information from interviews, uncovered documents, and investigations by Italian prosecutors, describe the entire process by which looted ancient art reached the museum. During the time period covered in the book, Getty’s antiquities curators brokered both sales and donations of looted art works to add to the museum’s collection.

In their epilogue, the authors characterize Marion True as “... a heroine in a Greek tragedy ...” This may be an overdone allusion, meant to recall the antiquities that had such an effect on True’s personal life and were the focus of her professional career. Clearly her life, personal and professional, has been damaged by the legal case against her and her forced resignation from the Getty.

True did not open her files or give interviews to Felch and Frammolino, so her voice in the book is drawn from her writings, legal documents, and the impressions of others. They credit her with pushing the Getty to adopt policies designed to prevent the purchase of looted antiquities. Yet, they also note that True’s activities involved the purchase or donation of looted antiquities to the museum, and that she knew or should have known this. They describe, but do not critique, the excruciatingly drawn-out Italian legal proceedings that True was forced to endure. True does have two champions, and readers of the book and this review might be interested in their perspectives on her behavior and professional work. Malcolm Bell, a distinguished classical archaeologist at the University of Virginia, lauds True’s professional contributions in a Wall Street Journal Op-Ed (28 November 2005), and book review (2 July 2011). The articulate critic Hugh Eakin, writes in support of True in the New Yorker (17 December 2007), and the New York Review of Books (23 June 2011).

In the end, Chasing Aphrodite is much more than a book about the trials and tribulations of Marion True. Historians, archaeologists, museum professionals, and the museum-going public will find this a clearly written, detailed, well-documented, and engaging story. The tragedy is not about one curator; it involves professional staff members, department heads, directors, and boards of major American art museums who supported, and in some instances encouraged, the looting of ancient archaeological sites in order to obtain beautiful art pieces for their displays. We hope that such behavior by the officials who run these outstanding public institutions can indeed be referred to in the past tense.

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The U.S. government called for 50,000 volunteers for the army to prosecute the war against Mexico in 1846 and assigned quotas, based upon populations, to each state. In almost every instance, young men could not get to
the recruiting stations fast enough. This was to be their generation’s great martial experience, and they did not want to be left out of it. In Alabama, one of these young men was Alexander C. Pickett, from Sumter County, and, like many of his new comrades-in-arms, Pickett kept a journal of his experiences as a soldier. A transcription of that journal fills sixty pages of this slim volume.

Two-and-a-half weeks after offering his services, newly elected 2nd Sgt. Pickett and most of his regiment finally departed Mobile on a steamboat headed for the Texas coast. Seas were calm during the four-day crossing, but many of his fellow soldiers became seasick. Upon landing at Brazos Santiago on July 4, he found the heat oppressive and the water brackish.

For several weeks, the men of Pickett’s company were relatively inactive, drilling sometimes in the evenings, after the heat of the day had subsided, and occasionally going on hunting excursions to add to their somewhat unimagined army diet. One particular delicacy was armadillo, which Pickett found to be “good & well-flavored” (85).

After languishing near the mouth of the Rio Grande for almost two months, the Alabamans finally received orders to proceed up the river to the town of Camargo. Along the way, Pickett recorded his impressions of the countryside through which he traveled, often marveling at the rich soil, but deprecating the Mexicans’ use of it, and commenting on the “miserable hovels made of reeds and mud” in which the natives lived (92).

Mexico was predominantly Catholic, but only a small percentage of the American army practiced that faith. In fact, there was considerable anti-Catholic feeling in the United States at the time of the war, and many soldiers found Catholic worship services in Mexico to be of great novelty. Most of them, like Pickett, did not find much of value therein. “I was reminded more of a theatre,” wrote Pickett, “than the solemnities of a church. Some of the airs of the music [were] splendid but their forms were repulsive to sobriety[,] the dignity and the common sense of men” (94).

When Maj. Gen. Zachary Taylor left Camargo for the attack on Monterrey in mid-September, he left the Alabama regiment behind. “The Alabamians,” wrote Pickett, “are mortified at not being at the battle” (102). It was near the end of November when Pickett’s company finally left Camargo to participate in the planned landing on the Mexican coast at Tampico. Following a layover at Brazos Santiago, the regiment finally set sail for Tampico in early January 1847. From there the Alabama regiment went on to become part of the force that Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott used to force the surrender of Vera Cruz prior to his march upon Mexico City. Pickett did not record any of that, however, as his diary ended on January 17, in Tampico, when he reached the final page of his small book. Although it is likely that Pickett bought another volume and continued his entries, that journal, if it exists, has not been found.

The most exciting first-hand accounts of the War with Mexico usually have vivid descriptions of violent battles. After all, that is what one thinks about when thinking of war. Pickett’s journal has none of that. It shows, instead, what was perhaps more typical for most of the soldiers in this war. Boredom. And
because of this, it leaves the reader feeling unsatisfied and, perhaps, regretting spending the time to read it.

Careful readers may also be frustrated by a number of editorial errors and omissions. For example, several individuals whose last names Pickett mentioned remain unidentified. He refers to a Col. Keys in command of a Kentucky regiment (82). The editor was unable to identify Col. Keys further, but a quick visit to the Internet confirms that a Col. William R. McKee led the 2nd Kentucky Infantry and was likely the “Col. Keys” that Pickett meant. Similarly, Pickett leaves blank the name of the commander of the 1st Kentucky Regiment (96), and the editor did not supply that name—Col. Stephen Ormsby. Finally, the editor characterizes Robert E. Lee, in 1846, as a recent West Point graduate (45) when he had left that institution seventeen years earlier, and she locates Lavaca, Texas, as “200 miles east of Matamoros” (111n), which would have put it far out to sea in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Pickett journal resides in the collection of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies in Little Rock, and it is that agency that published it, perhaps as a way to draw interest to itself as a repository for other historically significant manuscripts. I know that the editor worked very hard on this book, but she did not really have very much with which to work, which will, regrettably, give Pickett’s journal a very limited appeal.

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In celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of Parks Canada, the first national park system, the Network in Canadian History & Environment (NiCHE) provided project funding for A Century of Parks Canada, 1911–2011. Claire Elizabeth Campbell, associate professor of history and Canadian studies at Dalhousie University, edited this collection of chapters with Alan MacEachern, University of Western Ontario and Director of NiCHE, serving as project lead. The purpose of the NiCHE is to further the understanding of Canadian environmental history—both through publications and a web based forum—in order to better understand environmental change in the present. The NiCHE project team is comprised of academics representing universities across Canada and many well known historians of Canadian history contributed chapters to this centennial commemoration.

This collection builds upon previous work but makes new contributions in thought and uses new primary source material. The historiography of Parks Canada is short, with many gaps, most importantly the years after the world wars and before the changes of the 1970s. This compilation, which is organ-