

B I B L I O P H I L E B O O K S

28739 FREE AT LAST

edited by Ira Berlin and others

Personal letters vividly bring to life the struggle for freedom by black American slaves. Grandison Briscoe escaped with his family who were later recaptured. He writes that after his wife and mother were severely beaten with their clothes wrapped around their heads to drown their screams, they were imprisoned, and the child taken away. A worried, illiterate white Alabama farmer urged that 'Negroe felers from 17 years oald' should be 'made to fite for wee are in danger among them.' The drama of emancipation unfolds as the slaves struggle to join the Union cause by fighting as soldiers or working as labourers, and brings a new insight to the Civil War. 572pp with b/w illus.

\$27.50 NOW £9**28759 EVERYDAY LIFE OF THE****MAYA** by Ralph Whitlock

The Maya still live in the Central American Jungle, though their civilisation has almost disappeared. At its peak, around AD 400 to

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AD 1000, magnificent cities flourished, with temples, baths, plazas and pyramid-styled buildings. The Maya appreciated music and dance, but woe betide the performer who fluffed a step or played a wrong note - punishment was swift. A ball-game player could be sacrificed if he lost a match. Slavery was rife, and the price of an adult slave was 100 cocoa beans. A riveting guide to the mysterious Maya. Reprint. Line drawings.

ONLY £7.50**28760 EVERYDAY LIFE OF THE****AZTECS** by Warwick Bray

A popular name for an Aztec girl was 'Tziquetzalpoztectzin' ('Precious Broken Plume of the Quetzal Bird'), while a boy might be 'Moquihuix' - easier to write, but it meant 'Drunkard'! This comprehensive guide to Aztec civilisation shows how these people worked, played and worshipped. Boys were taught to fight and handle weapons. They led a spartan life, sleeping in cold, open porches - the idea being to toughen them up. The Aztecs adored rich colours; they farmed cochineal beetles for red dye, obtained purple from Pupura snails, and blue from Acacia leaves. The dyed yarn was woven into intricate designs. Line drawings. Reprint.

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