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From the Reference Desk-Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Encyclopedia of Psychology and Dante Encyclopedia

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From the Reference Desk

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

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 opened a new world to biblical scholarship. Hailed by many as the most important archaeological discovery of the 20th century, the Dead Sea Scrolls have altered our view of one of the most compelling eras of Judeo-Christian history. Now, thanks to Oxford University Press there is an encyclopedic treatment of these important documents that offers 50 years of intense scholarship to both the professional and the general reader.

However, the *Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (2000, 0195084500, \$295) includes more than just discussions of the original texts found at Qumram. Editors Lawrence H. Schiffman and James C. VanderKam have expanded their coverage to texts found at related sites, and which scholars collectively refer to as the "Judean Desert" texts. Naturally, there are discussions of the archaeological discovery and descriptions of the various fragments and scrolls, but the *Encyclopedia* also points to how analysis of the texts has enhanced our knowledge. New light is shed on sects and movements like the Essenes, significant events like the Bar Kokhba Revolt, concepts like atonement, practices like sacrifice, as well as various books of the Bible. There are also articles that discuss the research itself, including methods, individuals and institutions. Added features include a list of the Judean Desert Texts according to the official numeration, a synoptic outline of the contents by general category and an alphabetical index.

There is nothing else in the literature like *Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls*. It brings together a remarkable record of modern scholarship into a comprehensive and thorough two-volume set. This encyclopedia offers a natural complement to Scribner's highly regarded *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East* (1995 0684192799, \$475), as well as to another Oxford University Press title, the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology of*

the Near East (1997, 0195065123, \$595). Academic and larger public libraries that have made homes for these two titles will also want the *Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls* in their collections.

Oxford University Press and the American Psychological Association have teamed up to produce another reference work that most academic and larger public libraries should seriously consider. The eight-volume *Encyclopedia of Psychology* (2000, 1557981876, \$995) took over seven years and the work of more than 1400 contributors to complete. As befits the subject, the coverage is broad and interdisciplinary. Some "1500 original articles" treat topics as diverse as feminist psychotherapy, brain development, psycholinguistics, twelve-step programs, antianxiety medication and the psychology of virtual communities. The level of quality is what you would expect from the APA and Oxford UP. Thorough, well-written articles with attention to scholarly details, like good bibliographies, are standard in this encyclopedia. As such, the set is not only useful to readers for background information, but serves as a starting place for further research. There is however one minor quirk. Some of the entries in the article bibliographies are annotated, but many are not. Being a reference librarian who wants it all, annotations for each entry would have been preferred. Also, Web sources seem to have been ignored. The 160-page index is well organized and there is a Synoptic Outline of Contents that is helpful in getting a grasp of the encyclopedia's scope. The Outline groups the articles into broad categories like Biographies, Interventions, Cultural and Cross Cultural Psychology, Research Design and Statistics, Psychological Testing and Assessment, and Personal, Interpersonal and Social Processes. All eight volumes are nicely bound and the printing is generally clear and easy to read. However, you will want to examine your copy before processing it. In the set I reviewed, some of the pages, especially in volume one, were in a lighter print (interspersed among p. 273-317).

The *Encyclopedia of Psychology* will have wide appeal and is appropriate for students, scholars, professionals and lay readers alike. Some librarians may prefer to wait for the September publication of the newest edition of the widely respected *Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology and Behavioral Science* (Wiley, 0471239496, \$450) before deciding to invest in this

set. But my guess is that with interest in psychology so intense, libraries will be expected to purchase both.

Speaking of publishers teaming up, William B. Eerdmans and E.J. Brill have introduced a landmark reference with the first of a projected five-volume set. The *Encyclopedia of Christianity* (1999, 0802824137, \$100) promises to be the definitive reference on one of the world's great religions. Some 465 articles comprise this first volume and cover entries A-D. The treatment is scholarly and comprehensive with the focus being on more than historical development. There are articles on individual countries throughout the world relating to the current state of Christianity, as well as those discussing current trends in theology and Christian thought. The religious diversity of Christianity is also taken into account. Entries on subjects like Black Theology and the Charismatic Movement stand with those on Calvinism and Augustine's Theology. Other topics range from the symbolism of the Cross to Church music, Creativity to Contemplation and from Clinical Pastoral Education to Dialectic Theology. The longer articles have their own list of contents to give a sense of scope and structure. Cross-references to related entries are embedded in the text of all the articles and each has a bibliography. Also, when relevant, there are references in the text showing the sources of specific ideas and concepts.

