



drama and poetry. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ Undergraduates, graduate students, and researchers in African literature; general readers.—*B. Taylor-Thompson, Houston Community College*

Classical

51-0709 PA6059 2011-48703 CIP
Caston, Ruth Rothaus. **The elegiac passion: jealousy in Roman love elegy.** Oxford, 2012. 176p bibl index afp ISBN 9780199925902, \$74.00

That the love triangle is hardly a modern phenomenon is vividly substantiated in this eloquent treatment of jealousy as the pivotal emotional force informing the poetry of the major Roman elegists. Caston (Univ. of Michigan), acknowledges prior critical approaches to an understanding of Roman elegy and breaks new ground by contextualizing the poetic and emotional armature of elegy within the larger milieu of Roman culture, in which loss of *fides* (trust)—and its resulting societal paranoia—had become endemic. In this study, issued in the publisher's new "Emotions of the Past" series, the author meticulously dissects the centrality of jealousy to reveal a standard elegiac repertoire. She claims that the erotic dynamic within the template of elegiac jealousy is fueled by paranoia and infidelity—real or imagined—engendering formulaic scenes of deception, masochism, humiliation, denigration, and the employment of language of invective and fury. Readers and writers can experience elegy as a microcosm of Rome's heritage in which the bonds of trust, faith, and affection fell victim to deceit, betrayal, and suspicion. This highly nuanced analysis is richly textured, accessible to a broad range of readers, and supported by an excellent, useful scholarly apparatus. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★ Lower-division undergraduates through faculty.—*J. S. Louzonis, St. Francis College, Brooklyn, NY*

51-0710 PA6638 2012-9075 CIP
Shelton, Jo-Ann. **The women of Pliny's letters.** Routledge, 2013. 436p bibl indexes ISBN 9780415374286, \$150.00; ISBN 9780203098127 e-book, contact publisher for price

In the latest installment in the Routledge series "Women of the Ancient World," Shelton (Univ. of California, Santa Barbara) collects every reference to a woman in the younger Pliny's correspondence, and includes every important discussion of these women in the modern historical and epistolographic scholarship on Pliny. In her introduction, Shelton notes the impossibility of composing a biography of any one of these women because of the huge gaps in the evidence, especially the complete lack of surviving texts by the women themselves. She discusses—each in turn—the elder and younger Arriae and their families, Pliny's wives, the mothers and mother-surrogates, grandmothers and other older female relatives, daughters and sisters, and women outside the family. Shelton's focus on women's familial roles remains faithful to the ancient Roman view (articulated overwhelmingly by men) of women's essentially domestic value to society, but her approach has the unfortunate consequence of dispersing the sometimes considerable evidence for women's independent financial transactions, political dealings, and writing projects. Still, by bringing all this information together, Shelton and the series editors Ronnie Ancona and Sarah Pomeroy have done a great service to the profession. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★ Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*A. M. Keith, University of Toronto*

English & American

51-0711 PS1017 2012-36745 CIP
Alcott, Louisa May. **Little women: an annotated edition**, ed. by Daniel Shealy. Belknap, Harvard, 2013. 614p bibl index afp ISBN 9780674059719, \$35.00

This handsomely produced and exhaustively annotated edition augments the 1868-69 Roberts Brothers edition of *Little Women*. The annotations indicate the linguistic changes in later editions of the novel and comment on significant contemporary events and the lives of the Alcott family and their literary acquaintances. Commentary supplied by Shealy (University of North Carolina at Charlotte), who has edited or coedited numerous other works about Louisa May Alcott, e.g., *Alcott in Her Own Time* (CH, Dec'05, 43-2024) and *The Journals of Louisa May Alcott*, (CH, Jan'90, 27-2554), includes pictures of the Alcott homes and Concord itself, as well as reproductions of well-known 19th- and 20th-century illustrations of the novel. These selections, presented along with scenes from films, help to reveal the story's impact upon many generations of readers. Richly presented, this Harvard Belknap edition offers a multifaceted picture of American life to academic and general audiences. It also makes a fine gift book for fans of Louisa May Alcott's classic. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ All readers.—*J. J. Benardete, formerly, Hunter College*

51-0712 PS3545 MARC
Bak, John S. **Tennessee Williams: a literary life.** Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. 341p bibl index ISBN 9780230273528, \$95.00

This addition to the publisher's "Literary Lives" series offers fascinating biographical events in the life of legendary American dramatist Tennessee Williams. It complements works such as Donald Spoto's *The Kindness of Strangers* (CH, Jul'85) and Albert Devlin and Nancy Tischler's *The Selected Letters of Tennessee Williams*, volume 1 (CH, Apr'01, 38-4350) and volume 2 (CH, May'05, 42-5128). Bak (Univ. of Lorraine, France) presents a travelogue of places and people that fueled and transformed inspiration, brilliance, and "blue devils" into Williams's plays, poems, essays, short stories, screenplays, and other pieces. The book's 11 chapters encapsulate a geography of place and spirit, success and failure, detailing Williams's youth in St. Louis as an emerging talent to mastering the psychological and social drama via New Orleans and New York City/Broadway to his days in Hollywood, among other places along the way. The masterpieces Williams produced during the 1940s to early 1960s ushered in his poetic and cinematic sensibilities. Most revelatory are details of his constant revisions and published justifications for his adventurous work when critical failures loomed. Through archival material, memoirs, and primary and scholarly sources, Bak illuminates the revered master's journey, revealing an often-troubled artist who communicated the conflict between flesh and spirit and challenged the victim and victor within everyone. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.—*J. Artman, Chapman University*

51-0713 PR461 2012-33506 CIP
Black, Barbara. **A room of his own: a literary-cultural study of Victorian clubland.** Ohio University, 2013 (c2012). 301p bibl index afp ISBN 9780821420164, \$59.95; ISBN 9780821444351 e-book, contact publisher for price

Memoirs and academic studies of the Victorian period have not neglected its clubs, but the density of theorizing and plethora of detail