young, still lamenting the death of his Chilean fiancé thirty years earlier, returns to southern Chile. When thousands of black-necked swans disappear, it is an environmental disaster. What’s going on! He meets a handsome young couple, Amanda and Carlos, who suspect a new paper mill is poisoning the waters of the swans’ refuge, and set out to prove it. The amoral mill owner, financially strapped, can’t let them succeed, and will do anything to stop them, including murder. When middle-aged Lilia, tortured by the memory of being raped when she was twelve years old, meets Tom, he feels a stirring he hasn’t felt since before his fiancée’s tragic death. She too is attracted to him, but they are soon caught up in the mill owner’s violent attempts to silence Amanda and Carlos, with disastrous results. The tragic, surprising, and, finally, hopeful twists and turns of this fast-paced, environmental drama make it difficult to put down.”

McCann, James C. (**Ethiopia, 1973–75**). *Green Land, Brown Land, Black Land: An Environmental History of Africa, 1800-1990*. Portsmouth, New Hampshire: Heinemann, 1999. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/98035565>

Publisher’s description: “James C. McCann provides a synthesis of evidence and a narrative of Africa's environmental history over the past two centuries. In a book readily accessible to undergraduates and nonspecialists, Professor McCann argues that far from being pristine and primordial spaces, Africa's landscapes were created by human activity. This argument contrasts strongly with the idealized notions of an African Eden commonly held in the West and in Africa itself. It also confronts more recent alarm about degradation of Africa's natural and human resources by examining the historical evidence of environmental change. Key topics within the book are the effects of population growth, disease, agricultural change, the state of natural resources, and the changing role of the state in how Africans have managed and changed their own landscapes.”

———. *The Historical Ecology of Malaria in Ethiopia: Deposing the Spirits*. Ohio University Press Series in Ecology and History. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2014. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2015004831>

Publisher’s description: “Malaria is an infectious disease like no other: it is a dynamic force of nature and Africa’s most deadly and debilitating malady. James C. McCann tells the story of malaria in human, narrative terms and explains the history and ecology of the disease through the science of landscape change. All malaria is local. Instead of examining the disease at global or continental scale, McCann investigates malaria’s adaptation and persistence in a single region, Ethiopia, over time and at several contrasting sites.”

———. *Maize and Grace: Africa's Encounter with a New World Crop, 1500-2000*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2005. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2004054325>

Publisher's description: "Sometime around 1500 A.D., an African farmer planted a maize seed imported from the New World. That act set in motion the remarkable saga of one of the world's most influential crops--one that would transform the future of Africa and of the Atlantic world. Africa's experience with maize is distinctive but also instructive from a global perspective: experts predict that by 2020 maize will become the world's most cultivated crop. James McCann moves easily from the village level to the continental scale, from the medieval to the modern, as he explains the science of maize production and explores how the crop has imprinted itself on Africa's agrarian and urban landscapes. Today, maize accounts for more than half the calories people consume in many African countries. During the twentieth century, a tidal wave of maize engulfed the continent, and supplanted Africa's own historical grain crops--sorghum, millet, and rice. In the metamorphosis of maize from an exotic visitor into a quintessentially African crop, in its transformation from vegetable to grain, and from curiosity to staple, lies a revealing story of cultural adaptation. As it unfolds, we see how this sixteenth-century stranger has become indispensable to Africa's fields, storehouses, and diets, and has embedded itself in Africa's political, economic, and social relations. The recent spread of maize has been alarmingly fast, with implications largely overlooked by the media and policymakers. McCann's compelling history offers insight into the profound influence of a single crop on African culture, health, technological innovation, and the future of the world's food supply."

———. *People of the Plow: An Agricultural History of Ethiopia, 1800-1990*. Thomas Leiper Kane Collection (Library of Congress. Hebraic Section). Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 1995. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/94037124>

Publisher's description: "For more than two thousand years, Ethiopia's ox-plow agricultural system was the most efficient and innovative in Africa, but has been afflicted in the recent past by a series of crises: famine, declining productivity, and losses in biodiversity. James C. McCann analyzes the last two hundred years of agricultural history in Ethiopia to determine whether the ox-plow agricultural system has adapted to population growth, new crops, and the challenges of a modern political economy based in urban centers. This agricultural history is set in the context of the larger environmental and landscape history of Ethiopia, showing how farmers have integrated crops, tools, and labor with natural cycles of rainfall and soil fertility, as well as with the social vagaries of changing political systems. McCann traces characteristic features of Ethiopian farming, such as the single-tine scratch plow, which has retained a remarkably consistent design over two millennia, and a crop repertoire that is among the most genetically diverse in the world. *People of the Plow* provides detailed documentation of Ethiopian agricultural practices since the early nineteenth century by examining travel narratives, early agricultural surveys, photographs and engravings, modern farming systems research, and the testimony of farmers themselves, collected during McCann's five years of fieldwork. He then traces the ways those practices have evolved in the twentieth century in response to population growth, urban markets, and the presence of new technologies."

———. *Stirring the Pot: A History of African Cuisine*. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2009. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2009035723>

Publisher's description: "Africa's art of cooking is a key part of its history. All too often Africa is associated with famine, but in *Stirring the Pot*, James C. McCann describes how the ingredients, the practices, and the varied tastes of African cuisine comprise a body of historically gendered knowledge practiced and perfected in households across Africa's diverse human and ecological landscape. McCann reveals how Africa's tastes and culinary practices are integral to the understanding of African history and more generally to the new literature on food as social history. *Stirring the Pot* offers a chronology of African cuisine beginning in the sixteenth century and continuing from Africa's original edible endowments to its globalization. McCann traces African cooks' use of new crops, spices, and tastes, including New World imports like maize, hot peppers, cassava, potatoes, tomatoes, and peanuts, as well as plantain, sugarcane, spices, Asian rice, and other ingredients from the Indian Ocean world. He analyzes recipes, not as fixed ahistorical documents, but as lively and living records of historical change in women's knowledge and farmers' experiments. A final chapter describes in sensuous detail the direct connections of African cooking to New Orleans jambalaya, Cuban rice and beans, and the cooking of Americans' "soul food." *Stirring the Pot* breaks new ground and makes clear the relationship between food and the culture, history, and national identity."

McCauley, William (**Sierra Leone, 1985–87**). *The Turning Over*. Sag Harbor, New York: Permanent Press, 1998. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/97030147>

Publisher's description: "The experiences of an American aid worker in Africa. He hates the rampant corruption, but likes the plentiful sex and drugs. Sent on a fishing project into the interior of Sierra Leone, he runs into armed rebels and nearly dies."

McMahon, Tyler (**El Salvador, 1999–02**). *Kilometer 99: A Novel*, 1st ed. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2014. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2014008116>

Publisher's description: "Malia needs to leave El Salvador. A surfer and aspiring engineer, she came to Central America as a Peace Corps volunteer and fell in love with Ben. Malia's past year has been perfect: her weeks spent building a much-needed aqueduct in the countryside, and her weekends spent with Ben, surfing point-breaks in the nearby port city of La Libertad. Suddenly, a major earthquake devastates the country and brings an abrupt end to her work. Ben and Malia decide to move on. Now free of obligations, they have an old car, a wad of cash, surfboards, and rough plans for an epic trip through South America. Just as they're about to say goodbye to their gritty and beloved Salvadoran beach town, a mysterious American surfer known only as Pelochucho shows up—spouting grandiose plans and persuading them to stay. Days become weeks; documents go missing; money gets tight. Suddenly, Ben and Malia can't leave. Caught between bizarre real estate offers, suspect drug deals, and internal jealousies, this unlikely band of surfers, aid-workers, and opportunists all struggle to find their way through a fallen world."

McQuillan, Karin (**Senegal, 1971**). *Deadly Safari*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/89024102>

Publisher's description: "It's open season on rich Americans. Leading the pack are two wealthy businessmen...with an aging wife apiece.... Two of them will soon be dead. Faced with this unnatural attrition, Jazz Jasper admits that her first run as an independent safari guide may also be her last. But every animal—even a desperate two-legged one—leaves a trail, and Jazz, hardly certain whether she is hunter or game, sets about trapping a remorseless human predator."

———. *Elephant's Graveyard*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1993. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/92054391>

Publisher's description: "McQuillan's Kenya is Isak Dinesen's, seventy years later, a paradise lost but still breathtaking and rich in wildlife, with the potent magic to restore the spirits of Americans and Europeans in search of new beginnings. Recovering from a bad marriage and a worse divorce, American expatriate Jazz Jasper happily ekes out a living running safari tours and working for animal rights. When the lifeless body of wealthy American Ammet Laird, head of the Save the Elephants foundation, is found beside a watering hole, Emmet's grieving lover, Mikki, presses her friend Jazz to investigate. But as Jazz stalks her game high in the forested hills and through the streets of Nairobi, she becomes certain that the murderer she seeks is someone she knows well...."

———. *The Cheetah Chase*, 1st ed. New York: Ballantine Books, 1994. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/93047125>

Publisher's description: "When investigative journalist Nick Hunter dies from a scorpion sting on his isolated cheetah preserve in Kenya, American safari guide Jazz Jasper thinks it a natural tragedy – but then something doesn't fit. Her search for Nick's killer leads her on a sweeping adventure from the rich suburbs of Nairobi to an illegal Saudi hunting camp, and the hidden home of a stone-age hunter. This is a page-turner with equal parts African adventure and clever murder mystery."

Meijer, Darcy Munson, ed. (**Gabon, 1982–84**). *Adventures in Gabon: Peace Corps Stories from the African Rainforest*. 1st Peace Corps Writers ed. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2011935224>

Goodreads.com review by Lawrence: "If you served in Gabon as a Peace Corps volunteer, this will be like a yearbook and a reunion all in one. It is a book of anecdotes by more than thirty writers who served between 1962 and 2005. This is the only Peace Corps book I have ever read that included accounts from years covering the entire Peace Corps experience in one nation (the Gabon program closed in 2005). Unlike most Peace Corps anthologies, this one includes contributions by volunteers who served after 1980. Equally unusual, the name of Shriver is never mentioned and Kennedy is mentioned only once. Divided into seven sections (Joining the Peace Corps, Not in Ohio Anymore, Health and Safety, Impressive People, Magic and Belief, Lessons in Culture and Fiction),

the book notes each author's name, dates of service and job. However, the anecdotes are actually answers to questions posed over the years by the editor of a quarterly newsletter called *The Gabon Letter*. Since they are answers to questions (What was the dumbest thing you did? What language mistakes did you make? Were you ever sick? etc.), they are generally very short and often filled with Peace Corps jargon (PCV, COS, TEFL, PCVL, CIRMF, STDs)."

Meisler, Stanley (**staff/Washington, 1964–67**). *When the World Calls: The Inside Story of the Peace Corps and its First Fifty Years*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2010033723>

Publisher's description: "Not an institutional history, *When the World Calls* is the first complete and balanced look at the Peace Corps's first fifty years. Revelatory and candid, Stanley Meisler's engaging narrative exposes Washington infighting, presidential influence, and the Volunteers' unique struggles abroad. Meisler deftly unpacks the complicated history with sharp analysis and memorable anecdotes, taking readers on a global trek starting with the historic first contingent of Volunteers to Ghana on August 30, 1961. The Peace Corps has served as an American emblem for world peace and friendship, yet few realize that it has sometimes tilted its agenda to meet the demands of the White House. Tracing its history through the past nine presidential administrations, Meisler discloses, for instance, how Lyndon Johnson became furious when Volunteers opposed his invasion of the Dominican Republic; he reveals how Richard Nixon literally tried to destroy the Peace Corps, and how Ronald Reagan endeavored to make it an instrument of foreign policy in Central America. But somehow the ethos of the Peace Corps endured, largely due to the perseverance of the 200,000 Volunteers themselves, whose shared commitment to effect positive global change has been a constant in one of our most complex-and valued-institutions."

