June 2009

Book Reviews -- Monographic Musings

Debbie Vaughn

College of Charleston, vaughnd@cofc.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>

Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Vaughn, Debbie (2009) "Book Reviews -- Monographic Musings," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 21: Iss. 3, Article 18.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.2318>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.

The science of service.

At Eastern Book Company, we've spent more than half a century shaping our unique brand of service. The first step is fulfilling our customers' orders with unmatched speed and accuracy. Then we custom-fit our operations to our customers' needs, allowing libraries to streamline processes and maximize budgets. And finally, we cultivate next-generation technologies to help our customers build the libraries their users need.

Eastern Book Company

1-800-937-0331
www.ebc.com

Trust. Expertise. Service.

Book Reviews — Monographic Musings

Column Editor: **Debbie Vaughn** (College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>

Column Editor's Note: Ahhh, summer: the time for vacation and rejuvenation. Though spring is the season of birth and renewal, summer's long days offer the opportunity for relaxed attitudes and general easygoing-ness. The unhurried months between Memorial Day and Labor Day provide a time for traveling and exploring other times and cultures. In case an exotic vacation isn't in your budget this year, perhaps a recently-popular "staycation" is on your calendar; or might I suggest a "vacation" to the library where patrons might have at their fingertips exotic and cultural books such as **Creating the Pantheon: Design, Materials, and Construction** and **The World Religions Cookbook**. It isn't always necessary to travel far and wide to reap the rewards of exposure to other customs and ways of life.

Heartfelt thanks to this month's reviewers. **Sheila Seaman** began her **College of Charleston** library career in 1981 and was the Assistant Dean of Public Services until June 2009. Recently retired, her departure leaves a void; her gentle nature and contagious thirst for knowledge will be sorely missed at the reference desk. **Dr. Lawrence Simms**, professor emeritus, was a teacher and scholar of Classical Studies at the **College of Charleston** for over twenty years. Thankfully we still see **Larry** on campus from time to time! Happy reading, everyone! — DV

Fieldhouse, Paul and Arno Schmidt. *The World Religions Cookbook*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2007. 978-0-313-33504-4. 296 pages. \$49.95.

Reviewed by **Sheila Seaman** (Addlestone Library, College of Charleston)

The World Religions Cookbook is a needed addition to the literature of cookery and the culture of religions. Unlike most religious cookbooks it is not centered on any one faith but is ecumenical in its coverage. Increasingly people are visiting each others religious gatherings, have friends or in-laws from other

faiths, or want to bring a dish to honor a new neighbor from another culture. Students young and old are travelling to other countries and hosting exchange students from around the world. For these purposes, the book will serve the clientele of academic and public libraries. Since there are many variations in religious

dietary restrictions, readers will use this book to identify appropriate recipes and to share a covered dish. Like the two-volume set, *How to Be A Perfect Stranger: A Guide to the Etiquette of other People's Religious Ceremonies*, this cookbook is helpful in avoiding gaffes and accommodating the religious needs of others. Moreover, **The World Religions Cookbook** helps the user actively prepare the universal gift of friendship — food. For each religion, there is a brief introduction about its history and notable feasts, festivals, and holidays followed by recipes reflecting its cultural and dietary restrictions and foods appropriate for each event. The cookbook covers the most prevalent religious faiths likely to be encountered in the United States: Buddhism and Shintoism, Christianity, Hinduism and Sikkism, Islam, and Judaism. It includes a short bibliography and an ample index to recipes, ingredients, meals, and holidays. There is a glossary of ingredients, cooking tools, and dishes, and the introduction provides a chart with comparative religious dietary laws as well as safety, cooking, and hygiene tips. The author's introduction stresses that the book is first and foremost a cookbook. It features 231 recipes that run the gamut from appetizers to desserts. Each recipe gives a brief description of its origins

continued on page 54

Book Reviews from page 53

and significance, a list of ingredients, step-by-step cooking instructions, and the number of persons the recipe serves. Although the cook using this book may occasionally need to visit an ethnic store, most of the recipes make use of ingredients available at local supermarkets. All of the recipes have been tested by chef and author, **Arno Schmidt**. The co-author, **Paul Fieldhouse**, teaches at the **University of Manitoba** and is the author of *Food and Nutrition: Customs and Culture* (1995).

Waddell, Gene. *Creating the Pantheon: Design, Materials, and Construction.* Rome: "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, 2008. 978-88-8265-493-1. 428 pages. \$410.00.

Reviewed by **Lawrence J. Simms** (Associate Professor of Classical Studies, Emeritus, College of Charleston)

One of the most significant and emblematic monuments of classical antiquity, the Pantheon, has finally received its full due in this masterful study by **Gene Waddell**, the fruit of three decades of painstaking research by an established architectural scholar. In fourteen chapters, divided into five parts, the author focuses in meticulous detail on the design of the Pantheon and the materials and methods of construction employed in its execution, and the general and specific sources of design and construction. In addition to the 136 pages of text, fourteen pages of endnotes and eleven pages of bibliography, we have 240 pages of illustrations (close to 400 in all) with a detailed listing of illustrations at the end of the table of contents for ready reference.

