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From the Reference Desk

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Anyone interested in architecture will welcome a recent set published by Fitzroy Dearborn. Edited by R. Stephen Sennott, the Encyclopaedia of 20th Century Architecture (2004, 1579.582/435, $495) offers readers 700 articles by 300 authors in a well-designed 3 volumes. Scholarly, but written with the lay reader in mind, this set covers a diverse range of topics. As you would expect, there are numerous articles on individual architects from the famous like Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier and Walter Gropius to the less familiar like Rifat Chadirji and Minoru Yamasaki. There are also articles on schools and movements from the avant-garde Archigram group to the turn of the century, Vienna Secession. Added to these are articles on the architecture of specific cities, countries and regions.

The Encyclopaedia also provides a broader view by discussing the physical and cultural environment within which architecture functions. Coverage extends to related fields like industrial design, transportation planning, zoning, and greenbelts, as well as to discussions of movements like cubism, modernism and the impacts of feminist theory. There are also essays on building types ranging from bus terminals to embassies to shopping centers. This handsome set is illustrated with black and white photos and some color plates. Added features include a general and an thematic index of entries, generous use of "see also" references and useful bibliographies.

Editor R. Stephen Sennott and his contributors provide a unique look at 20th century architecture. They offer the reader comprehensiveness without being overpowering. The Encyclopaedia of 20th Century Architecture successfully reflects the complex interplay of planning needs, evolving technologies, historic tradition and contemporary aesthetics. Academic and public libraries will be well served by finding a place for it on their reference shelves.

Another Fitzroy Dearborn title worthy of strong consideration is the Encyclopaedia of Sculpture (2004, 1579.582/486, $375) edited by Antonia Bostrom. This distinctive 3-volume set focuses on a subject that, until now, lacked a comprehensive encyclopedia. Consisting of 763 entries written by more than 300 scholars, this encyclopedia fills an obvious need and should prove useful to art and sculpture students, faculty and the lay reader. Just as the Encyclopaedia of 20th Century Architecture, this set features a general and thematic index, selected bibliographies and see also references linking related entries. The coverage is thorough and diverse ranging from biographies to individual works and monuments, and from materials, forms, and techniques to styles and periods. There are also articles on the sculpture of countries and regions throughout the world. There are multiple, chronologically divided entries for China, Egypt, India, the Near East, and Africa, as well as, single entries for places like Cambodia, Melanesia, Japan, Korea, Polynesia, Mesosamerica and Thailand.

Containing all of the elements expected of a scholarly reference work, the Encyclopedia of Sculpture should prove popular in academic libraries. And given that it is written and presented in a style that will appeal to the informed reader, larger public libraries will find it equally attractive.

Greenwood had updated its well-regarded Greenwood Encyclopaedia of African American Civil Rights (2003, 031332171X, $175). First published in 1992, this-2 volume set has been expanded to include 60 new essays (15 were dropped) and covers new developments through September of 2003. There are more than 800 concise articles covering biographies, government agencies and both national and state organizations, relevant court cases and significant events ranging from race riots to sit-ins. However, in the interest of space, articles on people and organizations that oppose the civil rights movement are not included. The articles are brief and to the point, but contain all the essential information. Entries are arranged alphabetically and there is a general index. And while there is no thematic index, related articles are referenced in bold type within the text of each entry. Enhancing the value of the Encyclopaedia are added features including a very thorough chronology, as well as list of 120 primary documents from Frederick Douglass on the Future of the Negro People in the United States (1862) to Bill Clinton's Vision for Bridging the Racial Divide (2001).

Greenwood Encyclopaedia of African American Civil Rights is a nicely produced, handy set. Focused on the African American experience, it will add depth to collections that already own broader titles like Morellian's Civil Rights in the United States (2000, 0-02-864765-3, $260) and M.E. Sharpe's Encyclopedia of Civil Rights in the United States. (1998, 0-7656-8000-9, $299)

Until recently the contributions of black Americans to our military history has been neglected or ignored. Fortunately that has begun to change as evidenced by publications like ABC-CLIO's African Americans at War: An Encyclopedia (2004, 1576.677/462, $185). Written by Jonathan D. Sutherland, these 2 volumes recount the role African Americans have played from pre-revolutionary battles with Native Americans and French Armies to 20th century combat in the deserts of the Middle East. The more than 250 articles in this encyclopedia offer ample evidence of the courage, valor and patriotism of African Americans. In addition to the contributions of specific units like the Tuskegee Airmen, individual sacrifices and accomplishments are featured from deaths of Crupes Attacks at the Boston Massacre to rise of Colin Powell to be the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. At the same time, specific entries like those on the Fort Pillow Massacre and the Brownsville Incident, examine the race-related issues that continue to fester.
ism and hatred black soldiers were forced to overcome. The author has wisely included a number of special features. There are guides to the formation and service records of African American cavalry and infantry units, lists of battles they participated in, Buffalo Soldier postings from 1865-1917, World War I and World War II recruitment camps and postings, a list of black Medal of Honor winners, and a general chronology, as well as one specific to desegregation of the military.

Fascinating and revealing, African Americans at War: An Encyclopedia is a good source for background information, while at the same time, pointing to the fact that there is more fertile ground for research. This set is written for a broad audience and should be welcome by public, high school and undergraduate libraries.

Another 2-volume set from ABC-CLIO focusing on a specific, under researched aspect of history is Alcohol and Temperance in Modern History: An International History (2003, 1576078345, $185). While alcohol use, and abuse, is an old as history itself, this reference is confined to discussion of the production and use of alcohol beverages in the modern times and ranges from the earliest evidence of Scotch whiskey to the rise of microbreweries. However, to give the full historic perspective, the editors tie their discussion to the temperance and prohibition movements that reflected social concern and exercised influence on government policies toward alcohol use and production. Close to 500 articles by 170 international scholars recount this history. Coverage is global and there is an index by geographic area to aid in finding countries and region specific articles. The articles are diverse and cover topics from specific beverages like sake and absinthe, to famous producers like the Guinness Brewery and the Brofman family, to social impacts and rates of consumption. There are also entries on the various temperance movements like the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Australia and France's Ligue Nationale contre l'Alcoolisme, as well as on government regulatory agencies like the Provincial Liquor Board of Canada and self-help organizations like Alcoholics Anonymous. A number of other articles provide biographies of people ranging from reformers like Carrie Nation to famous drinkers like Winston Churchill.

The overall impression left by this set is one of a serious and factual synthesis.

Alcohol and Temperance in Modern History: An International History enables the reader to come to a clearer understanding of the commercial and social impacts that alcohol use and production have caused, as well as the societal response. The extent of that impact, as reflected in this set, is substantial. This reference work is a worthwhile choice for both public and academic libraries where there is interest.

Rachel K. Schenk Memorial Scholarship

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