Messinger, Delfi (**Zaire, 1984–87**). *Grains of Golden Sand: Adventures in War-Torn Africa*. Honolulu, Hawaii: The Fine Print Press, 2007. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2006923404>

Subject: The book appears to be based on the author's Peace Corps experience in Zaire (present-day Democratic Republic of the Congo) and the city of Kinshasa. A main topic appears to be the Bonobo, once known as the pygmy chimpanzee.

Meyer, Michael (**China, 1995–97**). *The Last Days of Old Beijing: Life in the Vanishing Backstreets of a City Transformed*. New York: Walker & Co., 2008. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2008015546>

Publisher's description: "A fascinating, intimate portrait of Beijing through the lens of its oldest neighborhood, Dazhalan. Meyer examines how the bonds that hold the neighborhood together are being torn by forced evictions as century-old houses and ways of life are increasingly destroyed to make way for shopping malls, the capital's first Wal-Mart, high-rise buildings, and widened streets for cars replacing bicycles."

Miles, William F. S. (**Niger, 1977–79**). *Hausaland Divided: Colonialism and Independence in Nigeria and Niger*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1994. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/93031669>

Publisher's description: "How have different forms of colonialism shaped societies and their politics? What can borderland communities teach us about nation building and group identity? William F. S. Miles focuses on the Hausa-speaking people of West Africa, whose land is still split by an arbitrary boundary established by Great Britain and France at the turn of the century. In 1983, Miles returned as a Fulbright scholar to the region where he had served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the late 1970s. Already fluent in the Hausa language, he established residence in carefully selected twin villages on either side of the border separating the Republic of Niger from the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Over the next year, and then during subsequent visits, he traveled by horseback between the two places, conducting surveys, collecting oral testimony, and living the ethnographic life. Miles argues that the colonial imprint of the British and the French can still be discerned more than a generation after the conferring of formal independence on Nigeria and Niger."

———. *Jews of Nigeria: An Afro-Judaic Odyssey*. Princeton, New Jersey: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2013. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2012018759>

Publisher's description: "While Jews have long had a presence in Ethiopia and the Maghreb, Africa's newest Jewish community of note is in Nigeria, where upwards of twenty thousand Igbos are commonly claimed to have adopted Judaism. Bolstered by customs recalling an Israelite ancestry, but embracing rabbinic Judaism, they are also the world's first "Internet Jews." William Miles has spent over three decades conducting research in West Africa. In *Jews of Nigeria: An Afro-Judaic Odyssey*, he shares life stories from this spiritually passionate community, as well as his own Judaic reflections as he celebrates Hanukka and a bar mitzvah with "Jubos" in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria. A concluding encounter with laureate Chinua Achebe reveals unexpected family connections to one of the most intriguing Jewish and African communities to emerge in modern times."

———. *Afro-Jewish Encounters: From Timbuktu to the Indian Ocean and Beyond*. With a foreword by Ali A. Mazrui. Princeton, New Jersey: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2014. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2013025407>

Publisher's description: "A Muslim curator and archivist who preserves in his native Timbuktu the memory of its rabbi. An evangelical Kenyan who is amazed to meet a living 'Israelite.' Indian Ocean islanders who maintain the Jewish cemetery of escapees from Nazi Germany. These are just a few of the encounters the author shares from his sojourns and fieldwork."

———. *Scars of Partition: Postcolonial Legacies in French and British Borderlands*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2014. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2013050471>

Publisher's description: "Based on three decades of fieldwork throughout the developing world, *Scars of Partition* is the first book to systematically evaluate the long-term implications of French and British styles of colonialism and decolonization for ordinary people throughout the so-called Third World. It pays particular attention to the contemporary legacies of artificial boundaries superimposed by Britain and France that continue to divide indigenous peoples into separate postcolonial states. In so doing, it uniquely illustrates how the distinctive stamps of France and Britain continue to mark daily life along and behind these inherited borders in Africa, Asia, Oceania, and the Caribbean. *Scars of Partition* draws on political science, anthropology, history, and geography to examine six cases of indigenous, indentured, and enslaved peoples partitioned by colonialism in West Africa, West Indies, South Pacific, Southeast Asia, South India, and the Indian Ocean. William F. S. Miles demonstrates that sovereign nations throughout the developing world, despite basic differences in culture, geography, and politics, still bear the underlying imprint of their colonial pasts. Disentangling and appreciating these embedded colonial legacies is critical to achieving full decolonization—particularly in their borderlands."

Miller, Christopher L. (**Zaire [present-day Democratic Republic of the Congo], 1975–77**). *Blank Darkness: Africanist Discourse in French*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/85001157>

Publisher's description: "*Blank Darkness: Africanist Discourse in French* is a brilliant and altogether convincing analysis of the way in which Western writers, from Homer to the twentieth century have...imposed their language of desire on the least-known part of the world and have called it 'Africa.' There are excellent readings here of writers ranging from Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Sade, and Celine to Conrad and Yambo Ouologuem, but even more impressive and important than these individual readings is Mr. Miller's wide-ranging, incisive, and exact analysis of 'Africanist' discourse, what it has been and what it has meant in the literature of the Western world."—James Olney, Louisiana State University

Mills, Nick B. (**Colombia, 1965–66**). *The Failing American Intervention and the Struggle for Afghanistan*. New York: John Wiley 2007. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2007026599>

Publisher's description: "The untold story of Hamid Karzai's dramatic rise to the presidency of Afghanistan and the problems he and his country face. In 2004, Hamid Karzai was elected president in Afghanistan's first-ever democratic election. Today, criticized for indecisiveness and targeted for assassination by extremists, President Karzai struggles to build on the country's modest post-Taliban achievements before civil unrest undermines his government. Now, author Nick Mills draws on months of candid personal interviews with the charismatic Afghan president to offer a revealing portrait of the figure known to millions by his familiar uniform of karakul cap and long green *chappan*. Timely and compelling, Karzai tells the fascinating story of a unique leader with a keen intellect, a natural gift for storytelling, and a presidency in peril."

Molloy, Aimee (**Senegal, 1976–79**). *However Long the Night: Molly Melching's Journey to Help Millions of African Women and Girls Triumph*, 1st ed. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2013. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2012048654>

Amazon.com description: “In *However Long the Night*, Aimee Molloy tells the unlikely and inspiring story of Molly Melching, an American woman whose experience as an exchange student in Senegal led her to found Tostan and dedicate almost four decades of her life to the girls and women of Africa. This moving biography details Melching's beginnings at the University of Dakar and follows her journey of 40 years in Africa, where she became a social entrepreneur and one of humanity's strongest voices for the rights of girls and women. Inspirational and beautifully written, *However Long the Night: Molly Melching's Journey to Help Millions of African Women and Girls Triumph* is a passionate entreaty for all global citizens. This book is published in partnership with the Skoll Foundation, dedicated to accelerating innovations from organizations like Tostan that address the world's most pressing problems.”

Monninger, Joseph (**Upper Volta [present-day Burkina Faso], 1975–77**). *The Viper Tree*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1991. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/90010182>

Publisher's description: “Nothing in Monninger's previous work...prepares one for this extraordinary novel, an intriguing psychological puzzle that explores the nature of belief in religion and in superstitious magic as well as the thin line between the two. AWOL Nazi soldier Fredereich Loebus flees Europe, unwittingly ending up in West Africa, where he is captured and treated viciously by a primitive tribe. Escaping into the desert, he is saved from death by a mission of French nuns.... Under threat of prison by the French authorities, Loebus escapes again, hiding in the bush, where he becomes “purely African,” acquiring a reputation as a healer with miraculous powers. Years later, Loebus, now known as Father Faujas, has become a *nyanga*, or witch man, with the ability to inflict deadly curses; even after his death, his reputation lives on in a macabre fashion. Monninger renders a stunning picture of West Africa, describing the terrain, the weather, and the customs and rituals of native tribes in a measured prose that also chillingly sets off the brutal events of the narrative.”

Morton, Fred (**Nigeria, 1964–65**), Jeff Ramsey, and Part Themba Mgadia. *Historical Dictionary of Botswana*. Historical Dictionaries of Africa, no. 44. Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press, 2008. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2007052314>

Publisher's description: “This fourth edition of *Historical Dictionary of Botswana*, through its chronology, introductory essay, appendixes, map, bibliography, and hundreds of cross-referenced dictionary entries on important people, places, events, as well as institutions and significant political, economic, social, and cultural aspects, provides an important reference on this African country.”

Morrow, Baker H. (**Somalia, 1968–69**). *Horses Like the Wind and Other Stories of Africa*. Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2001. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2001002646>

Publisher's description: "Set in Somalia just after its independence in the 1960s, *Horses Like the Wind and Other Stories of Africa* is a collection of nine short stories that paint a portrait of the many different lives that intertwine along the Horn of Africa. A ruthless horse dealer comes up against the best tracker in the Somali army; transplanted Italian farmers look to a future of stark disintegration as they struggle to hold on to their lands and their families; gutsy American women attempt to establish lives of their own in the remote East African desert; and a beggar and an idealist meet in a chance encounter on the steps of a Mogadishu bank, with mind-numbing consequences."

Mueller, Marnie (**Ecuador, 1963–65**). *Green Fires: Assault on Eden: A Novel of the Ecuadorian Rain Forest*. Willimantic, Connecticut: Curbstone Press, 1994. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/94002426>

- ❖ American Book Award, 1994
- ❖ RPCV Writers & Readers' Maria Thomas Fiction Award, 1995

Publisher's description: "For her honeymoon, a former Peace Corps volunteer takes her husband to Ecuador to revisit old haunts. They get caught up in the violent politics of the rainforest where a multinational company is exterminating Indian tribes."

Müller, Karin (**Philippines, 1987–89**). *Along the Inca Road: A Woman's Journey into an Ancient Empire*. Washington, DC: Adventure Press: National Geographic Society, 2000. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2001274256>

Publisher's description: "In this vivid, freewheeling expedition, Karin Müller travels the ancient route to explore its dramatic history and discover new adventures along its length and breadth.... As she spins the wool of her stories into a modern tapestry of faces and memories, Müller intertwines a chronicle of the ancient Inca from their race's mythical birth on an island in lofty Lake Titicaca to their sudden plunge from the height of imperial power at the hands of a ragtag band of Spanish soldiers of fortune. We learn how they lived, worshipped, and warred, and why such a magnificent culture proved so vulnerable to invaders."

———. *Hitchhiking Vietnam: A Woman's Solo Journey in an Elusive Land*, 1st ed. Old Saybrook, Connecticut: Globe Pequot Press, 1998. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/97047233>

Publisher's description: "The author, an American woman, tells the story of her seven-month adventure hitchhiking through Vietnam in search of villages and people untouched by the encroaching commercialism of the Western world."

Newman, Paul (**Nigeria, 1961–63**). *A Hausa-English Dictionary*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2007920770>

Publisher's description: "This up-to-date volume, the first Hausa-English dictionary published in a quarter of a century, is written with language learners and practical users in mind. With over 10,000 entries, it primarily covers Standard Nigerian Hausa but also includes numerous forms from Niger and other dialect areas of Nigeria. The dictionary includes new Hausa terminology for products, events, and activities of the modern world. Its definitions show the use of Hausa words in context, and particular attention is paid to idioms, figurative meanings, and special usages. As a guide to pronunciation, headwords and illustrative sentences are fully marked for tone and vowel length. The book adopts a unique approach to the presentation of verb forms that clarifies lexical relationships and their correct usage. This dictionary constitutes the Hausa-English counterpart to Roxana Ma Newman's *An English-Hausa Dictionary* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990)."

Newman, Roxana Ma (**Nigeria, 1961–63**). *An English-Hausa Dictionary*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/89051452>

Publisher's summary: "This is a comprehensive English-Hausa dictionary designed specifically for English-speaking users who wish to acquire communicative fluency in Hausa, West Africa's most important and most widely spoken language. It is recommended for students, research scholars, translators, and people with educational, business, or governmental ties in West Africa."