In the first sentence of the Preface, the author announces the scope of his study: "This book is about everything that was required to create the Pantheon." Such an opening statement tempts the reader to suspect hyperbole, if not hubris, but the exhaustive presentation of his subject amply justifies the promise. The two-chapter introduction provides general background information on the Pantheon, including in chapter one a brief description of the building and illuminating discussion of the date of construction, about which there

There are many uses for this book. It will satisfy the curiosity of those interested in other cultures as well as help bring people of disparate faiths together. **Arno Schmidt** and **Paul Fieldhouse** are successful in demystifying the foodways of many of the world's major religions. 289 public and academic libraries have already purchased this book, and it is available in electronic form from **Netlibrary**. It definitely fills a gap in the literature. Books like *The World Religions Cookbook* help to increase understanding across cultures, and this one is accessible and practical. It will serve libraries and readers of all types.

has been much disagreement in the past, and the purpose which the building originally served, as opposed to its later identification as a temple. Chapter two provides a survey of the more important earlier scholarship, beginning with the "first comprehensive treatise on the Pantheon" by **Sebastiano Serlio** in 1540. Two major monographs on the Pantheon appeared in the 20th century, one by **Kjeld de Fine Licht**, *The Rotunda in Rome: A Study of Hadrian's Pantheon*, (Copenhagen, 1966) and **William L. MacDonald**, *The Pantheon: Design, Meaning, and Progeny* (Cambridge, MA, 1976). The author acknowledges his indebtedness to both, but using a different approach he has been "unable to accept" many of **Licht's** conclusions, and with regard to **MacDonald**, he has "reached somewhat different conclusions" about the importance of the "sources for the building's design and construction."

The chapters that follow deal with the general issues of design and construction, the nature of the site and six

chapters devoted to "concrete construction" and "embellishment," subdivided into particular components of the building. No significant part of the Pantheon has been neglected, and the profusion of detail validates the author's statement in the Preface that he has "examined most parts of the building carefully and repeatedly." In the Conclusions section the author recapitulates his findings in a concise summary.

Notable among the illustrations are general views of the Pantheon dating from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries and numerous photographs (many taken by the author), diagrams, and sketches of a great variety of structural details, as well as floor plans and architectural renderings covering the same period. In addition to the illustrations of the Pantheon in its many aspects, we are provided with a wealth of visual material relating to ancient structures comparable to the Pantheon dating from c.100 B.C.E. to c.307 C.E., enabling us to place the Pantheon in its proper historical context.

This volume represents a major contribution to the study of architectural history in its treatment of what the author has rightly characterized as "one of the most influential buildings ever created" and "one of the most controversial." Although the technical material may be of use primarily to those already familiar with principles of architecture and construction, there is much that will serve the purpose of the general reader who may easily consult the elaborate Table of Contents and the extensive index for subject matter of particular interest. This is a book that is

comprehensive, logically organized, and clearly written, a thorough analysis of a major architectural monument accompanied by a rich visual record and original interpretations. College and university libraries in general and especially those that support programs in architecture, art history, and classical studies should have this volume. Nor will it be out of place in the more serious public library. 🐾

Rumors from page 52

ians choose the topic and provide suggestions regarding the types of questions that we should ask, we believe that the results of this survey will be of upmost value to libraries worldwide." "Over the past few years, **ebrary** has collaborated with librarians to learn their perspectives as well as those of students and professors with regard to the use of digital content," said **Christopher Warnock**, CEO of **ebrary**. "We are proud to sponsor this survey and believe it will help vendors, publishers, aggregators, and others who serve the library community better understand and address librarians' issues and

concerns in a difficult economic climate." www.ucl.ac.uk/infostudies/research/ciber/www.katina.info/conference

Was visited recently by **Steve O'Dell** and **Steve Strother** of **EBSCO**. They gave us a demonstration of the **EBSCO Discovery Service**. Hear all about it at **ALA**! Anyway, after the presentation, everyone was remembering especially **Steve O**. Sorry, **Steve S**, but how many people get to be in a **Geico Commercial**? And with **Joan Rivers** at that? www.youtube.com/watch?v=42NcaL6IWt8

Do y'all remember the glamorous **Daryl Rayner**? She used to write the charming **Rumours from Paddington** section in **ATG** way back when she was employed by **xrefer**

which is now called **Credo Reference**. Anyway, **Daryl** and some of her colleagues have another company called **Exact Editions** which makes largely popular magazines, books, and other printed documents accessible, searchable, and usable on the Web in exactly the same version as the printed version. Each print page becomes a Web page, so printed pages can be bookmarked, cited, and referenced by other users or Web applications. Check it out! www.exacteditions.com/

And, speaking of **Credo Reference**, did y'all see the great piece **Mary Ellen Quinn** did on the history of **Credo** in **Booklist**? www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3367616

continued on page 65