The fact that the *Encyclopedia of Christianity* was selected as an "Outstanding Academic Title" by *Choice* (January 2000), and as an "Outstanding Reference Source," by Reference and User Services Association of ALA (May 2000) testifies to its quality.

In a subject area where there are already a number of useful reference works, the *Encyclopedia of Christianity* stands out. Both academic and public libraries will find it a necessary addition. (According to Books in Print, Volume 2 will be available in November 2000 from William B. Eerdmans Publishing (0802824145, \$100.)

Another encyclopedia, just published by Garland, also deserves special attention. Edited by Richard Lansing of Brandeis University, the *Dante Encyclopedia* (2000, 0815316593, \$175) will be a worthwhile addition to most academic library collections. It is comprehensive and authoritative, offering the reader access to both Dante's personal genius, as well as to the time

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in which he lived. Naturally, the encyclopedia contains critical appreciation of Dante. Articles covering his early works like *Vita Nuova* (*The New Life*) and *Il Convivio* (*The Banquet*) are included along with extensive consideration of his three-part masterwork, the *Divina Comedia* (*The Divine Comedy*). But more than that, Lansing and his contributors reveal both the sources of Dante's inspiration, as well as the impact of Dante's work on succeeding generations of writers and artists. They point out that the poetry of Baudelaire, the art of Dali and the films of Fellini, among many others, show elements of Dante's influence. As you would expect, each entry has its own bibliography. Some are fairly extensive for a one-volume encyclopedia. The text is well illustrated with maps, drawings and photos and the general index is useful in locating specifics. Other features worthy of note include a chronology of Dante's life, a list of Popes living before or during Dante's time and an index of Italian and Latin proper names in Dante's works.

Admittedly, it is expensive for a one-volume encyclopedia, but the *Dante Encyclopedia* returns real value for the investment. Both serious Dante scholars and undergraduates studying him for the first time will derive benefit from this reference. It is an encyclopedia that does justice to its subject, and that is saying a lot.

Garland has also added a useful legal reference to their catalog, *Religion and American Law: An Encyclopedia* (2000, 0815307500, \$135). It is hard to overestimate the impact of religion on our history and in *Religion and American Law*, noted historian, Paul Finkelman, reaffirms that fact. But he and his contributors also point to the tension that exists between religion and the rule of law in a democracy. *Religion and American Law* traces this constant struggle from Roger Williams' founding of Rhode Island in 1636 to the overturning of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (1993) by the Supreme Court case *City of Boerne v. Flores* in 1997. A significant amount of the encyclopedia is dedicated to the coverage of case law. A quick count shows that over 500 cases are referenced in the index of cases at the end of this volume. But issues like school vouchers, the sacramental use of drugs, polygamy, the influence of the Bible, public proselytizing and school prayer are also discussed. In addition, the experiences of religious minorities ranging from Catholics to Snake-handling sects and from Baptists to Native Hawaiians are covered. The entries are well written and each ends with a brief bibliography and a list of cases cited.

There is so much information here that it

is unfortunate more care was not taken with the subject index. There are few if any sub-categories used so that for each topic listed, the reader is faced with a stream of page numbers, and oddly, under one topic "Black Churches" there is no page number listed at all. (African Americans are referenced on 14 pages.) Naturally, this hinders the use of what is overall, a fascinating and valuable reference book. Nonetheless, *Religion and American Law* is successful in making sense of an important, complex and emotional laden subject. It is still a worthwhile addition to both American history and legal reference collections.

