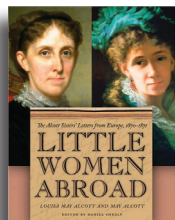
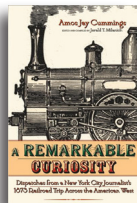


and Crocker, whose names live on in California, were the builders. And, of course, the spread of the railroads transformed the West, confronting nature, adding (and occasionally removing) physical features, and also, through imaginative publications, marketing an unknown half of the American continent.

The authors' narrative demonstrates that the railroads achieved nothing less than a revolution, powerfully shaping the development of Chicago, St. Louis, Seattle, and other cities, and dealing a blow to steam navigation as well as river and canal transportation, leading the way for telegraph lines and the demise of the Pony Express, and changing the nation's time-keeping habits with "railway time."

**Also recommended: *A Remarkable Curiosity*** by Amos Jay Cummings, edited and compiled by Jerald T. Milanich (University Press of Colorado, 978-0-87081-926-1). In 1873, Cummings, an enterprising Civil War veteran-turned-reporter, took a six-month trip on the new transcontinental railroad and produced a cheerful, insightful, hard-to-beat portrait of fast-changing America.



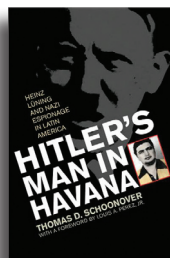
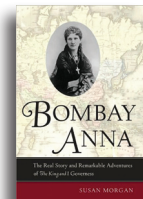
### Traveling Women ...

***Little Women Abroad The Alcott Sisters' Letters from Europe, 1870-1871***  
Louisa May Alcott and May Alcott,  
edited by Daniel Shealy  
University of Georgia, Hardcover \$34.95  
(392pp) 978-0-08203-3009-0

The prolonged visit to Europe was a rite of passage for well-educated and well-to-do Americans, and the numbers undertaking it swelled after the Civil War. A voluminous literature of reportage resulted. After Louisa, then thirty-eight and celebrated as the author of *Little Women* (1868), made a visit with her sister May in 1870-71, she used their letters as the basis for a well-informed report, published in 1872 as *Aunt Jo's Scrap-Bag, Volume 2: Shawl Straps*. Louisa burned the letters in 1885; fortunately Bronson Alcott had made copies. Thus, Daniel Shealy, a seasoned Alcott specialist, has been able to give us this unusual primary account, enhanced by seventy-eight illustrations; of them forty (mainly travel scenes) are by May Alcott, a trained and accomplished artist.

The sisters' letters are a delight; they had splendid introductions, met many notables, and were fueled by curiosity. Their journey through France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, and Belgium, ending in London, was not without incident. The Franco-Prussian War, floods in Rome, and smallpox on board ship meant the journey was not the rest-cure that Louisa, the overworked novelist, had expected.

**Also recommended: *Bombay Anna: The Real Story and Remarkable Adventures of the King and I Governess*** by Susan Morgan (University of California Press, 978-0-520-25226-4). It might be said that the wildly successful *The King and I* created Anna Leonowens' story rather than vice versa. Morgan's fine biography colorfully reveals many other Anna stories and creations—her birth in India, feminist enterprises, New York sojourns, Russian travels, motherhood—and not a little purposeful self-invention. Anna is a splendid exemplar of the new self-directed Victorian woman.



**Espionage in Wars Hot and Cold**  
***Hitler's Man in Havana: Heinz Lüning and Nazi Espionage in Latin America***  
Thomas D. Schoonover  
University Press of Kentucky, 25 b/w photographs, 2 maps, Hardcover \$29.95  
(282pp) 978-0-8131-2501-5

Schoonover tells a hilarious story: the Abwehr sought the best but in Heinz Lüning got the worst. It needed an agent in Havana: given naval routes and schedules, U-boats could wreak even greater havoc on ships carrying war materiel eastward to Britain and westward to the Pacific theater. Heinz Lüning wanted a comfortable war: espionage in Latin America (he had lived briefly in the Dominican Republic) seemed ideal. The Abwehr had no faith in its agent; Lüning had no commitment to his mission. He couldn't build a radio, mix secret ink, or recruit a network.

Identified via British mail intercepts in the Bahamas, Lüning was arrested, tried, and executed for his never-made radio contacts with U-boats whose never-fired torpedoes caused imaginary Allied deaths. Schoonover demonstrates how everybody (except Lüning) benefited; acclaim for UK, US, and Cuban security chiefs; a Cuban-US rapprochement; and boosted morale as the "massive spy network" had been neutralized. Ineptitude and manipulation get no better—but sparked Graham Greene's *Our Man in Havana*. Schoonover had to dig deep to find his facts; to prevent widespread embarrassment, a semi-official cover-up still persists.

**Also recommended: *James Jesus Angleton: The CIA & The Craft of Counterintelligence*** by Michael Holzman (University of Massachusetts Press, 978-1-55849-650-7). Holzman's book is a major history of chilling impact, and a long, rewarding odyssey through the labyrinth of counterintelligence. It's virtually a history of the CIA, fanning out from James Jesus Angleton's two-decade role as chief of counterintelligence. Holzman traces the CIA's dangerously effective foreign and domestic interventions, the aberrations of Angleton's famous molehunt, and the CIA's shift into illegal interrogation practices. His cast is huge and his explorations far-reaching.