

# Rounding out your holiday gift list

**Fiction, non-fiction titles  
offer pleasant solutions  
to your present problems**

*By Betsy Kline*

book review editor

**S**electing the most noteworthy of this year's non-fiction titles proved a stickier task than sorting through the fiction. Although quality novels by acclaimed authors were produced in 1980, the activity in the field of biography and history far outshone new fiction.

For those looking forward to catching up on their reading through the winter or shopping for titles that will give pleasure as Christmas gifts, I have compiled a list of notable fiction and non-fiction titles (arranged alphabetically by author) and assorted gift and coffee-table selections released for the Christmas season. (A separate list of children's books appears inside this section.)

## **Fiction**

*A Confederacy of Dunces*, by John Kennedy Toole (Louisiana State University Press; \$12.95). Thanks largely to the efforts of Walker Percy, this novel, rejected by publishers and shelved 15 years ago by a despondent author who later committed suicide, has been brought to light to wide acclaim. Its hero is a rotund, fumbling but likable self-proclaimed world reformer out to make the city of New Orleans safe for decent folk.