Niedenthal, Jack (**Marshall Islands, 1981–84**). *For the Good of Mankind: A History of the People of Bikini and Their Islands*. Majuro, Marshall Islands: Micronitor/Bravo Publishers; Second edition, 2001. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2003446414>

Publisher's description: "The story of the people of Bikini Atoll and their islands in the words of the people. This oral history takes the reader from ancient to modern times."

Omang, Joanne (**Turkey, 1964–66**). *Incident at Akabal*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1992. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/91018230>

❖ RPCV Writers & Readers' Maria Thomas Fiction Award, 1993

Publisher's description: Political fiction based in Central America in 1979. Joanne Omang, the *Washington Post*'s first female foreign correspondent, bases her novel on a true incident that took place in the Guatemalan mountain village of Aqabal. *Tampa Review*'s Andy Soloman faults the author for her "colorless" female characters and for placing "her political agenda ahead of her characters."

Onyemelukwe, Catherine (**Nigeria, 1962–64**). *Nigeria Revisited: My Life and Loves Abroad*. 1<sup>st</sup> Peace Corps Writers edition. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, 2014. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2014953038>

Publisher's description: "The Nigerian people hold strong ties to their families, clans, tribes, and country, and it doesn't take long for foreign residents to feel the same bond. So in 1962, when twenty-one-year-old Catherine Onyemelukwe launches her two-year adventure with the brand-new Peace Corps, she has no idea what the African country has in store. Catherine's heartfelt memoir revisits her two years overseas that become twenty-four, during which her experiences brim with friendships, students, travels around the country, and love. It recalls how her future Nigerian husband contrives to meet her, their falling for each other, and their controversial wedding that becomes world news and a spread in Life Magazine. It is also a deep look into the coups and wars that leave their family without electricity and running water, as they struggle to keep their children safe and healthy. When it becomes too much, they flee to the United States, only to be greeted with scorn for their mixed-race children. This story of adapting to cultures, taking risks, surviving, and embracing differences will inspire the reader to venture beyond perceived horizons and see the world in a whole new light."

Osborn, Donald Zhang (**Togo, 1979–81; Mali, 1983–85; Guinea 1985–87; staff/Niger, 2000–?**); Dwyer, David J. (**Cameroon, 1963–65**), and Joseph I. Donahue, Jr. *A Fulfulde (Maasina)-English-French Lexicon: A Root-Based Compilation Drawn from Extant Sources Followed by English-Fulfulde and French-Fulfulde Listings*. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1993. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/92035325>

Publisher's Description: "The Lexicon brings together lexical material from a wide range of published and non-published sources to create an extensive compilation of the vocabulary of Fulfulde as it is spoken in that part of central Mali known as Masina (in Fulfulde, Maasina). The Lexicon is intended primarily for non-Fulfulde speakers who are learning the language at the intermediate or advanced levels and who need access to a comprehensive reference source on Fulfulde vocabulary. Scholars, development workers, and others whose research or fieldwork involves use of the Fulfulde of Masina may find it helpful as well in clarifying nuances of meaning and standardized spelling for the less familiar terms they might encounter. It is also intended that the present work, beyond the matter of organizing vocabulary, will contribute significantly to the expanding lexicographical and linguistic investigations of Fulfulde."

O'Toole, Thomas (**Guinea, 1963–65**); and Janice E. Baker. *Historical Dictionary of Guinea*, 4th ed. Historical Dictionaries of Africa, no. 94. Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press, 2005. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2004021010>

Publisher's description: "Thoroughly updated and extensively revised, this 4th edition provides a very solid and substantial guide to a better understanding of this richly endowed but poorly understood nation. Students and others seeking information about the country will find an introductory narrative accounting of Guinea's political and economic history, a chronology that spans the earliest known history of the area to the present day

Republic of Guinea, 400 dictionary entries covering the personalities and events that made contemporary Guinea, and an extensive bibliography of current publications.”

Packer, George (**Togo, 1982–83**). *The Village of Waiting*. 1st Farrar, Straus, Giroux ed. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2001091276>

Publisher’s description: “Now restored to print with a new Foreword by Philip Gourevitch and an Afterword by the author, this book is a frank, moving, and vivid account of contemporary life in West Africa. Stationed as a Peace Corps instructor in the village of Lavié (the name means “wait a little more”) in tiny and underdeveloped Togo, Packer reveals his own schooling at the hands of an unforgettable array of townspeople—peasants, chiefs, charlatans, children, market women, cripples, crazies, and those who, having lost or given up much of their traditional identity and fastened their hopes on “development,” find themselves trapped between the familiar repetitions of rural life and the chafing monotony of waiting for change.”

Pastor, Robert A. (**Malaysia, 1970–72**). *Whirlpool: US Foreign Policy toward Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2nd ed. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2001. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/00049529>

*Handbook of Latin American Studies* annotation: “This second edition of a notable study that first appeared in 1992 provides a detailed overview of the policies of U.S. Presidents Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and Bill Clinton, and of the important Congressional role in policy-making. Pastor says developments since 1992 validate his original theses: 1) that the US overemphasizes external threats and underestimates internal difficulties in small Caribbean countries; 2) that the pattern of alternation between intervention and neglect would not necessarily be broken with end of the Cold War; and 3) that the already-established Hemispheric trends toward democracy and free trade are more important than the collapse of the Soviet Union and communism. He advises policy orientations based on multilateralism, defense of democracy, and promotion of free trade.”

Pfunder, Malcolm (**Turkey, 1965–67**). *Village in the Meadows*. Tünel, Istanbul: Çitlembik, 2007. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2009339447>

Publisher’s description: *Village in the Meadows* in the Black Sea region of Turkey was Malcolm Pfunder’s Peace Corps site and home for nearly two years in the 1960s. These memoirs about his time there spring from a desire to share the memorable, often humorous stories of the things that he did, and that happened there. The Peace Corps experience entailed a great deal of time spent outdoors and lots of freedom to experiment, with the vague impetus of “Go forth and be relevant” as encouragement. Pfunder’s narrative of his “wonderful adventure” among the locals of that beautiful mountain village is a sympathetic story of the villagers’ way of life at the time and what he and his site partner Allen did to try to improve it, followed by Pfunder’s interesting account of all

the changes he has seen occur in the intervening years on periodic visits back to the village.”

Phoel, Cynthia Morrison (**Bulgaria, 1994–96**). *Cold Snap: Bulgaria Stories*, 1st ed. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 2010. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2009052306>

❖ Winner of the Maria Thomas Fiction Award

Publisher’s description: “As in Sherwood Anderson’s Winesburg, Ohio, place is at the center of Cynthia Morrison Phoel’s debut collection of linked stories. Quirky, remote, and agonizingly intimate, the ragged village of Old Mountain is home to a cast of Bulgarian townsfolk who do daily battle with the heat or the bitter cold, with soul-crushing poverty, with petty disagreements among themselves—all the while attempting to adapt to changing times and keep up with their neighbors. Money is tight in this valley of run-down Communist blocks and crumbling plaster houses, but community is tighter. When a largely unemployed father in “A Good Boy” trades his much-needed summer earnings for a hulking satellite dish, everyone knows about it. The same way everyone knows about the shop lady who rests her finger on the scale to drive up the price of cheese in “Galia.” In “Satisfactory Proof,” a budding mathematician completes a prestigious master’s degree in number theory but fails to recognize the patterns of care and compassion everywhere around him. And in the concluding novella, “Cold Snap,” as the town endures freezing temperatures and waits for the central heat to be turned on, the characters we have already met make a satisfying encore appearance—as the brittle cold pushes them to the edge of reason.”

Pope, Carl D. (**India, 1968–69**). *Sahib: An American Misadventure in India*. New York: Liveright Press, 1972. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/70184099>

Subject: This is a personal narrative of Peace Corps service in India, apparently involving a birth-control project.

Radelet, Steven (**Western Samoa, 1981–83**). *Emerging Africa: How 17 Countries Are Leading the Way*. With an introduction by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Washington, DC: Center for Global Development: Brookings Institution Press, 2010. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010533478>

❖ Nominated for Peace Corps Writers’ Paul Cowan Non-Fiction Award, 2010

Publisher’s description: “*Emerging Africa* describes the too-often-overlooked positive changes that have taken place in much of Africa since the mid-1990s. In 17 countries, five fundamental and sustained breakthroughs are making old assumptions increasingly untenable. These include the rise of democracy brought on by the end of the Cold War and apartheid; stronger economic management; the end of the debt crisis and a more constructive relationship with the international community; the introduction of new technologies, especially mobile phones and the Internet; and the emergence of a new

generation of leaders. With these significant changes, the countries of emerging Africa seem poised to lead the continent out of the conflict, stagnation, and dictatorships of the past. The countries discussed in the book are Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Mali Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.”

Restle, Barbara (**Fiji, 1979–80**). *Shadow over Fiji: A Memoir*. New York: Vantage Press, 1999. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/99093570>

Subject: A former Peace Corps volunteer narrates her experience in Fiji involving women ranchers, cattle, and Fijian social life and customs.

Richter, Joan (staff spouse, **Kenya, 1965–67**). *The Gambling Master of Shanghai and Other Tales of Suspense*. 1st Peace Corps Writers ed. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, Library of Congress Permalink: 2011. <http://lccn.loc.gov/2011921224>

Publisher’s description: “The Gambling Master of Shanghai and Other Tales of Suspense is a collection of seventeen stories that will take the reader on a suspenseful journey to places near and far—to Shanghai and Prague, Africa, Cambodia, and the United States.”

Ridgell, Reilly (**Micronesia, 1971–73**). *Bending to the Trade Winds: Stories of the Peace Corps Experience in Micronesia*. Mangilao: University of Guam Press, 1991. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/93195624>

Subject: This is an anthology of fictional stories based on experiences of Peace Corps volunteers in Chuuk in the early 1970s.

Robinson, Michael Edson (**South Korea, 1968–71**). *Korea’s Twentieth-Century Odyssey*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2007. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2006038995>

Subject: This work examines twentieth-century Korean history and democratization in South Korea, 1987–2000.

Rosen, Barry (**Iran, 1967–69**), Barbara Rosen, and George Feifer. *The Destined Hour: The Hostage Crisis and One Family’s Ordeal*. Garden City, 1st ed. New York: Doubleday, 1982. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/81043857>

Publisher’s description: “Former hostage, Barry Rosen, gives a first-person account of the takeover of the American Embassy in Iran and his 444 days in captivity juxtaposed with his wife’s account of the effect of these events on the families of the hostages.” Rosen was serving as press attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, when militants took him and 51 other Americans hostage on November 4, 1979.

Rosen, George H. (**Kenya, 1968–70**). *The Immanence of God in the Tropics*, 1st ed. Fredonia, New York: Leapfrog Press, 2012. Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2012031013>

Publisher's description: "Told with a vivid, pungent sense of place, whether on a bumpy soccer pitch carved from an African forest or a tall ship in a dazzling sea, these are tales of unexpected encounters far from home. A Great White Hunter with more wives than money turns into Africa's least competent thief; two Americans learning Spanish contemplate the costs and possibilities of love in the mountains of Mexico; a father wades into the surf to protect his daughter from the (usually) harmless local lunatic; and a seasick disciple of Dr. Livingstone bumps into God on the equator. Unprotected by the comforts of home, Rosen's characters turn unexpected corners as they look for that place where "everywhere, there is something remarkable."

Rosenberg, Robert (**Kyrgyzstan, 1994–96**). *This Is Not Civilization: A Novel*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2004042729>

Publisher's description: This is a novel about a former Peace Corps volunteer now working as a refugee resettlement officer in Istanbul, who finds himself hosting two friends from his two Peace Corps villages in Kyrgyzstan, "unaware that they will soon face one of the most disastrous earthquakes of the century. Sweeping, compassionate, and deeply moving, this novel celebrates the power of human connection in a largely unsettled world."

