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The Wright Brothers

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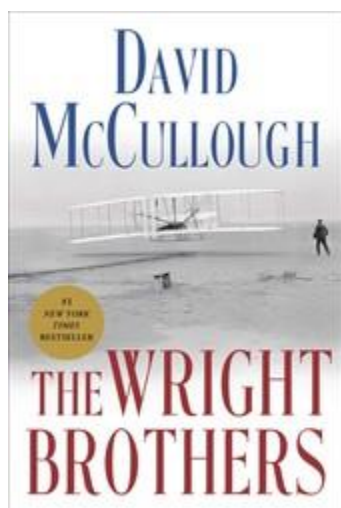
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Real progress was haltingly made by a combination of the gradual accommodating tactics of early black leaders such as Culmer and Gibson, the efforts of white civic leaders concerned about keeping Miami's image as a tourist paradise and as a welcoming place for Latin American tourists and businesspeople, and, as the 1960s unfolded, more militant demonstrations and legal actions of the local NAACP chapter and other black civil rights groups. An important component too is the Black – Jewish alliance that emerged in the post-World War II period. The presence of a very large Jewish population is yet another factor making Miami's civil rights history atypical of the South as well. Raymond Mohl's *South of the South: Jewish Activists and the Civil Rights Movement in Miami 1946-1960* (University of Florida, 2004) provides a detailed look at the story that unfolds in Chapter Four in Rose's *The Black Freedom Struggle in Miami* and, in fact, appears to be the only other book that really addresses the broader civil rights movement in the city.

Academic libraries and large public libraries collecting in the areas of civil rights and African American history will want to add *The Struggle for Black Freedom in Miami* to their collections as will many libraries large and small in Florida. Although a little frustrating to read at times, this title is an important one that provides a unique perspective on the ongoing struggle for African American civil rights. Regrettably, this scholarly book does not have a bibliography, although it is possible to determine at least some of the sources consulted by Chanelle N. Rose via the informative endnotes.

Tim Dodge
Auburn University

The Wright Brothers. David McCullough, NY, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2015. ISBN 978-1-4767-2874-2. 368 p. \$30.



How can two bicycle mechanics from a little town in Ohio become the two people who provide the world with the means of transportation that will essentially change lives in America and around the world?

David McCullough responds to this question and a similar one on a recent talk show with Charlie Rose (<http://sharetv.com/watch/919759>). McCullough offers his strong feelings in answers: “the brothers grew up in a home filled with books, they never graduated high school, never went to college, they never had tutors or instruction in the liberal arts but they had a father who believed in the value of learning and perfecting the English language, both speaking and in writing and those specific abilities served them well. Both sons were avid readers and took advantage of the books that filled their home. They were self-taught. McCullough also credited the philosophy of the midwestern United States family as one of humble origins. They taught their children to seek a high purpose in life, and a never give up attitude.

In the Prologue, a note includes a story of a toy brought home to the boys from a trip their father made to France, “... it was created by the French experimenter of the nineteenth century, Alphonse Penaud, little more than a stick with twin propellers and twisted rubber bands, and probably cost 50 cents...when their father opened his hand to reveal the toy, it flew to the ceiling; they called it the bat.” (p.1)

Experimenting and trying ideas by involvement was demonstrated by the brothers. One behavior which created humorous reactions by the neighbors was to see the brothers as they studied birds flying overhead. Orville and Wilbur copied the flying movements by watching the birds and running along below them flapping their arms and bending themselves into the shape of the flying birds. Watching and learning that these birds could soar and could let the winds lift and propel them gave the brothers a belief that the winds could lift and propel a machine to fly.

“The Wright Brothers” by David McCullough is fascinating and reveals messages about education, family values, creativity in science and art, and a persistence of loyalty and love in families.

McCullough is a masterful researcher and writer. This book has a large number of beautiful and varied photographs and also has Acknowledgments, Source Notes, A Bibliography, Illustration Credits and an Index that covers pages 263 to 320. Though a thick and large book, it is recommended for public libraries, school libraries and colleges and university readers.

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