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From the Reference Desk-Oxford Companion to J.M.W. Turner, Encyclopedia of Asian Philosophy and the Handbook of Shock Waves

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Profiles Encouraged

People Profile — Jeff Slagell

Column Editor: **Allison P. Mays**
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Jeff Slagell
Serials/ILL Librarian
W.B. Roberts Library
Delta State University

Born: Manchester, IA, in 1968

Current Residence: Cleveland, MS, about two hours south of Memphis, TN

Education: B.A. in Psychology from the University of Iowa, 1991

M.A. in Information Resources and Library Science from the University of Arizona, 1999

M.A. in Communication from the University of Miami, A.B.T.

Summary of job experiences:

Pre-library: I have done a little bit of everything since I started working when I was twelve including: mowed city parks, walked beans, bailed hay, delivered pizzas, video store clerk, worked in a 3rd class mailing facility, unloaded semi trucks at a Wal-Mart Distribution Center, convenience store manager, and loaded trucks at a Land O' Lakes animal feed plant. Whew.

I worked in a variety of staff positions in Richter Library at the University of Miami before I earned my Library Science degree including: Circulation Library Assistant, Periodicals Supervisor, Stacks Supervisor, and Coordinator of Monographic Receiving.

1999 – present: Serials/ILL Librarian at Delta State University in Cleveland, MS

Family circumstances prompted my relocation to the Mississippi Delta. It is a truly interesting region full of history, culture, and, of course, the Blues. While I enjoy the resources of a large research institution, Delta State's size has allowed me to get my hands on almost everything and gain some excellent experience in the process.

Family: I have one son: Christopher, almost 3.

Biggest recent surprise:

Professionally: from my fellow library staff's perspective – that I can act as Webmaster and be certified to drive three different types of forklift trucks

Personally: that if you are from Iowa, you will always be a Yankee to some in the South, and it's not called the Civil War, but the War of Northern Aggression

Last book read and literary tastes: *Hannibal* by Thomas Harris (yikes). I read almost everything and I tend to go in spurts. I especially enjoy historical biographies, film history, and you can't beat John Grisham, Michael Crichton, and Tom Clancy for a little mental vacation.

What I do in my spare time: I am a serious film buff and I'll watch *anything*.

What I'd like to be doing seven years from now: Working in a dynamic position in an academic environment.

From the Reference Desk

Column Editor: **Tom Gilson** (Head, Reference Services,
College of Charleston) <gilson@cofc.edu>

Writing book reviews became trivial on September 11th. Everyday things faded into afterthoughts. Riveted by an event deemed impossible the day before, I was stunned and absorbed by what was unfolding on a television specially installed in the library. Nothing else seemed to matter. This was an earth-shattering event and my day-to-day concerns paled in comparison. But as time passed, I realized that the everyday cares like helping students with research, reading the paper, watching TV, talking with friends, kissing my wife goodbye in the morning, and yes, writing book reviews, were the things that, taken together, made up a rich and often useful whole.

I also realized that all these everyday things are a reflection of strength. They reflect vibrancy, vibrancy born of the diversity that pulses through daily life. Often, we think of diversity in racial and ethnic terms. But there is another diversity, the diversity of fascination. You and I have an inherent cu-

riosity with all kinds of ideas and issues that we are driven to indulge. And here, in this place, in this country, in this society, we are blessed with the freedom to pursue them. It is a freedom that we too often take for granted. So, aside from the needless deaths and the incredible destruction of September 11th, maybe there was an added reason why we were appalled and terrified by that day. We realized what we could lose. The freedom to pursue diverse interests, ideas and callings, no matter where they take us, is a gift not to be assumed, or taken lightly.

What does this have to do with the reviewing of books? Well, as I looked at a book truck full of titles I was considering for review, this diversity of interests, ideas and callings hit home. As I examined these books, the rich diversity of topics and interests represented on that truck was obvious. So with your permission I am going to "freely pursue" a broad variety of books, hoping they reinforce what I am talking about.