Ross, Mark C. (**Kenya, 1977–79**). *Dangerous Beauty: Life and Death in Africa: True Stories from a Safari Guide*, 1st ed. New York: Hyperion, 2001. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/00062000>

Publisher's description: "On March 1, 1999, American safari guide Mark Ross was camping with four clients in Uganda searching for endangered mountain gorillas. By day's end, two of these clients and six other tourists were dead at the hands of Rwandan rebels. As a man who loves East Africa, Ross felt betrayed by this horror, which made headlines around the world. He writes, "The continent has always been the love of my life. Now there is trouble between us." *Dangerous Beauty* is the story of that love and trouble. Ross writes here about his close-up encounters with danger and natural beauty in Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Uganda. He describes his walks in the bush and the way he teaches his clients to read unearthly silences and stillnesses in the wind that signify trouble. He writes about deadly charges by elephants and the electric excitement of witnessing the mass migrations of wildebeest and zebras. He writes, too, in detail about the terrible events of 1999."

Royal, Ruth Kesselring (**Philippines, 1961–63**) and Beryl Brinkman (**Afghanistan, 1967–69**). *Never Gonna Cease My Wanderin': Letters Between Friends*. 1st Peace Corps Writers ed. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, 2012. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2012947639>

Publisher's description: "In the late 50s, two young women at a small Midwestern college forge a friendship which will extend a lifetime and is at the core of their letter exchanges as they travel the world. Together the pair march into the 60s, picking their way around

the land mines of that liberating era. They explore their hearts, and souls, as they join the Peace Corps, writing to compare experiences, raise new questions. *Never Gonna Cease My Wanderin'* is a collection of Ruth and Beryl's letters. It pulls the reader into their worlds as Volunteers in the Philippines and Afghanistan and then their lives beyond. How will these two friends, bonded by dreams of internationalism, equal rights and a personal haven, find their way?"

Rush, Norman (**Botswana, country director, 1978–83**). *Mortals: A Novel*, 1st ed. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2002043289>

Publisher's description: "In the heart of Botswana, the lives of three Americans—an undercover CIA agent, his disaffected wife, and an iconoclastic black holistic physician—entangle with that of a local populist leader as a violent insurrection erupts in the area.... Through lives lived ardently in an unforgiving land, *Mortals* examines with wit and insight the dilemmas of power, religion, rebellion, and contending versions of and love. It is a study of a marriage over time, and a man's struggle to find his way when his private and public worlds are shifting."

———. *Mating*, 1st ed. New York: A. A. Knopf: Distributed by Random House, 1991. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/90025752>

❖ National Book Award

Publisher's description: "Set in the African republic of Botswana... Norman Rush's novel simultaneously explores the highest of intellectual high grounds and the most tortuous ravines of the erotic... An anthropologist in her early thirties on the loose in Africa pursues a fit, late-forties utopian male in Botswana. Dreams, plans, and schemes surround their courtship."

———. *Whites: Stories*, 1st ed. New York: Knopf, 1986. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/85045598>

Subject: This is a critically acclaimed collection of short stories set in Botswana and focusing on American whites in the country.

Sack, Terry (**Bolivia, 1963-65**). *A Peace Corps Memoir: Answering JFK's Call*. Boone, North Carolina: T. Sack, 2010. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2009909153>

Publisher's description: "As one of the first Volunteers in the early years of the Peace Corps, author Terry Sack had his work cut out for him—as well as his passions. In *A Peace Corps Memoir: Answering JFK's Call*, he reminisces about the organization's early years; surviving a very demanding training program, and then finding his niche in a strange culture as a newly minted Peace Corps Volunteer in a small town in the Amazon basin of Bolivia in the early 1960s. In fifty-two well-considered and thoughtfully penned chapters like "Progress at Last," "Government Ousted," "Plane with PC Workers Missing," and "Trinidad Farewell," Sack takes an easy-to-read chronological approach.

He thoughtfully blends romance and humor to recall the enormity of what it was like to endure selection and training and ultimately become a Peace Corps Volunteer after having witnessed JFK's call to arms in a speech at the University of Michigan in 1961.”

Sadow, Sue (**Sierra Leone, 1961–63**). *Can do (Said Sue): A Rich Life Helping the Poor: Autobiography*, 1st ed. Denver, Colorado: Beaumont Books, 1992. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/90083463>

Summary: Sue Sadow's autobiography discusses philanthropists and volunteer workers in social service. Part of this book is an excerpt from the book of the author's experiences in Sierra Leone entitled *Into Africa with the Peace Corps*.

Saltonstall, Katharyn W. (**Nigeria, 1963–65**). *Small Bridges to One World: A Peace Corps Perspective, Nigeria, 1963–1965*. Portsmouth, New Hampshire: P.E. Randall Publisher, 1986. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/88209982>

Subject: This is a memoir of an early Peace Corps volunteer in Nigeria.

Scanlon, Thomas J. (**Chile, 1961–63**). *Waiting for the Snow: The Peace Corps Papers of a Charter Volunteer*. Forewords by Sargent Shriver and Theodore M. Hesburgh. Chevy Chase, MD: Posterity Press, 1997. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/97204050>

Subject: The author recounts his experience serving in Chile as a Peace Corps pioneer.

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy (**Brazil, 1964–66**). *Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/91012829>

❖ RPCV Writers & Readers' Paul Cowan Nonfiction Award, 1992

*Handbook of Latin American Studies* annotation: “Focusing on lives of women and children in a northeast *favela*, luminously written account describes everyday experiences of scarcity, sickness, and death.”

Schmidt, Monique Maria (**Benin, 1998–2000**). *Last Moon Dancing: A Memoir of Love and Real Life in Africa*, 1st ed. Santa Monica, California: Clover Press, 2005. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2004113743>

Subject: Women teachers with the Peace Corps find romance in Benin.

Schneider, Richard C. (**Philippines (1969–71, 1974–77)**). *Living with the Pinatubo Aetas: A Peace Corps Philippines Journal*. 1st Peace Corps Writers edition. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, 2014. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2014942702>

Publisher's description: "As a Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) assigned to the Philippines, Rich Schneider lived in the remote mountain village of Villar from June 1969 through June 1971, and worked with Pinatubo Aetas, an indigenous people, to increase their rice yield. The Aetas lived in permanent dwellings on a government reservation each assigned about 0.6 hectare (1.5 acres) of land suitable for planting rice. They had given up slash-and-burn agriculture, and on this land started traditional rice farming. Rich's assignment was to assist the Aetas increase their rice yield per hectare from 30 to 80 cavans (1 cavan = 50 kilograms) using the improved rice varieties and enhanced cultivation practices developed at the International Rice Research Institute. Immersed in the Pinatubo Aetas' culture for two years, Rich had expected to haul water from a spring, sleep in a Nipa hut, read by kerosene lantern, and hike long distances. He learned to eat beetle larvae, sleep under a mosquito net, stay away from insurgent activity, and to speak Tagalog. What he didn't expect to find was a people who would share what little they had with a tall, well-intentioned Volunteer before taking care of themselves. Living with the Pinatubo Aetas was compiled from notes, letters to his family, discussions with other PCV's and tape recordings, and tells Rich's story of his life during his two years in the Philippines. After reading this journal, the reader will better understand the daily life of a PCV, the customs of Filipinos, and, more specifically, the traditions of the Pinatubo Aetas."

Schulz, Renate A. (**Mali, 1963–65, 2011–12**). *Life in Alien Territory: Memories of Peace Corps Service in Mali*, 1st ed. Tucson, Arizona: Wheatmark, 2015. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2014946151>

Publisher's description: "Retired university professor Renate Schulz is looking for something to do with her life, some way to give back. She decides to rejoin the Peace Corps forty-six years after she first served. *Life in Alien Territory: Memories of Peace Corps Service in Mali* chronicles her eleven months in Mali, West Africa, a predominantly Muslim country. At age seventy-one, she is the oldest Peace Corps volunteer among 180 other Americans. Schulz weaves the highs and lows of her life as a volunteer in Africa into her daily journal entries. Her personal struggles with the challenges of living in third-world conditions, particularly at her age, are woven into her real-life concerns about human rights in West Africa, particularly for women and children. Her time in Mali, with all its challenges and frustrations, are offset with her growing appreciation for this "alien" culture. In this wonderfully readable travel narrative, Schulz captures the spirit of the culture, education, and people of Mali. At the same time, she shows how you are never too old to have a life-changing adventure."

Schwab, Peter (**Liberia, 1962–64**). *Designing West Africa: Prelude to 21st-Century Calamity*, 1st ed. New York: Palgrave, 2004. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2003065827>

Publisher's description: "Many African countries are now described as "Fourth World nations," ones which essentially have no future. How could this have happened? Through the scope of the 1960s, the first decade of African independence, Peter Schwab presents a compelling and provocative answer to this question. *Designing West Africa* tells the story of a pivotal decade in African history, when the fate of the continent was decided. Focusing on the six most visible leaders of the period—Sékou Touré, Kwame Nkrumah,

and others—Schwab shows how Africa served as a ground to play out larger international conflicts, namely the Cold War. He does not fall back solely on blaming non-African involvement for the failure to build a viable leadership for the continent rather, he critiques the African leaders themselves for their individual failings.”

———. *Africa, A Continent Self-Destructs*, 1st ed. New York: Palgrave for St. Martin’s Press, 2001. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2001021864>

Publisher’s description: “Can Africa survive? Many of the nations of sub-Saharan Africa have all but ceased to exist as organized states: tyranny, diseases such as AIDS, civil war and ethnic conflict, and border invasions threaten the complete disintegration of a region. Peter Schwab offers a clear, authoritative portrait of a continent on the brink. Globalization and an accompanying level of economic health have passed over Africa. Added to these factors is a patronizing attitude from the West that change in Africa must take place within Western parameters, a UN that lacks any real power, and a U.S. foreign policy in Africa that is unclear. Looking to South Africa as an example of successful Western support of an African nation, Schwab suggests that the United States should use its leverage to help democrats into positions of power and then work with them under a framework dictated by the leaders themselves. It is only with a distinctly African approach to African problems that the survival of the continent can be assured.”

Shacochis, Bob (**Eastern Caribbean, 1975–76**). *Easy in the Islands: Stories*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1985. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/84015570>

- ❖ Winner of the 1985 National Book Award

Subject: This is a collection of fictional stories about Caribbean social life and customs.

———. *Swimming in the Volcano*. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1993. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/92037116>

- ❖ Winner of the RPCV Writers & Readers’ Maria Thomas Fiction Award, 1994

Publisher’s description: “The volcano at the heart of the island of St. Catherine has smoldered as ominously and impotently as its politics for years, but lately things seem to be heating up. Mitchell Wilson, an American expatriate and economist for the Ministry of Agriculture, becomes unwittingly embroiled in an internecine war between rival factions of the government. Into this potentially eruptive scene enters a woman, Johanna, whom Mitchell once loved and lost but who remains an enchanting and powerful temptation—one he will not resist. At once a beguiling love story and a superbly sophisticated political novel about the fruits of imperialism in the twentieth century, *Swimming in the Volcano* is as brutally seductive a novel as the world it evokes. Triumphant compassion, and imbued with Shacochis’s insight into human affairs that “ranks with the best of Conrad and Hemingway,” here is a commanding performance by ‘one of the most talented young writers working in America today.’”

———. *The Immaculate Invasion*. New York: Grove Press; [Berkeley, California]: Distributed by Publishers Group West, 2010. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010549442>

Publisher's description: "Widely celebrated upon its original publication in 1999, National Book Award-winning writer Bob Shacochis's *The Immaculate Invasion* is a gritty, poetic, and revelatory look at the American intervention in Haiti in 1994. In 1994, the United States embarked on Operation Uphold Democracy, a response to the overthrow of the democratically elected Haitian government by a brutal military coup. Bob Shacochis traveled to Haiti for Harper's and was embedded—long before the idea became popular in Iraq—with a team of Special Forces commandos for eighteen months and came away with tremendous insight into Haiti, the character of American fighters, and what can happen when an intervention turns into a misadventure. With the eye for detail and narrative skills of a critically acclaimed, award-winning novelist, Shacochis captures the exploits and frustrations, the inner lives, and the heroic deeds of young Americans as they struggle to bring democracy to a country ravaged by tyranny. *The Immaculate Invasion* is required reading, essential for anyone who wants to understand what has happened in Haiti in the past and what will happen in the future."

