Waller, John C. *Leaps in the dark: The making of scientific reputations.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004. 292 pp. Leaps in the dark is a coherent collection of ten strong essays about scientific storytelling. Each essay lays out, and then systematically dismantles, a neat but misleading scientific parable. The four parts of the book profile men who are offered up as unfortunates shortchanged by history; less-than-worthy legends; false ancestors; and shameless self-promoters. First the most popular version of the story is offered, then layer upon layer of texture is added as the story is revisited with the benefit of new material, from contemporary political context to posthumous machinations and narrative adjustments to insights about local standards for demonstration, and so on. This formula works extremely well on such varied historical figures as Lazzaro Spallanzani, on the wrong side of the preformation/epigenesis debate, but making reasonable arguments about careful experiments nonetheless; Ignaz Semmelweis, whose political milieu and personal bluster greatly illuminate his failure to gain sway for his childbirth fever theories; Philippe Pinel, celebrated by a series of self-interested parties as the father of psychiatry for actions he likely did not perform; and Selman Waksman, who leveraged his authority at the head of a successful modern laboratory to hoard credit for himself. With or without granting Waller all the details of his ten tales, there is much for the reader to enjoy in them.

Livingstone, David N. *Putting science in its place: Geographies of scientific knowledge.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003. 244 pp., 31 halftones, 5 maps. Many authors have made the claim that science should be seen as geographically bound, but few have worked through that claim as systematically as David Livingstone does here. Livingstone draws on a huge range of scholarship to provide illustrative cases pertaining to the interaction of scientic pursuits and their specific locations. Some of the stories told are very persuasive: the yard/meter convention; cultural conditions for science in the 16th to 17th centuries in Italy, the Iberian penninsula, and Britain; the discovery by 19th-century Parisian demographers of a cluster of men in their twenties married to women over seventy. Livingstone's examples feature almost exclusively Westerners as scientists—though sometimes at work in the European colonies, where the story turns to considering how colonial infrastructure and imperial imperatives shape fieldwork. What counts as science is narrower than it might be: there is abundant attention to land measurement and the fashioning of various kinds of natural taxonomies, but none to abstract mathematics. On the whole, Livingstone underemphasizes theoretical frameworks, except in an engaging passage discussing the "geographies of reception" of evolutionary theory. This is also one of the few places in the book where he contends with the direct influence of physical geography, like climate and landscape, on the history of science. In general, Livingstone stops short of addressing place itself; he is usually satisfied instead to take regional customs and styles as given and irreducible. The litany of particulars avoids the question of how and whether these disparate pieces of scientific knowledge—emerging in zoos, in coffeehouses, on maps, or in eld illustrations—add up to science. Is all science meaningfully situated or does place matter only at the margins?