The *Oxford Companion to J.M.W. Turner*, (2001, 0198600259, \$95) is a good book about a great painter. Covering every aspect of Turner's life and artistic accomplishment in a fact laden but clearly written style, this Oxford University Press title is well worth considering. Beside the informative text there are 32 color plates as well as a chronology of Turner's life. The entries are signed and many have references to works cited in the general bibliography. Overall this is a careful scholarly treatment that students, scholars and admirers of Turner will welcome. It should find its way on to academic library shelves as well as into public library collections where there is interest.

Feature Films, 1960-1969 (2001, 0786411007, \$95) is another labor of love from researcher **Harris M. Lentz**. Published by **McFarland** this book is a thorough and comprehensive filmography of both English and foreign language films that were released in the US during the turbulent 1960s. (It does not include films made for television.) Each entry has nuts and bolts information like date, cast, director, genre, running time etc. as well as a one-sentence story line. The over 4300 titles are arranged alphabetically and there is a general index by entry number. The only downside is the lack of a genre/topic index. Nonetheless, libraries where there is serious interest in film and film history will want to consider it. Appropriate for either reference or circulation depending on need.

Published by **Routledge**, the *Encyclopedia of Asian Philosophy* (2001, 0415172810, \$160) is a one volume reference that concentrates on an area of study too long neglected. Edited by **Oliver Leaman** (who also contributed to the excellent **Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy**)

these concisely written articles are full of useful information. They vary in length according to the importance of the topic and most have individual bibliographies. The book is easy to use with subject, name and thematic indexes providing access to the al-

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Profiles Encouraged

Publisher Profile — David R. Godine, Publisher, Inc.

by John Long (Consultant) <john-long@worldnet.att.net>

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9 Hamilton Place
Boston, MA 02108

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Web address: www.godine.com

E-mail: info@godine.com

Number of employees: 8

Founder & Publisher: David R. Godine
Founded in 1970

of books published: 30 new titles per year;
backlist, 340 titles

Important publications: Peter Bowler's, *Superior Person's Books of Words*, Vols. 1, 2, & 3 (avail. in boxed set); John Kessler's *Night Shadows: Twentieth-Century Stories of the Uncanny* (due in Oct.); Ralph Graves' *Champagne Kisses, Cyanide Dreams* (avail.); Bascove's *Where Books Fall Open* (due in Dec.); Jonathan Williams' *A Palpable Elysium* (due in Nov.); Richard Watson's *Cogito Ergo Sum: A Life of René Descartes*.

Editor's Note: "Books are the treasured wealth of the world and the fit inheritance of generations and nations" wrote Henry Thoreau, in *Walden*. I think about that quote when I encounter publishers like David R. Godine. Quintessential examples of the book publisher's art come to mind: When I met with David Godine and I commented on the beautiful design and production of his books, he said to me, "We pay attention to the little things." He gave me a quick lesson in recognizing quality book production by showing me the "little things" that make a difference in a great book: printing on acid-free paper, binding in full cloth, the end papers, the exquisite design and line drawings, and the lovely way that each printed page is presented to the reader ("books of typographic distinction that delight the eye...").

I visited Godine's office, near Park St., in downtown Boston. On that day, David and his fine staff (5 in the Boston office and 3 in their Jaffrey, NH fulfillment center) were involved with one project concerning an upcoming author's signing that will take place at the Bickerton & Ripley Bookstore on Martha's Vineyard. Five hundred copies of Ralph Graves' new novel (*Mr. Graves lives on Martha's Vineyard*), *Champagne Kisses, Cyanide Dreams*, were being dropshipped to Bickerton & Ripley to arrive prior to the author's bookstore signing (scheduled around mid-August).