Sharp, Lesley Alexandra (**Madagascar, circa mid-1990s**). *The Possessed and the Dispossessed: Spirits, Identity, and Power in a Madagascar Migrant Town*. Series: Comparative Studies of Health Systems and Medical Care, Comparative, no. 37. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/92037296>

Publisher's description: "This finely drawn portrait of a complex, polycultural urban community in Madagascar emphasizes the role of spirit medium healers, a group heretofore seen as having little power. These women, Leslie Sharp argues, are far from powerless among the peasants and migrant laborers who work the land in this plantation economy. In fact, Sharp's wide-ranging analysis shows that tromba, or spirit possession, is central to understanding the complex identities of insiders and outsiders in this community, which draws people from all over the island and abroad. Sharp's study also reveals the contradictions between indigenous healing and Western-derived Protestant healing and psychiatry. Particular attention to the significance of migrant women's and children's experiences in a context of seeking relief from personal and social ills gives Sharp's investigation importance for gender studies as well as for studies in medical anthropology, Africa and Madagascar, the politics of culture, and religion and ritual."

———. *The Sacrificed Generation: Youth, History, and the Colonized Mind in Madagascar*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2001007074>

Publisher's description: "Youth and identity politics figure prominently in this provocative study of personal and collective memory in Madagascar. A deeply nuanced ethnography of historical consciousness, it challenges many cross-cultural investigations of youth, for its key actors are not adults but schoolchildren. Lesley Sharp refutes dominant assumptions that African children are the helpless victims of postcolonial crises, incapable of organized, sustained collective thought or action. She insists instead on the

political agency of Malagasy youth who, as they decipher their current predicament, offer potent, historicized critiques of colonial violence, nationalist resistance, foreign mass media, and schoolyard survival. Sharp asserts that autobiography and national history are inextricably linked and therefore must be read in tandem, a process that exposes how political consciousness is forged in the classroom, within the home, and on the street in Madagascar.”

Shea, Christina (**Hungary, 1990–92**). *Smuggled*, 1st ed. New York / Berkeley, California: Black Cat; distributed by Publishers Group West, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010480736>

Publisher’s description: “In the final winter of the Second World War, five-year-old Éva Farkas is sewn into a flour sack and smuggled across the Hungarian border to Romania. She is renamed Anca and forbidden to speak Hungarian ever again. When the pillars of Communism finally crumble, Anca returns to Hungary to find a home and reclaim the name her mother gave her.”

Sheeley, Ellen R. (**Samoa/Western, 1983–85**). *Reclaiming Honor in Jordan: A National Public Opinion Survey on ‘Honor’ Killings*, 1st ed. Amman: s.n. [Black Iris Publications], 2007. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2008295268>

Publisher’s description: “In early 2003, Ellen R. Sheeley began to educate herself about “honor” killings, particularly those that take place in Jordan. That summer she journeyed from her home in San Francisco, California, USA, to Amman, Jordan, where she learned of the needs for empirical, objective, baseline data pertaining to the Jordanian public’s attitudes, opinions, and beliefs about “honor” killings and for a sustained marketing campaign to change hearts and minds. As a seasoned marketing professional, she was confident she had the ability and the qualifications to fulfill these needs. Unable to secure funding or sponsorship from the obvious and even the not-so-obvious sources and, yet, unwilling for mere lack of financial support to give up on the needs of the at-risk individuals and the victims, she quit her job, moved from her home, placed her personal effects in storage, bade adieu to her loved ones, and returned to Amman in October 2005 to perform the work pro bono, funded by her private savings. *Reclaiming Honor in Jordan* is a result of this effort and reveals a number of surprising findings about public opinion on this subject. Profits from this book will contribute to “honor” killings work.”

Sherman, John (**Nigeria, 1966–67; Malawi, 1967–68; staff, Peace Corps, Washington, 1970–71, 1975–77; Ghana, 1971–73**). *War Stories: A Memoir of Nigeria and Biafra*, 1st ed. Indianapolis, Indiana: Mesa Verde Press, 2002. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2002105479>

Publisher’s description: “*War Stories: A Memoir of Nigeria and Biafra* by John Sherman tells the story of an American who served with a food/medical team operated by the International Committee of the Red Cross during the civil war in Nigeria in the late 1960s. It contains flashbacks to the time when the author had been a Peace Corps Volunteer in the same area of West Africa (in 1966–67). The book has 16 pages of photographs taken by the author during the war and also includes illustrations of some

memorabilia of Nigeria and Biafra collected by the author. Front matter includes a chronology of events for Nigeria and Biafra, 1960–70, and maps of the area, along with a glossary, to provide readers with perspective on the situations described in the book. The book shows Sherman’s evolution from being pro-Biafran (he had attempted to return to Biafra, but was unable to get there, so he joined the Red Cross on the Nigerian side of the civil war) to someone who saw the good and evil on both sides and who quickly understood the futility of all war, particularly the one he became so personally involved in.”

Shriver, Sargent (**Peace Corps director, 1961–66**). *Point of the Lance*, 1st ed. New York: Harper & Row, 1964. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/64025288>

Subject: Soon after taking office, President John F. Kennedy appointed Sargent Shriver (November 9, 1915 – January 18, 2011) to head a task force creating the Peace Corps. This is a compilation of speeches by the Peace Corps’ first director, who was the driving force behind its creation.

Shurtleff, Bill (**Nigeria, 1963–66**). *A Peace Corps Year with Nigerians*. Edited and annotated by Hans Brinkmann. Series: Diesterwegs Neusprechliche Bibliothek. Frankfurt am Main, Berlin, Bonn, München: Diesterweg, 1966. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/72418976>

Subject: A memoir of the author’s Peace Corps experience in Nigeria, the subject relates to Nigerian social life and customs.

Siddall, Lawrence B. (**Poland, 1997–99**). *Two Years in Poland and Other Stories: A Sixty-Seven-Year-Old Grandfather Joins the Peace Corps and Looks Back on His Life: A Memoir*, 1st ed. Amherst, Massachusetts: Pelham Springs Press, 2008. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2008460289>

Publisher’s description: “In this absorbing and delightful memoir, Lawrence Brane Siddall takes the reader to Poland where he taught English in a high school as a Peace Corps volunteer from 1997 to 1999 following his retirement. He calls it his late-life adventure. At sixty-seven, he was one of only 450 senior Peace Corps volunteers out of 6,500 worldwide. With an eye for detail, he vividly describes the challenges he faces in the classroom, his struggle to learn Polish, his initial feelings of isolation in adjusting to a new culture, and the close friends he eventually makes. He has since returned to Poland twice to renew friendships, participate in a school reunion, and attend two weddings. Siddall also weaves brief flashbacks into his narrative, including a glimpse of his own high school years and a vignette about the death of his mother in China in 1932. The longest flashback tells of an amazing 11,000-mile overland trek from Europe to India in 1956. Traveling with a friend in a VW Beetle, their route takes them through the Middle East at a time of political instability, making for a risky venture. With the events of that time still reverberating today, Siddall’s keen observations are as relevant now as they were then. His account of working his way back to the U.S on a freighter is a colorful final chapter in his five-month-long odyssey.”

Simons, Craig (**China, 1996–98**). *The Devouring Dragon: How China's Rise Threatens Our Natural World*, 1st ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2013. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2012037791>

Publisher's description: "China's rise is assaulting the natural world at an alarming rate. In a few short years, China has become the planet's largest market for endangered wildlife, its top importer of tropical trees, and its biggest emitter of greenhouse gases. Its rapid economic growth has driven up the world's very metabolism: in Brazil, farmers clear large swaths of the Amazon to plant soybeans; Indian poachers hunt tigers and elephants to feed Chinese demand; in the United States, clouds of mercury and ozone drift earthward after trans-Pacific jet-stream journeys. Craig Simons' *The Devouring Dragon* looks at how an ascending China has rapidly surpassed the U.S. and Europe as the planet's worst-polluting superpower. It argues that China's most important 21st-century legacy will be determined not by jobs, corporate profits, or political alliances, but by how quickly its growth degrades the global environment and whether it can stem the damage. Combining in-depth reporting with wide-ranging interviews and scientific research, *The Devouring Dragon* shines a spotlight on how China has put our planet's forests, wildlife, oceans, and climate in jeopardy, multiplying the risks for everyone in our burgeoning, increasingly busy world."

Skelton, Jr., James W. (**Ethiopia, 1970–72**). *Volunteering in Ethiopia: A Peace Corps Odyssey*, 1st ed. Denver, Colorado: Beaumont Books, 1991. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/91072041>

Subject: This book focuses on the experiences of the fourteenth group of Peace Corps volunteers in Ethiopia in the early 1970s.

Slatta, Richard W. (**Panama, 1969–70**). *Gauchos and the Vanishing Frontier*, 1st paperback ed. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1992. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/92016132>

Publisher's description: "Although as much romanticized as the American cowboy, the Argentine gaucho lived a persecuted, marginal existence, beleaguered by mandatory passports, vagrancy laws, and forced military service. The story of this nineteenth-century migratory ranch hand is told in vivid detail by Richard W. Slatta, a professor of history at North Carolina State University at Raleigh and the author of *Cowboys of the Americas* (1990)."

Smith, Daniel Jordan (**Sierra Leone, 1984–87**). *A Culture of Corruption: Everyday Deception and Popular Discontent in Nigeria*. Princeton University Press, 2006. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2006006620>

Publisher's description: "E-mails proposing an "urgent business relationship" help make fraud Nigeria's largest source of foreign revenue after oil. But scams are also a central part of Nigeria's domestic cultural landscape. Corruption is so widespread in Nigeria that

its citizens call it simply “the Nigerian factor.” Willing or unwilling participants in corruption at every turn, Nigerians are deeply ambivalent about it—resigning themselves to it, justifying it, or complaining about it. They are painfully aware of the damage corruption does to their country and see themselves as their own worst enemies, but they have been unable to stop it. *A Culture of Corruption* is a profound and sympathetic attempt to understand the dilemmas average Nigerians face every day as they try to get ahead—or just survive—in a society riddled with corruption.... It is impossible to comprehend Nigeria today—from vigilantism and resurgent ethnic nationalism to rising Pentecostalism and accusations of witchcraft and cannibalism—without understanding the role played by corruption and popular reactions to it.”

———. *AIDS Doesn't Show Its Face: Inequality, Morality, and Social Change in Nigeria*. Chicago; London: The University of Chicago Press, 2014. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2013023573>

Publisher’s description: “AIDS and Africa are indelibly linked in popular consciousness, but despite widespread awareness of the epidemic, much of the story remains hidden beneath a superficial focus on condoms, sex workers, and antiretrovirals. Africa gets lost in this equation, Daniel Jordan Smith argues, transformed into a mere vehicle to explain AIDS, and in *AIDS Doesn't Show Its Face*, he offers a powerful reversal, using AIDS as a lens through which to view Africa. Drawing on twenty years of fieldwork in Nigeria, Smith tells a story of dramatic social changes, ones implicated in the same inequalities that also factor into local perceptions about AIDS—inequalities of gender, generation, and social class. Nigerians, he shows, view both social inequality and the presence of AIDS in moral terms, as kinds of ethical failure. Mixing ethnographies that describe everyday life with pointed analyses of public health interventions, he demonstrates just how powerful these paired anxieties—medical and social—are, and how the world might better alleviate them through a more sensitive understanding of their relationship.”

