

Lives of the laureates: twenty-three nobel economists, ed. by Roger W. Spencer and David A. Macpherson. MIT, 2014. 427p afp ISBN 9780262027960, \$35.00.

The original edition of this book first appeared 25 years ago and featured autobiographical essays by seven Nobel economists. The second edition expanded the list to 10 laureates, the third to 13, and the fourth to 18; both the fifth edition and this latest volume contain 23, though 4 entries are new and 4 from the fifth edition were dropped. Owing to the 2011 death of one of the original editors, William Breit, and the institutional migration of another, the editorship changed hands between the fifth and sixth editions. Apart from the short Introduction and afterword, the book's chapters are the lectures given at Trinity University, with each laureate given free rein to explain his personal and intellectual odyssey as well as the development and importance of his work to the field. Given the format, there are no footnotes, references, or table of contents. Although the laureates are household names to economists and other scholars, the general public is likely unfamiliar with these important thinkers and their contributions; even those with disdain for the discipline will enjoy and benefit from these thoughtful, engaging glimpses into the lives and minds of these academic scribblers. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and above.