Much to my delight and admiration, I found that David is involved in every aspect of the publishing enterprise: he even makes sales calls to booksellers throughout the Northeast; to coincide with these sales calls he often visits Godine authors and illustrators en route.

Godine's list is truly eclectic and includes: "books about the history and design of the written word, literary essays, and the best fiction in translation," poetry, nonfiction, Mary Azarian's wonderful illustrations, regional architecture, literature, biography & memoirs, nature & gardening, music & cooking, and an "unusually strong list of children's books."

Finally, I asked the highly respected Senior Trade Buyer (Brown University Bookstore, Providence, RI), Peter Sevenair, about some of his favorite Godine authors and titles. Peter (who has an unerring sense for recognizing superb books and writing) recommended: the late Andre Dubus' canon, William Gass' *In the Heart of the Heart of the Country*, Richard Watson's *The Philosopher's Diet*, William Zinsser's *Easy to Remember*, and the unsurpassed Jorge Luis Borges', *The Library of Babel* (with splendid etchings by Erik Desmazieres). Peter applauds the fact that David Godine actively "discovers out-of-print books" and makes them available again (e.g., Watson's *Philosopher's Diet*); and that the Godine books are "so well made and designed."

From the Reference Desk

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phabetically arranged articles. Although a bit pricey, it is a scholarly and well organized effort that will find a place on the shelves of both interested scholars as well as academic and larger public libraries.

Adolescence in America: an Encyclopedia (2001, 1576072053, \$175) is one of the six titles that makes up ABC-CLIO's *American Family* series of reference books. Like the others in the series, *Adolescence in America* is a 2-volume set that deals with social, medical, psychological and other developmental issues. Although edited and written by academics, the articles are accessible to the lay reader and parent as well as the student and scholar. For a 2-volume set the bibliographies are impressive. My only concern is, as with other ABC-CLIO references, the paper bindings may not hold up under repeat usage. Diverse in its coverage and serious in its treatment, *Adolescence in America* should find an interested audience in both public and academic libraries.

Garland has released another volume in its highly praised and respected *Garland Encyclopedia of World Music*. Volume 3, *The United States and Canada* (2000, 0824049446, \$250) is available and should be particularly welcome by academic librarians. Unlike other musical encyclopedias that emphasize history, theory and performance, the approach here is cultural and grounded in the field of ethnomusicology. Like the others in the set, this volume is organized into three parts. The first offers an overall musical profile of both countries as well as an essay on scholarship and historiography. Part 2 concentrates on the social and cultural contexts while Part 3 deals with specific geographic regions and musical cultures within the US and Canada. *The United States and Canada* is an impressive scholarly accomplishment full of thoughtful articles on a rich diversity of topics with bibliographies that are a treasure by themselves. Admittedly, it is not as easy to use as the traditional alphabetically arranged volume, but the extra effort is worth the reward. *The United States and Canada* also comes with a CD-ROM of audio examples.

The Organizing of Black America: An encyclopedia of African American Associations (2001, 0815323093, \$125) is another worthwhile Garland publication. This book documents Black America's tradition of bonding together to fight adversity and further advancement. Coverage ranges from the Rainbow Coalition to the Harlem Tenant League, from the NAACP to the Mosaic Templars of America, and from the Jackie Robinson Foundation to the Bureau of Colored Troops. In all, there are 576 entries that list religious, fraternal, political, military, educational and social organizations. This is a unique reference that pulls together information about an essential part of the African American story. Fact filled and accessible, this book will be useful for both public and academic libraries.

From the thunder of natural storms to the discovery and use of explosives, scientists have been interested in the phenomena of resulting shock waves. Reflecting both history and recent research, Academic Press has published a 3-volume set entitled the *Handbook of Shock Waves* (2001, 0120864312, \$1300) sure to appeal to the specialist. This set is jammed full with details on experimental theory and techniques as well as shock wave interactions and propagation in gases, liquids, solids and in space. There are also specific articles discussing shock wave reflection and refraction, chemical reactions and kinetics, as well as shock channels and tunnels. Intended for the research expert and engineers, this handbook is loaded with formulas, charts, diagrams and extensive bibliographies. The *Handbook of Shock Waves*

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Nursing History Review, Volume 10

Joan E. Lynaugh, Editor

This book will help all those interested in the history of health care keep in touch with new and ongoing research, gain access to related historiography, and analyze the historical perspective on contemporary health concerns.