Smith, Ed (**Ghana, 1962–64**). *Where to, Black Man?* Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1967. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/67021640>

Subject: This is a memoir of an early African-American Peace Corps volunteer in Ghana.

Smith, Mary-Ann Tirone (**Cameroon, 1965–67**). *Lament for a Silver-Eyed Woman*, 1st ed. New York: William Morrow, 1987. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/86033299>

Subject: According to Marnie Mueller, “A must read for any public official dealing with Africa and the Mideast is Mary-Ann Tirone Smith’s novel, “Lament for a Silver Eyed Woman,” if for no other reason than to experience her devastating descriptions of the Shatila refugee camp and the subsequent massacre in the camp. A true cautionary tale.” New York’s *Newsday*: “Good fiction on a serious subject written with a wonderfully funny voice.” Although it reads like a novel, the book seems more like a nonfictional account of the author’s Peace Corps experience as a librarian in Cameroon and a tourist in Beirut, although names may have been changed.

Sobania, Neal W. (**Ethiopia, 1968–72**). *Culture and Customs of Kenya*. Series: Culture and Customs of Africa. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2003. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2002035219>

Publisher's summary: "An in-depth survey of the history, culture, and customs of Kenya."

Sochaczewski, Paul Spencer (**Borneo, 1969–71**). *The Sultan and the Mermaid Queen: Surprising Asian People, Places, and Things that Go Bump in the Night*. Singapore: Editions Didier Millet, 2008. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2008339773>

Publisher's summary: "A collection of stories, essays, and articles that explore the people, places, and legends of Asia."

Spaulding, Marcy L. (**Mali, 2000–02**). *Dancing Trees and Crocodile Dreams: My Life in a West African Village: Journals from Two Years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali*. Fresno, California: Poppy Lane Publisher, 2004. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2005272986>

Summary: The author kept a journal during her Peace Corps service in Mali and based this memoir on it.

Stearman, Allyn MacLean (**Bolivia, 1964–67**). *Yuquí: Forest Nomads in a Changing World*. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1989. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/88008428>

Publisher's description: "This book examines the effects of twentieth-century social and cultural changes on the Yuquí, a group of fewer than 100 nomadic foragers who have survived without houses or the ability to produce fire. Recently contacted by missionaries, the Yuquí now face enormous pressures from outside developers and other forces of modernization."

———. *San Rafael, Camba Town: Life in a Lowland Bolivian Peasant Community*, 2nd ed. Prospect Heights, Illinois: Waveland Press, 1995. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/95152866>

Publisher's description: "*San Rafael, Camba Town* is an intimate portrayal of the people and events that contribute to the fabric of life in a small, peasant community in Bolivia. In a highly readable style, the author recounts her experiences as a young Peace Corps volunteer working in this isolated community during the 1960s. Stearman begins by describing the patterns of daily activities of the individuals she came to know well as friends and neighbors. She then moves on to a firsthand account of living with the Leon family with whom she shared the challenge of working a small subsistence farm. This unusual and insightful episode provides detailed descriptions of house building, farming, the daily struggle to make ends meet. Stearman also reveals how close personal relationships with the members of this family evolved as they all worked together to

develop strategies for survival. The complexities of the deceptively simple life of the peasant are made apparent in this unusual ethnographic experience. A 42-page Retrospective in this edition continues the original story.”

Stewart, Gary (**Sierra Leone, 1968–70**), and John Amman (**Sierra Leone, 1979–82**). *Black Man’s Grave: Letters from Sierra Leone*. 1st Cold Run ed. Berkeley Springs, West Virginia: Cold Run Books, 2007. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2006909302>

Publisher’s description: “The memoir and the movie have only scratched the surface. *Black Man’s Grave* tells what happened to place the boy-turned-soldier in jeopardy and why Sierra Leone’s diamonds acquired their bloody tinge. Meet the greedy politicians who hijacked a fledgling democracy, the rebels who brought them down, and the villagers who struggled to survive the country’s chaotic descent. The cast includes Sierra Leone’s “big man,” Siaka Stevens; RUF [Revolutionary United Front] leader Foday Sankoh, whose grandfatherly demeanor belied the viciousness with which he sought to impose his “revolution”; and one who aspired to the big-man role, Charles Taylor from next-door Liberia. Taylor’s support for Sierra Leone’s rebel war expanded from initial hostility toward Stevens’s handpicked successor into a commercial venture that supplied arms in exchange for diamonds. In an offshoot of that pernicious trade, links between Sierra Leone’s diamonds and al-Qaeda have been traced. The revelations of *Black Man’s Grave* help us understand the frustrations that simmer throughout much of the third world and threaten a peaceful future.”

Storti, Craig (**Morocco, 1970–72**). *The Art of Crossing Cultures*, 2nd ed. Yarmouth, Maine: Intercultural Press, 2001. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/89084387>

Publisher’s description: “With over 40,000 copies in print, this book has become a standard guide to the experience of living and working in another country. Whether you’re in business or government, a foreign student or a foreign aid worker, *The Art of Crossing Cultures* describes what it’s like to encounter another culture, to be thrown by it, and to make the adjustments necessary to succeed and feel at home in an overseas environment. In the book, Craig Storti takes readers through the stages of cultural adjustment—from culture shock to successful adaptation—with numerous anecdotes from the world of business, diplomacy, and foreign aid. The book also features observations on being a foreigner from some of the world’s greatest writers, including Mark Twain, E. M. Forster, D. H. Lawrence, and Graham Greene.”

Sumner, Melanie (**Senegal, 1988–90**). *Polite Society*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1995. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/94041324>

❖ RPCV Writers & Readers’ Maria Thomas Fiction Award, 1995

Publisher’s description: “Melanie Sumner’s remarkable fiction has received early recognition from *The New Yorker*, which published two selections from *Polite Society*. Her work has been anthologized in *New Stories from the South* and *Voices of the Xiled*. *Polite Society* resounds with unusual spirit and searing honesty. Darren, a not-so-nice

young woman from Tennessee, joins the Peace Corps for lack of a better idea. Fitting in with Southerners was hard enough, but trying to understand friends, lovers, and herself while unemployed in Senegal sends Darren reeling. The world that spirals around her is full of outrageous encounters, interracial affairs, and nights of drunken revelry. Against the backdrop of a society that is governed by hospitality and good manners but is full of strangers and unfamiliar customs, Darren runs headlong into her own insecurities, fears, and desires.”

Sumser, John (**Afghanistan, 1977–78**). *A Land Without Time: A Peace Corps Volunteer in Afghanistan*. Chicago: Academy Chicago Publishers, 2006. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2008460282>

Publisher’s description: “Since 9/11, the American appetite for information on Afghanistan has surged. The bulk of this information has come from the media, Afghan Scholars or from the Afghans themselves. For the first time, the story of Afghanistan prior to, and during, the communist coup of 1979 is told from the perspective of an American working as a Peace Corps volunteer in Afghanistan. The story begins with Peace Corps recruitment and training in the United States, then follows a group of young men and women to Afghanistan where they must learn to adapt to exotic food, mysterious customs and primitive hygiene. Then, as they begin to assimilate and feel comfortable in their harsh surroundings, a military coup leads to the arrest of the author, who is accused of being an American spy and beaten in an effort to make him reveal secrets he doesn’t have. Eventually, the author is extricated from prison as a new communist regime solidifies its hold on Afghanistan after centuries of Islamic dominance. Thus the chain of events leading to 9/11 is set in motion. Only a handful of foreigners lived in Afghanistan when destabilization began in the late seventies and, of this handful, none has attempted to document the country’s transition from its centuries-old status-quo to a factory for global insurgency. No other book about Afghanistan offers such a humane, sometimes humorous, and significant insight into a culture on the verge of single-handedly launching a new age of terrorism.”

Sužiedelis, Saulius Augustinas (**Ethiopia, 1967–69**). *Historical Dictionary of Lithuania*, 2nd ed. Series: European Historical Dictionaries no. 21. Scarecrow Press: Lanham, MD and London, 1999. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2010040643>

Publisher’s description: “The Lithuanian people have undergone historic changes quite different from those of other European nations. In earlier centuries geography provided strategic advantage and opportunities for expansion but in recent times the country has more often experienced location as a geopolitical curse. After constantly losing territory and shrinking in size, the country disappeared in 1795. However, after World War I a popular national movement led to the restoration of Lithuania as an independent state. World War II and its bloody aftermath brought foreign occupation as well as genocide, mass murder, and destruction unparalleled in the country’s modern history. The restoration of independence in 1990 has fundamentally altered Lithuania’s geopolitical reality. Integration into the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization promise a new level of security for the Lithuanian state in the 21st century even as the

social and economic transformations present both promising opportunities and difficult challenges.”

“The second edition of the *Historical Dictionary of Lithuania* will serve as a useful introduction to virtually all aspects of Lithuania's historical experience, including the country's relations with its neighbors. This is done through a chronology, an introductory essay, an extensive bibliography, and over 300 cross-referenced dictionary entries on significant persons, places, and events; institutions and organizations; and political, economic, social, cultural, and religious facets.”

Swiller, Josh (**Zambia, 1994–96**). *The Unheard: A Memoir of Deafness and Africa*. New York: Henry Holt, 2007. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2007012047>

Publisher's description: “A young man's quest to reconcile his deafness in an unforgiving world leads to a remarkable sojourn in a remote African village that pulsates with beauty and violence. “These are hearing aids. They take the sounds of the world and amplify them.” Josh Swiller recited this speech to himself on the day he arrived in Mununga, a dusty village on the shores of Lake Mweru...Zambia, where Swiller worked as a Peace Corps volunteer for two years. There he would encounter a world where violence, disease, and poverty were the mundane facts of life. But despite the culture shock, Swiller finally commanded attention—everyone always listened carefully to the white man, even if they did not always follow his instruction. ...Swiller had finally found, he believed, a place where his deafness did not interfere, a place he could call home. Until, that is, a nightmarish incident blasted away his newfound convictions. At once a poignant account of friendship through adversity, a hilarious comedy of errors, and a gripping narrative of escalating violence, *The Unheard* is an unforgettable story from a noteworthy new talent.”

Taylor, Jeffrey (**Morocco, 1988–90; Peace Corps Staff/Poland, 1992; Uzbekistan, 1992–93**). *Angry Wind: Through Muslim Black Africa by Truck, Bus, Boat, and Camel*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2004054066>

Publisher's description: “...Taylor penetrates one of the most isolated, forbidding regions on earth—the Sahel. This lower expanse of the Sahara marks the southern limit of Islam's reach on the continent. It boasts such mythologized places as Mopti and Timbuktu, as well as Africa's poorest countries, Chad and Niger. In parts of the Sahel, hard-line Sharia law rules and slaves are still traded. Racked by lethal harmattan winds, chronic civil wars, and grim Islamic fundamentalism, it is not the ideal place for a traveler with a U.S. passport. Taylor finds genuine danger in many guises, from drunken soldiers to a thieving teenage mob. But he also encounters patience and generosity of the sort only Africans can achieve. Traveling overland by the same rickety means as the natives themselves—tottering, overfull buses, bush taxis with holes in their floors, disgruntled camels—he uses his fluency in French and Arabic (the region's lingua francas) to illuminate its roiling, enigmatic cultures and connect with its inhabitants as no other Western writer could.”

———. *Glory in a Camel's Eye: Trekking through the Moroccan Sahara*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2002027611>

Publisher's description: "... Tayler penetrates one of the most isolated, mythic regions on earth—the Moroccan Sahara. Traveling along routes little altered since the Middle Ages, he uses his linguistic and observational gifts to illuminate a venerable, enigmatic culture of nomads and mystics. Though no stranger to privation (having journeyed across Siberia and up the Congo for his earlier books), Tayler is unprepared for the physical challenges that await him in a Sahara desiccated by an unprecedented eight-year drought. The last Westerner to attempt this trek left his skeleton in the sand, and even Tayler's camels wilt in the searing wastes. But he also finds a certain purity; the Saharawi Bedouins are Ur-Arabs, untouched by the modernity or radicalism that festers elsewhere in the Arab world. By revealing their ingenuity, their wit, their unrivaled hospitality, and more, Tayler upends our notions of what is, and what is not, essentially Arab."

