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From the Reference Desk

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From the Reference Desk

More Reference Reviews

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Having just returned from our "western swing" (my wife and I put in 3600 miles traveling from Denver to Portland and back again), I was delighted to find a couple of new reference titles waiting for me on my desk. The folks at Garland Publishing had been gracious enough to send review copies of two of their recent publications and the publisher of a book reviewed in this column a few months ago, sent a copy of a newly revised edition. So in return, we felt obligated to adhere to our editorial policy of "if you send 'em we'll review 'em."

The *Encyclopedia of American Prisons* is a one-volume work from Garland (1996, 0-8153-1350-0, \$95) which has a number of notable features. First of all, the articles are thorough and well written, emphasizing the historical context of each issue when relevant. Overall coverage is good with more than 160 articles treating subjects like rehabilitation, sentencing guidelines, racial conflict, drug abuse, crowding, visitation and educational programs. For a one-volume encyclopedia, the bibliographies are solid; a two-page article on Attica has 11 citations listed. Another nice, but inconsistent, feature is a separate listing of legal case citations for some, but not all of the articles. Any future edition would be improved by including more case citations throughout the volume. The index is adequate, but again, there is room for improvement. While the articles on individual prisons are listed alphabetically within the book itself, in the index, one has to look under the subject "institutions" to locate references to Alcatraz, Sing Sing, Leavenworth, etc. These criticisms aside, the *Encyclopedia of American Prisons* is a

worthwhile addition to an undergraduate or larger public library.

American Folklore: An Encyclopedia (Garland, 1996, 0-8153-0751-9, \$95) impressively packs a good deal of information into one volume. The book concentrates on the United States but also includes Canadian folklore. Native American folklore is purposely omitted from this volume. While of use to the general public, this is a serious work of particular value to scholar and student. In fact, a number of articles deal with topics like "Ethics in Folklore Scholarship" and "Fieldwork", as well as specific scholarly approaches to the study of folklore like "Functionalism" "Structuralism" and the "Contextual Approach." Of course, the encyclopedia includes numerous articles on the different ethnic and regional folklore that make up the American fabric, as well as essays on different genres of folklore like folk dance and music, folk crafts, folk medicine, myths, games and customs. Entries on occupational folklore including miners, loggers, cowboys and oil workers are included, as well as articles on individual people ranging from Zora Neale Hurston to Elvis. *American Folklore* is enhanced by the black and white photos interspersed through the text. Each article has its own bibliography and the index is good. All in all, this is a one volume encyclopedia well worth the price.

ADM Publishing and editor Mary Wong have updated and expanded their *National Directory of Bereavement Support Groups and Services* (1996, \$29.95, 0-9645608-7-9). The first edition of this reference was reviewed in this column in September of 1995 (see v.6#4, pp. 42) and the positive impression made at that time still holds. The section of article reprints includes a number of new articles and the directory itself has been expanded over 90 pages, while a new section for 24-hour crisis hotlines has been added. The bibliography has also been updated and now includes ISBN numbers, as well as the telephone numbers of the publishers. But do not throw out last year's edition. Some of the articles appearing in the 1995 edition and some of the books listed in the bibliography are not in the 1996 edition and are still of value. And, as with the 1995 edition, this directory, while providing a great deal of information, is not compre-

hensive and will need to be supplemented by a look in the local telephone book in some places. But this reference is a valuable resource for someone suffering the loss of a loved one and most public libraries and many academic libraries will want to have it in their collections.

Routledge has just published a significant set that will delight business librarians. The *International Encyclopedia of Business and Management* (1996, 0-415-07399-5, \$1295) is a major addition to the reference literature in business management. In fact, there is nothing quite like it in terms of scope and scholarship currently available. The encyclopedia is a six-volume set with the last volume being an extensive index. Including over 500 entries, the set is arranged alphabetically by subject. According to the editor, the subjects were chosen based on a study of business school curricula, textbook analysis and consultation with faculty, students, librarians and practitioners. Articles cover theoretical topics like organizational structure, decision-making and game theory, as well as the practical, like marketing, sales management and financial accounting. Each entry has a bibliography and they are substantial, citing many of the items referred to in the text. Naturally, there is a definite emphasis on the international dimension of business management in this encyclopedia. International aspects of individual topics are either highlighted within the general article or when necessary, by a separate entry. This encyclopedia treats business management as a serious academic discipline. It is not meant for the casual reader looking for pointers on improving his/her management technique. Even at this hefty price, most business librarians will want to add it to their collections.

Lastly, the *Encyclopedia of Cultural Anthropology* published by Henry Holt, (1996, 0-8050-2877-3, \$495) is another set which bears consideration. This encyclopedia, which deals with the comparative study of human societies, offers articles with both cross-cultural perspectives, as well as those on specific cultural groups. Many of the articles cover broad topics like aging, child development, crime, language, marriage, race relations and war. The encyclopedia also has articles covering scholarly methods and concepts prevalent within the discipline, and articles on sub-fields and related fields like medical anthropology, ethnobotany and linguistic anthropology. Useful to both student and scholar, this encyclopedia has strong bibliographies after many of the articles, as well as a thorough index.