2001 220pp (est.) 0-8261-1477-6 soft \$36.00 tent.

The Nurses' Guide to Consumer Health Web Sites

Joyce J. Fitzpatrick, PhD, RN, FAAN
Carol Romano, PhD, RN, FAAN
and Ruth Chasek

This book will help you find the most reliable sources of health information on the Internet for your patients. All the sites in this book have been selected and reviewed by expert nurses in over 40 specialties, most of them nursing educators with doctoral degrees.

2001 256pp 0-8261-1455-5 soft \$32.95 (outside US \$37.80)

Annual Review of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Volume 21

Current Topics in the Biology of Aging

Vincent J. Cristofalo, PhD and Richard Adelman, PhD

This volume features eminent scientists from the fields of biology, medicine and the social sciences who present the latest research on the aging cell, genetics, and aspects of the sociobiology of aging.

352pp (est.) 0-8261-1448-2 hard \$56.00 tent.

Ethics, Law, and Aging Review: Volume 7

Liability Issues and Risk Management in Caring for Older Persons

Marshall B. Kapp, JD, MPH

In this volume, professionally distinguished and diverse authors discuss both the real and perceived legal liability context within which health and human service delivery to older persons takes place.

2001 230pp 0-8261-1457-1 hard \$39.95 (outside US \$43.80)

Annual Review of Nursing Research, Volume 19: Women's Health Research

Joyce J. Fitzpatrick, PhD, RN, FAAN, Series Editor

Diana Taylor, PhD, RN, NP, FAAN and Nancy Fugate Woods, PhD, RN, FAAN, Volume Editors

This book demonstrates that nurses have made an important contribution to the advancement and expansion of women's health knowledge. Selecting the health issues of most importance to women, the editors have assembled leading nurse researchers to review, summarize, and critique nursing research within each area.

2001 376pp 0-8261-1408-3 hard \$52.00 (outside US \$58.00)

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ATG: What is Amazon.com's relationship with AOL? Is Amazon.com getting bought out?

DS: In July 2001, we announced a new multi-year strategic alliance with AOL, through which the industry's two e-commerce leaders will team up to develop and offer an enhanced online shopping experience for users of America Online's interactive brands. The new agreement joins Amazon.com's industry-leading platform and online retail expertise with America Online's technology and popular shopping environment to provide an even better online experience for America Online's 30 million members, millions of visitors to its Web-based brands and hundreds of retailers. This new agreement expands on the successful marketing relationship begun between the two companies in 1997.

The companies also announced that America Online has made a \$100 million equity investment in Amazon.com common stock.

In addition, America Online and Amazon.com will continue to work together on future e-commerce initiatives to benefit consumers, such as marketing initiatives, customer authentication and wallet services, and extending the alliance internationally.

ATG: What does Amazon.com consider the list price of a book to be? Since Amazon.com controls the database, how do we know what the publisher's list price is? Are service charges ever built into the price?

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is serious science at a serious price. Academic libraries supporting courses in physics or engineering are the main audience for this title.

Originally promised for release last year, the final three volumes of ABC-CLIO's *Encyclopedia of Archaeology* (2001, 1576071987, \$295) are now available. The first two volumes of the *Encyclopedia*, subtitled the *Great Archaeologists*, were edited by Tim Murray and met with approving reviews. The new volumes, subtitled *History and Discoveries*, are also edited by Murray and offer the same quality content and attention to scholarship that characterized his initial effort. Articles on specific countries and regions, individual sites and discoveries, time periods, methods and techniques and famous institutions and museums are the main attraction. Interested readers will find articles on topics as varied as Great Zimbabwe, the Ashmolean Museum, Medieval archaeology in Europe, Cambodia (and the ruins at Angkor Wat), Chaco Canyon, and computer applications in archaeology. While primarily an academic library title, large public libraries may also be interested, especially if they have the first two volumes.