———. *Murderers in Mausoleums: Riding the Back Roads of Empire between Moscow and Beijing*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2009. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2008013302>

Publisher's description: "A gripping journey through some of the planet's most remote and challenging terrain and its peoples, in search of why democracy has yet to thrive in lands it seemed so recently ready to overtake. Across the largest landmass on earth, in lands once conquered by Genghis Khan and exploited by ruthless Communist regimes, autocratic and dictatorial states are again arising, growing wealthy on petrodollars and low-cost manufacturing. More and more, they are challenging the West. Media reports focus on developments in Moscow and Beijing, but the peoples inhabiting the vast expanses in between remain mostly unseen and unheard, their daily lives and aspirations scarcely better known to us now than they were in Cold War days. Tayler finds, among many others, a dissident Cossack advocating mass beheadings, a Muslim in Kashgar calling on the United States to bomb Beijing, and Chinese youths in Urumqi desiring nothing more than sex, booze, and rock and roll—all while confronting over and over again the contradiction of people who value liberty and the free market but idealize tyrants who oppose both. From the steppes of southern Russia to the conflict-ridden Caucasus Mountains to the deserts of central Asia and northern China, Tayler shows that our maps have gone blank at the worst possible time."

———. *River of No Reprieve: Descending Siberia's Waterway of Exile, Death, and Destiny*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2005024728>

Publisher's description: "In a custom-built boat, Jeffrey Tayler travels some 2,400 miles down the Lena River from near Lake Baikal to high above the Arctic Circle, recreating a journey first made by Cossack forces more than three hundred years ago. He is searching for primeval beauty and a respite from the corruption, violence, and self-destructive urges that typify modern Russian culture, but instead he finds the roots of that culture—in Cossack villages unchanged for centuries, in Soviet outposts full of listless drunks, in

stark ruins of the gulag, and in grand forests hundreds of miles from the nearest hamlet. That's how far he is from help when he realizes that his guide, Vadim, a burly Soviet army veteran embittered by his experiences in Afghanistan, detests all humanity, including Tayler. Yet he needs Vadim's superb skills if he is to survive a voyage that quickly turns hellish. Though they must navigate roiling whitewater in howling storms, they eschew life jackets because, as Vadim explains, the frigid water would kill them before they could swim to shore. Though Tayler has trekked by camel through the Sahara and canoed down the Congo during the revolt against Mobutu, he has never felt so threatened as he does now."

Taylor, David A. (**Mauritania, 1983–85**). *Ginseng, the Divine Root: The Curious History of the Plant That Captivated the World*, 1st ed. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: Algonquin Press, 2006. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2005052726>

- ❖ Winner of the Peace Corps Writers 2007 award for best Travel Writing

Publisher's description: "The story behind ginseng is as remarkable as the root itself. Prized for its legendary curative powers, ginseng launched the rise to power of China's last great dynasty, inspired battles between France and England, and sparked a boom in Minnesota comparable to the California Gold Rush. It has made and broken the fortunes of many and has inspired a subculture in rural America unrivaled by any herb in the plant kingdom. Today ginseng is at the very center of alternative medicine, believed to improve stamina, relieve stress, stimulate the immune system, enhance mental clarity, and restore well-being. It is now being studied by medical researchers for the treatment of cancer, diabetes, and Parkinson's disease. In *Ginseng, the Divine Root*, David Taylor tracks the path of this fascinating plant—from the forests east of the Mississippi to the bustling streets of Hong Kong and the remote corners of China. He becomes immersed in a world full of wheelers, dealers, diggers, and stealers, all with a common goal: to hunt down the elusive "Root of Life." Weaving together his intriguing adventures with ginseng's rich history, Taylor uncovers a story of international crime, ancient tradition, botany, herbal medicine, and the vagaries of human nature."

Textor, Robert B., ed. (**staff/Washington, 1961–62, as full-time anthropological consultant for seven months**). *Cultural Frontiers of the Peace Corps*. Foreword by Margaret Mead. Cambridge: M. I. T. Press, 1966. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/66017083>

Summary: This scholarly volume is predicated on the view that the Peace Corps is about the volunteers rather than the bureaucratic machinations of the Washington staff. Country experts such as anthropologist Paul L. Doughty and political scientist David Scott Palmer (**Peru, 1962–64**) authored its 14 chapters, which are country case studies examining cultural aspects that their Peace Corps programs need to take into account. For the occasion of the Peace Corps 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the MIT Press and Stanford University Libraries have made this early anthropological approach to the Peace Corps mission available for downloading at Professor Textor's Stanford University Web site at: <http://www.stanford.edu/~rbtextor/publications.html>

Theroux, Paul (**Malawi, 1963–65**). *Ghost Train to the Eastern Star: On the Tracks of the Great Railway Bazaar*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2008. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2008011436>

Publisher's description: "Thirty years after the epic journey chronicled in his classic work *The Great Railway Bazaar*, the world's most acclaimed travel writer re-creates his 25,000-mile journey through eastern Europe, central Asia, the Indian subcontinent, China, Japan, and Siberia."

———. *Great Railway Bazaar: By Train through Asia*. 1st Mariner Books ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2006287162>

Publisher's description: "First published more than thirty years ago, Paul Theroux's strange, unique, and hugely entertaining railway odyssey has become a modern classic of travel literature. Here Theroux recounts his early adventures on an unusual grand continental tour. Asia's fabled trains—the Orient Express, the Khyber Pass Local, the Frontier Mail, the Golden Arrow to Kuala Lumpur, the Mandalay Express, the Trans-Siberian Express—are the stars of a journey that takes him on a loop eastbound from London's Victoria Station to Tokyo Central, then back from Japan on the Trans-Siberian. Brimming with Theroux's signature humor and wry observations, this engrossing chronicle is essential reading for both the ardent adventurer and the armchair traveler."

———. *Dark Star Safari: Overland from Cairo to Cape Town*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/2002032710>

Publisher's description: "A rich and insightful travel book in the tradition that made Paul Theroux's reputation, *Dark Star Safari* takes us the length of Africa by rattletrap bus, forgotten train, and rusting steamer. Theroux confronts delay, discomfort, bullets, and bad food while encountering a remarkable mix of places and people. Beginning in Cairo and ending in Cape Town, he goes on the ultimate safari to the true heart of Africa, not the lavish game parks with overfed guests but the small villages of the bush and the filthy chaotic cities that define this forgotten continent. No one is more qualified than Paul Theroux to undertake the vast task of describing Africa. He got his start as a writer in Africa nearly forty years ago when he taught in the Peace Corps in Malawi and at Makerere University in Uganda. Now he returns to find countries in the throes of corruption and poverty. Able to strike up a conversation with anyone, Theroux is the perfect guide: keenly observant, wry, entertaining, and wise. We encounter villagers, farmers, bureaucrats, political figures, white settlers, smug tourists, and aid workers, each with a distinctive point of view. ... The first account of a single trip since his bestseller *The Pillars of Hercules*, *Dark Star Safari* conveys all the vast contrasts and the glory and misery of Africa and is Paul Theroux at his very best."

———. *Old Patagonian Express: By Train through the Americas*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1979. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/79015353>

❖ 1981 Nominee, American Book Award

Publisher's description: "Starting with a rush-hour subway ride to South Station in Boston to catch the Lake Shore Limited to Chicago, Theroux winds up on the poky, wandering Old Patagonian Express steam engine, which comes to a halt in a desolate land of cracked hills and thorn bushes. But with Theroux the view along the way is what matters: the monologuing Mr. Thornberry in Costa Rica, the bogus priest of Cali, and the blind Jorge Luis Borges, who delights in having Theroux read Robert Louis Stevenson to him."

———. *The Mosquito Coast*. London; New York: Penguin Books, 1982. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/96147929>

❖ 1983 Nominee, American Book Award

❖ James Tait Black Award

Publisher's description: "In a breathtaking adventure story, the paranoid and brilliant inventor Allie Fox takes his family to live in the Honduran jungle, determined to build a civilization better than the one they've left. Fleeing from an America he sees as mired in materialism and conformity, he hopes to rediscover a purer life. But his utopian experiment takes a dark turn when his obsessions lead the family toward unimaginable danger."

———. *Riding the Iron Rooster: By Train through China*. 1st Mariner Books ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2006028745>

Publisher's description: "Paul Theroux invites us to join him on the journey of a lifetime, in the grand romantic tradition, by train across Europe, through the vast underbelly of Asia into the heart of Russia, and then up to China. Here is China by rail (the Iron Rooster is the name of a train), as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of one of the most intrepid and insightful travel writers of our time."

———. *The Lower River*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2011036975>

Publisher's description: "Ellis Hock never believed that he would return to Africa. He runs an old-fashioned menswear store in a small town in Massachusetts but still dreams of his Eden, the four years he spent in Malawi with the Peace Corps, cut short when he had to return to take over the family business. When his wife leaves him, and he is on his own, he realizes that there is one place for him to go: back to his village in Malawi, on the remote Lower River, where he can be happy again. Arriving at the dusty village, he finds it transformed: the school he built is a ruin, the church and clinic are gone, and poverty and apathy have set in among the people. They remember him—the White Man with no fear of snakes—and welcome him. But is his new life, his journey back, an escape or a trap?"

———. *The Last Train to Zona Verde: My Ultimate African Safari*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2013000388>

Publisher's description: "“Happy again, back in the kingdom of light,” writes Paul Theroux as he sets out on a new journey through the continent he knows and loves best. Theroux first came to Africa as a twenty-two-year-old Peace Corps volunteer, and the pull of the vast land never left him. Now he returns, after fifty years on the road, to explore the little-traveled territory of western Africa and to take stock both of the place and of himself. His odyssey takes him northward from Cape Town, through South Africa and Namibia, then on into Angola, wishing to head farther still until he reaches the end of the line. Journeying alone through the greenest continent, Theroux encounters a world increasingly removed from both the itineraries of tourists and the hopes of postcolonial independence movements. Leaving the Cape Town townships, traversing the Namibian bush, passing the browsing cattle of the great sunbaked heartland of the savanna, Theroux crosses “the Red Line” into a different Africa: “the improvised, slapped-together Africa of tumbled fences and cooking fires, of mud and thatch,” of heat and poverty, and of roadblocks, mobs, and anarchy. After 2,500 arduous miles, he comes to the end of his journey in more ways than one, a decision he chronicles with typically unsparing honesty in a chapter called “What Am I Doing Here?” Vivid, witty, and beautifully evocative, *The Last Train to Zona Verde* is a fitting final African adventure from the writer whose gimlet eye and effortless prose have brought the world to generations of readers.”

Thomas, Maria (pseudonym of Roberta Worrick; **Ethiopia, 1971–73**). *African Visas: A Novella and Stories*. New York: Soho, 1991. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/91003829>

Subject: “Set in Africa, this is an acclaimed collection of a novella and six stories about the intractable problems of the continent, Ethiopia in particular, as seen by adventurous women. For example, “Jiru Road,” the novella, is a first-person account of Sarah’s life in the Peace Corps.” *African Visas* is published posthumously; Thomas died on a relief mission to Ethiopia on August 7, 1989, in a plane crash that also killed Congressman Mickey Leland of Texas and 13 other people.

———. *Antonia Saw the Oryx First*, 1st ed. New York: Soho, 1987. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/86031570>

Publisher's description: “A young woman doctor in Africa [Tanzania], facing exile, seeks to touch the culture she was raised in through a young African woman whom she has saved with Western surgery.”

Thomsen, Moritz (**Ecuador, 1965–67**). *The Farm on the River of Emeralds*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1978. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/78006760>

Subject: In *The Farm on the River Emeralds*, the author (1915–91) returns to Ecuador to purchase and hack a farm out of the jungle with his friend Ramón from Rioverde.

