

themselves with a wide range of entertainment options and a variety of ways in which to do their part for the war. Songwriters, both professional and amateur, wrote “hundreds of songs advocating everything from national unity to scrap metal drives” (p. 181). Yet, of all the songs examined by Jones those concerning the heartbreak of leaving constituted the largest number—over 370 songs—which suggests that most writers and consumers of music saw the conflict in very personal terms. “White Christmas” and “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” were the most famous of these.

Jones has produced an interesting survey of World War II-era popular music and has left few stones unturned in order to document the plethora of popular sentiment. If one were looking for a song written, published, or sung from 1940 through 1945 that dealt in any way with the war, *The Songs That Fought the War* certainly would have a listing.

The book has some drawbacks, however. Foremost is the lack of a

conclusion which contextualizes all the songs examined and suggests some meaning. Perhaps Jones wanted readers to draw their own conclusions, but this has the potential to lead in a direction he did not intend. For example, Jones admits in several places in the book that many of the songs were not popular or had very limited exposure. One can argue then that the war did not produce any definitive war song(s), a position taken by others before him. Jones, of course, argues the other way in the beginning of the book, but after I waded through the thousands of song titles on all sorts of topics, I lost track of the main point.

Overall though, *The Songs That Fought the War* is a worthy read, as it places popular music at the center of the burgeoning entertainment industry and outlines just how prolific Americans were in their understanding and support of World War II.

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The Politics of Zoos
Exotic Animals and Their Protectors
 By Jesse Donahue and Erik Trump

(De Kalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2006. Pp. xii, 224. Illustrations, notes, selected bibliography, index. Clothbound, \$40.00; paperbound, \$24.00.)

Several years ago a focus-group participant, asked to comment on a proposed new zoo exhibit, wryly noted: “When you’ve seen one zoo, you’ve

seen them all.” On the surface this observation would seem to contain some truth, but in reality the nation’s zoos, aquariums, and marine parks

are as diverse as the animal collections they exhibit and care for. There are institutions that are run as for-profit entertainment venues and others that are operated as non-profit cultural attractions. Governance runs the spectrum from private non-tax supported facilities to institutions that are extensions of local, state, and even the federal government. There are very large and complex operations that cost tens of millions of dollars to operate annually, and there are small facilities with operating budgets of less than one million dollars.

In addition to these outwardly visible differences, significant internal differences in viewpoint exist among the professionals *within* the zoo and aquarium field. The strong emotional bonds formed by keepers caring for individual animals may conflict with the goals of population biologists trying to dispassionately manage a collective captive population of a species. Add to this complex formula a mix of individual egos, ambitions, and competing visions, and one can begin to grasp the difficulty that the industry's accrediting body, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), has faced over the decades in reaching consensus on standards among its members, representing the collective industry opinion to regulators, and dealing with a vocal coalition of animal rights groups bent on driving zoos out of existence. The image of herding cats immediately comes to mind.

How the AZA has navigated this political minefield is the subject of *The Politics of Zoos: Exotic Animals and Their Protectors*. Jesse Donahue and Erik Trump, assistant professors of political science at Saginaw Valley State University, provide a chronological analysis of pivotal milestones of the last thirty years that have shaped the political landscape of the nation's zoos. They offer excellent analysis of the issues of establishing self-sustaining zoo animal populations, animal importations, and animal welfare. The authors also chronicle the challenges that AZA has faced in maintaining compliance and unity among its member institutions. What does not come across in this scholarly narrative are the personalities of the principal actors involved or the emotionally charged atmosphere of some of these events.

Although events as recent as 2005 are referenced, the authors curiously neglect to include any information about the formation of the Congressional Zoo and Aquarium Caucus, formed by the late Congresswoman Julia Carson in the 109th Congress. The caucus symbolizes not only the important status of the nation's zoos and aquariums, but also the political maturation of the AZA and its member institutions.

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