ABC-CLIO's *Encyclopedia of the War of the Roses* (2001, 1851093583, \$85) focuses on the series of civil wars that marked fifteenth century England. This single volume reference is a well-organized volume with a number of

useful features. It is intended for the lay reader or student with an interest in the topic and provides needed background information in brief and clearly written articles. Use of the volume is enhanced by a guide to related topics and a alphabetical list of entries, as well as a number of appendices that include genealogies, maps, a table of dynastic families, lists of contemporary European rulers, Popes and English church leaders. The *Encyclopedia of the War of the Roses* is one of those titles that would be at home in either Reference or Circulation.

Published by McFarland and written by Mary Ellen Snodgrass, the *Encyclopedia of World Scripture* (2001, 0786410051, \$75) is a compact and handy volume that covers 27 major works of sacred writing. As you would expect, the scriptural writing of the major religions like Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism are included. But there are also essays covering the scripture of Shintoism, the *Kojiki*, the Chinese *I Ching* as well as the sacred scripture of Zoroastrianism, the *Avesta* and Native American writings like *Black Elk Speaks* and the *White Roots of Peace*. Besides giving clear explanations of individual writings, the *Encyclopedia* offers readers a quick and easy way to compare the holy writings of numerous religious traditions. From this perspective, the *Encyclopedia of World Scripture* offers a fascinating look at how different cultures and people have tried coming to terms with life's mysteries. Both academic and public libraries should be interested.

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Profiles Encouraged

Library Profile — W.B. Roberts Library

Column Editor: **Allison P. Mays** (Acquisitions Librarian, Millsaps College, 1701 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39210; Phone: 601-974-1083) <maysap@millsaps.edu>

Delta State University

Every university has its own personal strengths that it feels set it apart from the rest of the academic pack. In Delta State's case, it is a family atmosphere involving the faculty, staff, students, and local community that has been evident since the very beginning. James Broom, the first president of the institution, exemplified this attitude by writing personal letters to the parents of students. He would update them on their child's academic accomplishments and express how much he enjoyed their personal contributions to the institution. This "personal touch" is what still draws an ever-growing number of students today to Cleveland, Mississippi.

Delta State University is one of the eight public institutions of higher learning in the state of Mississippi. It was founded in 1924 as Delta State Teachers College through the efforts of Senator W.B. Roberts and Senator Arthur Marshall. The college opened its doors in 1925, with a faculty of eleven and a student enrollment of 97.

The school saw steady growth in physical facilities, academic programs, and student

population in its first few decades. In recognition of this expansion, the institution changed its name to Delta State College in 1955. Progress continued for all facets of the institution and in 1974 was renamed Delta State University. In just fifty years, Delta State had evolved from a fledgling college housed in three buildings to a comprehensive regional university. Today, the institution supports a population of over 4,000 students.

Delta State's nickname for its athletic programs has undergone an interesting evolution as well. In the early years, teams were known as the Green Waves. After a few decades, this was changed to the Statesmen and Lady Statesmen, names that are still being used today. However, in the eighties, the student body decided to supplement and breathe new life into the school's mascot by creating the Fighting Okra. As soon as the six foot tall vegetable sporting red boxing gloves and an attitude appeared, the rest, as they say, is history. The character has become wildly popular and adorns apparel and supplies of all shapes and sizes.