Thomsen and Ramón struggle to establish the farm, hire workers, and adjust to the community.

———. *Living Poor: A Peace Corps Chronicle*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1969. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/77089492>

Subject: The author, a California farmer, became a Peace Corps farmer in Ecuador at the age of 44. This is a chronicle of his experience living in the Ecuadorian coastal village of Rioverde during his Peace Corps service.

———. *The Saddest Pleasure: A Journey on Two Rivers*. Saint Paul, Minnesota: Graywolf Press, 1990. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/89027450>

- ❖ RPCV Writers & Readers' Paul Cowan Nonfiction Award, 1990, for his collected works
- ❖ 1991 Governor's Writers Award (now the Washington State Book Awards)

Publisher's description: "*The Saddest Pleasure* is a deeply personal look at the people, poverty, beauty, art, music, literature, and passion of South America by an American who has spent most of his life there. Moritz Thomsen was one of the early Peace Corps volunteers. Through his skill as a writer, he vividly brings to life the people and landscapes he loves. *The Saddest Pleasure* tells the story of Thomsen's desperate departure from Ecuador at the age of sixty-three and his soul-searching journey through Brazil and the Amazon River. Along the way, the author reflects on the meaning of his own life and the world around him, his friendships, and on the distances between people and cultures. Thomsen's spirited observations are tinged with irascibility, as he moves from city to feudal countryside, from primitive conditions to the startlingly contemporary details of a culture in transition. Paul Theroux's introduction to this book is a testament to Mr. Thomsen's remarkable life."

Tidwell, Mike (**Zaire, 1985–87**). *Amazon Stranger: A Rainforest Chief Battles Big Oil*. New York: Lyons & Burford, 1996. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/95051297>

- ❖ RPCV Writers & Readers' Paul Cowan Nonfiction Award, 1997

Publisher's description: "The author tells of the efforts of American Randy Borman to aid the Cofan Indians of Ecuador in their struggle against the international oil companies who want to exploit the jungle."

———. *The Ponds of Kalambayi: An African Sojourn*. New York: Lyons & Burford, 1990. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/90040035>

- ❖ RPCV Writers & Readers' Paul Cowan Nonfiction Award, 1991

Summary: The author describes his two-year sojourn as a Peace Corps volunteer among a remote tribe in south-central Zaire (present-day Democratic Republic of the Congo),

where he struggled to make a fish-farming project viable despite irrational traditional practices.

Toner, Jim (**Sri Lanka, 1989–91**). *Serendib*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 2001. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/00044724>

Publisher's description: "I didn't invite him. The idea was all my father's, my seventy-four-year-old father who had never been outside America and who suddenly thought that Sri Lanka, where I was a Peace Corps volunteer, would be a jolly place to visit. When John Toner, a retired Cleveland judge, decided on a whim in April 1990 to spend a month with his son in war-torn Sri Lanka, he was as much a stranger to his seventh—and last—child as he was to the hardships of life in a Third World country. *Serendib* chronicles the journey that follows as a father and son who had never been alone together live in close quarters, in the poorest of conditions—and replace awkwardness and distance with understanding and love."

Townson, Annabelle (**Romania, 2001–03**). *We Wait for You: Unheard Voices from Post-Communist Romania*. Lanham, Maryland: Hamilton Books, 2005. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2005929684>

Publisher's summary: "The author, an American Peace Corps volunteer from 2001–2003, chronicles the lives of average citizens in post-Ceaușescu Romania."

Unger, Marvin H. (**Liberia, 1964–66**). *Pawpaw, Foofoo, and Juju: Recollections of a Peace Corps Volunteer*, 1st ed. New York: Citadel Press, 1968. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/68019124>

Summary: In this memoir, the author reflects on the power of the person in the guise of a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Vestal, Theodore M. (**staff/Ethiopia, 1964–66**). *The Lion of Judah in the New World: Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and the Shaping of Americans' Attitudes toward Africa*. Santa Barbara, California: Praeger, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010047141>

Publisher's description: "Tells the story of a dynamic ruler who influenced the perception of an entire continent. This title includes a brief biography of the Emperor and also explores the geography and long, colorful history of Ethiopia."

Warren, Dennis M. (**Ghana, 1964–66**), and Brian Ethan Schwimmer, eds. *Anthropology and the Peace Corps: Case Studies in Career Preparation*. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1993. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/90020352>

Publisher's description: "This volume examines growth and change in American anthropology as the field has been influenced by Peace Corps volunteers. It does so through writings by 21 former Peace Corps volunteers, including the editors, who became

professional anthropologists. Part I creates a general profile of Peace Corps volunteers who entered careers in anthropology. Part II presents specific accounts that discuss each of the contributors' motivations for joining the Peace Corps. The contributors also discuss their corps experiences, their reasons for choosing or maintaining careers in anthropology, the matches and mismatches of academic anthropology with experiences in the field, and the impact of the Peace Corps experience on academic anthropology.”

Wentling, Mark (**PCV Honduras, 1967–69, Togo 1970–73; PC Staff/Togo, Gabon, Niger, 1973–77**). *Africa's Release: The Journey Continues*. Vol. 2. 1<sup>st</sup> Peace Corps Writers edition. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, 2014. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2014937004>

Publisher's description: “JB's elderly brother and sister were recluses and never spoke to anyone... They were the only ones who could possibly know what had happened to JB, but they did not talk to anyone. They seemed intent on taking JB's secret, if indeed they knew his secret, to the grave with them. Journey to another time and place in Mark Wentling's magical new novel, *Africa's Release*. The residents of Gemini, Kansas, have grown used to the odd man who goes by the name of JB and roams their neighborhood in a befuddled state. But when he abruptly disappears one night, the townspeople find themselves facing uncomfortable questions, as JB's life and the dark discoveries in his ramshackle home are made public. Little do they know that JB's ramblings have all been for a purpose: to transport him back to the African village he left many years before. Now he has returned to the old baobab tree that had years ago swallowed him up—an event that elevated him to the level of demigod in the eyes of the remaining villagers. This sequel to the popular *Africa's Embrace*, and the second in Wentling's African trilogy, is sure to enchant readers once more.”

———. *Africa's Heart: The Journey Ends in Kansas*. 1st Peace Corps Writers edition. Oakland, California: Peace Corps Writers, 2014. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2014957197>

Publisher's description: “Fascinated by a mysterious novella, an aspiring journalist, Robin Fletcher, is determined to discover more about the man described in the book... a man known only as JB. His quest leads him from the small town of Gemini, Kansas, to a small, disadvantaged country in Africa. Thousands of miles from Kansas, in the rural village of Ataku, the half-caste chief, Letivi, grapples with his village's problems. The villagers' main source of income, subsistence cocoa farming, cannot compete with global competition. Young people are leaving the village, and the village's only store is under the control of a foreigner. Letivi also has personal problems. Wifeless and childless, his ability to understand the family struggles in his village is being questioned. His supernaturally sensitive mother is dying, a tragedy coinciding with the death of the enormous baobab tree into which Letivi's father disappeared years ago. As Letivi and the villagers plan the development of a cocoa processing plant, Fletcher traces JB to Ataku, prompting a spontaneous trip to Africa with Molly, a ravishing but erratic woman with family ties to the elusive JB. When Letivi, Molly and Robin meet, events are set in motion that change their lives and Ataku forever.”

White, Virginia P. (**Hungary, 1992–94**). *Over the Hill in Hungary*. Commack, New York: Kroshka Books, 1999. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/98048597>

Publisher's description: "When the Soviet Army that kept Hungary's communist government in power for 40 years marched away in 1990, they left an economically despondent heavily polluted country whose dispirited people had become cynical and embittered by too many broken promises of happy tomorrows in exchange for hard work and sacrifice today. Their life expectancy was among the world's lowest and their suicide rate among the highest. By the middle 1990s, Hungary was being hailed as "The economic miracle of post-communist Eastern Europe." Virginia White observed the transformation and chronicled it in *Over the Hill in Hungary*. At an age when most people are planning their retirement or may be already retired, she went to Hungary with the U.S. Peace Corps and taught English in a "gymnasium" (high school)...."

Wiley, Richard (**South Korea, 1967–69**). *Ahmed's Revenge: A Novel*, 1st ed. New York: Random House, 1998. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/97015374>

Publisher's description: "The people in Richard Wiley's fiction live in the dangerous territory where cultures and worlds collide.... In...Ahmed's Revenge, Wiley introduces us to Nora Grant, a young coffee farmer living in Kenya in the 1970s, [who]...has unbelievably stumbled upon her husband, Julius, engaged in what appears to be ivory smuggling, one of the Europeans' dirtiest games. Before Nora can confront Julius, he is killed in accidental circumstances that soon look more like murder. Nora investigates her husband's affairs, coming across a succession of people whose lives intertwine and intersect...."

———. *Festival for Three Thousand Maidens*. New York: Dutton, 1991. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/90044044>

Subject: This is a novel about a rite of passage of a callow Peace Corps volunteer assigned to teach English in rural Korea; he gets drawn into rural politics and cultural conflicts that propel him toward maturity.

Wilfong Holt, Lorissa (**Hungary, 1990s**). *A Gift of Life: A Memoir of a Peace Corps Volunteer in Hungary*. Boise, Idaho: Book Lore Publications, 2003. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2003105443>

Subject: This is a memoir of a Holocaust survivor's two-year service as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching English in a middle school in Komádi, Hungary.

Wilson, Angene Hopkins, and Jack Wilson, eds. (**Liberia, 1962–64; Sierra Leone, 1966–68**). *Voices from the Peace Corps: Fifty Years of Kentucky Volunteers*. Lexington, Kentucky: University Press of Kentucky, 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010042385>

Publisher's description: "President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961. In the fifty years since, nearly 200,000 Americans have served in 139 countries, providing technical assistance, promoting a better understanding of American culture, and bringing the world back to the United States. In *Voices from the Peace Corps: Fifty Years of Kentucky Volunteers*, Angene Wilson and Jack Wilson... follow the experiences of volunteers as they make the decision to join, attend training, adjust to living overseas and the job, make friends, and eventually return home to serve in their communities. They also describe how the volunteers made a difference in their host countries and how they became citizens of the world for the rest of their lives.... *Voices from the Peace Corps* emphasizes the value of practical idealism in building meaningful cultural connections that span the globe."

Worrick, Roberta (see Thomas, Maria).

Wyss, Susi (**Central African Republic, 1990–92**). *The Civilized World: A Novel in Stories*, 1st ed. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 2011. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2010028288>

Publisher's description: "A glorious literary debut set in Africa about five unforgettable women—two of them haunted by a shared tragedy—whose lives intersect in unexpected and sometimes explosive ways.... At once deeply moving and utterly charming, *The Civilized World* follows five women as they face meddling mothers-in-law, unfaithful partners, and the lingering aftereffects of racism, only to learn that their cultural differences are outweighed by their common bond as women. With vibrant prose, Susi Wyss explores what it means to need forgiveness—and what it means to forgive."

Zeitlin, Arnold (**Ghana, 1961–63**). *To the Peace Corps, with Love*. 1st ed. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1965. Library of Congress Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/65017240>

Jacket cover description: "A candid, engaging account of a two-year tour with the first Peace Corps team to go abroad." Although an obscure work long out of print, it is regarded as a Peace Corps "classic." Zeitlin, a former Hollywood reporter, arrived in Accra, Ghana, in October 1961. Although without any teaching experience, he started off teaching English in a secondary school. In his nonfictional account, Zeitlin provides considerable insight into the cross-cultural experience of being a white American in Ghana and the special treatment that came with it. His wife, Marian, who was a fellow PCV, contributed a chapter. John Coyne points out: "The first book to draw on the Peace Corps experience was written by Arnold Zeitlin, who had volunteered for the Peace Corps in 1961 after having been an Associated Press reporter."