

thing to spruce it up, and designer Coco Chanel obliged by creating dazzlingly original jewelry. Patrick Mauriès's *Jewelry by Chanel* presents 129 photos (many never before published and more than half in color) of her pieces, from diamond diadems to variegated necklaces in floral motifs, seashore brooches and a Maltese Cross cuff bracelet worn by Diana Vreeland. Mauriès's text examines the influence of artist and designer Iribe and others on Chanel's jewelry. (Bulfinch, \$65, 144p ISBN 0-8212-1960-X)

PAPERBACKS

NONFICTION ORIGINALS

NO MORE FROGS, NO MORE PRINCES: Women Making Creative Choices at Midlife

Joanne F. Vickers and Barbara L. Thomas. Crossing, \$12.95 ISBN 0-89594-625-4; cloth \$24.95 -626-2

This collection of autobiographical tidbits easily meets its goal of presenting different voices of women between the ages of 40 and 60 who have had what the authors call a "midlife reckoning experience," but additional background information could have made the material more cohesive. These stories were culled from interviews conducted by Vickers (a professor of English and women's studies at Ohio Dominican College) and Thomas (a family and child therapist). Many of these narratives are poignant: a 45-year-old without a high school diploma has just left her abusive husband; a graduate student in preventive medicine shows how her father's belief that

"Good Italian girls didn't make decisions" kept her from maturing; a labor lawyer describes working in a San Francisco sweatshop as an 11-year-old and admits that "my association with being a girl and a child is with being a slave." There are joyous affirmations too. A 57-year-old has realized her dream of owning an inn in southern Ohio before dying of cancer; a potter is exploring the Cherokee heritage that she was barred from as a child; a 60-year-old recalls her transformation from housewife to local politician to teacher and art consultant. (Oct.)

TELLING TIME:

Angels, Ancestors, and Stories

Nancy Willard. Harcourt/Harvest, \$12.95 ISBN 0-15-693130-3

Willard (*Things Invisible to See*) offers here a collection of essays about writing. She describes her life as an author of both adult and children's literature by referring to parables and tales, as in an essay in which she describes how Adam and Eve created poetry in the Garden of Eden. Other essays take on topics that she links to the creation of children's literature, such as time and timelessness. There is a longish tribute to a college writing teacher whose voice and aura linger long after his words are forgotten. Willard also includes her Newbery Medal acceptance speech, in which she speaks of her own childhood, and an interview with collaborator Martin Provinsen. The settings, whether real life or fictive, are genteel, such as cottages in upstate New York or the wealthy suburbs of Detroit, so that the volume gives the impression that children's terror and a writer's frustration grow out of nothing more dire than imagined monsters and fairy-tale witches. The selections, though they show the marks of careful and mature crafting, tend toward magisterial generalizations rather than keen, individual insight. Sure to be of interest to fans of Willard, this volume should attract few new converts. (Oct.)

GENDER ON ICE: American Ideologies of Polar Expeditions

Lisa Bloom. Univ. of Minnesota, \$14.95 ISBN 0-8166-2093-8; cloth \$34.95 -2091-1

Bloom makes a good case for her intriguing central thesis, that both Robert Peary and Robert Falcon Scott rendered accounts of their respective polar expeditions in terms that inflated the heroism of their deeds and exemplified "the particular imperial and masculinist ideologies that each characterized." Of the two, only Peary receives extended scrutiny as Bloom examines his unwillingness to share the glory with Matthew Henson (the black explorer who accompanied him); the question of

whether or not he actually reached the North Pole; and his relationship with the National Geographic Society, which provided funding for his venture and promoted the myth of Peary as white male hero. Also interesting, but less effectively integrated, is Bloom's discussion of *National Geographic* magazine's "colonial discourse of women and development." Although the author offers many astute observations, the text is marred by her own prejudices, which keep her from recognizing that women can be exploitive colonialists and allow her to see Peary as "simply incompetent" in failing to reach the Pole while not tagging Henson—who apparently deserves credit but not blame—in the same way. Bloom is a Mellon postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University. (Oct.)

STAR WARRIOR:

The Story of SwiftDeer

Bill Wahlberg, introduced by Francis Huxley. Bear (P.O. Box 2860, Santa Fe, N.M. 87504), \$12.95 ISBN 1-879181-07-X

Wahlberg, a psychotherapist, tells the story of Harley "SwiftDeer" Reagan, a guru of the New Age who claims to be Native American and operates the Deer Tribe in Scottsdale, Ariz. Although the book bears Wahlberg's name alone, it is told mainly in the first person from Reagan's perspective. It details the ceremonies surrounding his beliefs about "spiritual sexuality" and "genital sense of self," supposedly garnered from Cherokee traditions. Wahlberg's narrative style is straightforward. There are joyful memories, like Reagan's teachings from his grandmother Spotted Fawn and his mentor Two Bears, a Navajo elder. There is also much pain as Reagan relates his tours of duty in Vietnam, a bout with leukemia and being raped during a stint in jail (for assault with a deadly weapon, among other charges). Reagan discusses his conflicts with Native traditionalists, who have denounced him as a poseur. Doubtless, many spiritual seekers have been touched by Reagan's work, but given his blatant blending of different traditions, his claims to legitimacy as a Native medicine man stretch credulity. In his foreword, anthropologist Huxley, asks the most pertinent question: Why doesn't Reagan announce his teachings as his own rather than making "difficult claims?" (Oct.)

POETRY

THE MILD DAY

William Bronk. Talisman House, \$9.95 ISBN 1-883689-007; cloth \$29.95 -01-5

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