The Library

The first library on campus had a rather humble beginning; it was located in a single room in the original Administration Building and housed 1,008 volumes and 22 magazine subscriptions. In 1939, a new library building was erected and named after W.B. Roberts, a legislative leader who helped establish the college. As time passed, the need for a larger facility became more acute. A new W.B. Roberts Library was constructed in 1968, providing much needed space for a growing book collection. The building also provided a home for part of the Division of Education and Psychology. Finally, in 1999, W.B. Roberts Library underwent a \$9 million renovation and expansion.

The current library is a showcase for the campus and has expanded to 91,000 square feet and has seating for 850 people. This added space has allowed the inclusion of an Instructional Resources Center, two open computer labs, and a bibliographic instruction classroom. In addition, users benefit from numerous pri-

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The Handbook of Advanced Electronic and Photonic Materials (2001, 0125137451, \$3,500) is another significant science set published by **Academic Press**. Authoritative and highly technical, this 10-volume handbook contains 73 state of the art review chapters by more than 180 international experts that summarize advances made since 1970. Topic coverage includes semiconductors and semiconductor devices, High Tech Superconductors and organic conductors, ferroelectrics and dielectrics, conducting polymers, liquid crystals, display and laser materials as well as nonlinear optical materials, nanostructured materials, light emitting diodes and lithium batteries. This is science necessary for the 21st century and this reference provides a major resource for those working in the fields of electrical and electronics engineering, computational engineering, data storage and information technology, solid-state physics and other advanced technologies. University libraries and research and development centers are the primary market for this set.

The *International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics* last published in 1999 is out in a new edition (2001, 1840646195 \$210). Compiled by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and published by **Edward Elgar**, this book provides table after table of comparative international statistics on manufacturing and industrial performance. This information

is of value to faculty and students as well as professional economists, policy makers, businessmen and planners. While there is some historical data back to the 1980s, the vast majority of information covers the middle to late 1990s. Suitable for any library needing this type of statistical data, but given the limited date coverage, it would be most useful for libraries owning previous editions.

A new edition that is not dependent on past volumes is the American Council on Education's *American Universities and Colleges* (2001, 3110169673, \$249.50). Published by **Walter de Gruyter** and now in its 16th edition, this set keeps growing and improving. All of the information and features provided in past editions are here, however they have been updated, housed in two volumes and printed on better paper. Aside from the nuts and bolts on over 1900 US colleges and universities, sections on foreign students in the United States and on professional education remain highlights. *American Universities and Colleges* is one of the most comprehensive directories of higher education available.

American First Ladies: Their Lives and Legacy (2001, 0415930219, \$125) published by **Routledge** is a second edition. Arranged chronologically, these comprehensive essays cover first ladies from Martha Washington to Laura Bush. Written by 29 scholars in a serious but reader friendly style, each essay notes biographical details as well as the roles these women played in politics, society and as first

ladies. While varying in length according to individual activity and contribution, all of these essays provide useful information and taken together give the reader a sense of how the role of first lady has evolved over the years. Another quality feature is the bibliographical essay that ends each entry. In short, if your library needs a good reference book on the first ladies, this would be an obvious choice.

There are also second editions of two titles in **ABC-CLIO's** *Contemporary World Issues* series. *Rainforests of the World* by **Kathlyn Gay** (2001, 0874367123, \$45) and the *Religious Right* by **Glenn Utter** and **John W. Storey** (2001, 1576072126, \$45) are useful handbooks intended for general reader, high school students and first year undergraduates. With obvious environmental concern, *Rainforests of the World* provides background information on the destruction of the world's rainforests. Contents vary from essays on habitats, problems, controversies and solutions to a chronology, sketches of people and events, a directory of organizations, relevant data and documents, and lists of print and non-print resources. Following the same format, the *Religious Right* tracks the political and social impact of the religious right on America. The concentration is not on religious beliefs or doctrine. Selective rather than comprehensive, these handbooks offer useful facts in a handy and easy to use format. Both titles are worthy of consideration, if not for Reference, then for Circulation. 🌿