ABC-CLIO has filled a gap in the literature. At last there is a multi-volume encyclopedia dedicated to America's "Forgotten War." Edited by Spencer C. Tucker *The Encyclopedia of the Korean War* (2000, 1576070298, \$275) is an appropriately exhaustive treatment for a subject that was in need of it. From the military side, specific operations like the landings at Inch'on and the Pusan Breakout, weapons ranging from machine guns to the use of air power, as well as support services, like MASH units, are all covered. Of course, the *Encyclopedia* contains entries on the major personalities like Douglas MacArthur, Harry Truman, Kim Il Sung and Mao Zedong. But it also includes those on lesser lights like White House correspondent Anthony H. Leviero who won a Pulitzer Prize for his exposure of the Wake Island conversations between MacArthur and Truman. In addition, there are articles on logistics and strategy, the role of women, diplomacy, politics, and psychological warfare. There is even an extensive article that discusses the historiography of the war (revised and reprinted from the July 1997, *Journal of Military History*). The text is well illustrated with photos and charts, as well as a useful set of maps that appear in the front of each volume. Another feature of the *Encyclopedia* is that a major portion of Volume III consists of approximately 120 primary documents related to the war.

Admittedly, there are other references on the Korean war. Stanley Sandler's *The Korean War: An Encyclopedia* (Garland, 1995, 0824044452, \$125) and the recently published *Conflict in Korea: An Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO, 1999, 0874369789, \$65) are both useful. But neither has the depth of coverage present in this work. The *Encyclopedia of the Korean War* is a recommended addition to both academic and public library collections.

Another impressive work from ABC-CLIO is *Medieval Folklore: An Encyclopedia of Myths, Legends, Tales, Beliefs and Customs* (2000, 1576071219, \$150). It will appeal to both

general and scholarly audiences seeking background and explanations of this important aspect of medieval life. As the title implies, the definition of folklore is inclusive. In fact, the *Encyclopedia* contains an article that defines folklore from the editor Carl Lindahl's perspective and is worthwhile reading. However, *Medieval Folklore* is limited in geographic range. It is medieval European folklore that is being discussed here with emphasis on the folklore of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. That is not to say that the folklore of other European cultures is neglected. French, Scandinavian, Germanic, Baltic, East Slavic, Jewish, Italian as well as others are included. Some 306 entries cover a rich variety of topics including burial mounds, courtly love, dreams and dream poetry, festivals, games and play, oral theory, punishments and styles of food preparation. Influential characters, both real and imagined are also covered like Richard the Lion-Heart, Geoffrey Chaucer, Thomas Malory, Prester John, Sir Gawain and Robin Hood. Each entry has a brief bibliographic essay leading to other sources and there is a general index, as well as indexes of tale types and motifs. All of these features should prove useful to readers. In addition, there are over 150 illustrations that complement the text. *Medieval Folklore: An Encyclopedia of Myths, Legends, Tales, Beliefs and Customs* is a fascinating and well done reference that will find a home in many academic and public libraries.

Gale has returned to a winning formula with their new series *Science and its Times. Understanding the Social Significance of Scientific Discovery*. However one quirk must be mentioned first, the publishing schedule. Two of the projected seven volumes are available now: *Volume 5* covering 1800- 1899 (2000, 0787639370, \$85) and *Volume 7* dealing with 1950 - the Present (2000, 0787639397, \$85). It may seem a minor point but as most reference librarians can tell you, explaining to patrons why volumes 5 and 7 are available and volume 1 is not, can get tedious.

As in another Gale's set *Literature and its Times*, (1998, 0787606081, \$395) making connections is a key to this work's usefulness (see my review in *ATG*, April 1998, p. 41). Similar facts and information, particularly the biographical sketches, can be found separately in other sources, a number published by Gale. However, the way the information is organized stresses the context in which scientific discovery was made. Pure science is not the strength here. It is the historical and sociological connections to the science that are emphasized.

Both volumes have the same structure and are divided into broad chapter headings including Exploration and Discovery, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Medicine, Physical Sci-

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ences and Technology and Invention. So, unlike *Magill's Survey of Science*, in which each science is treated to its own multi-volume set, all of the sciences are covered in each volume. Each chapter heading contains articles on specific discoveries, biographical sketches and a bibliography of primary sources. The essays that cover the scientific discoveries range from 1500-2000 words. The biographical sketches of the scientists are shorter at 500-1000 words each. Approximately 160 scientific discoveries or developments are covered in each volume. Each essay consists of an overview, background and a discussion of impacts. In *Volume 5 1800-1899* they range from the discovery of the magnetic North Pole to the development of Boolean algebra, from the discovery of viruses to the invention of the sewing machine and from the birth of dentistry to the first subways. *Volume 7 1950 - Present* takes the reader from invention of the heart and lung machine, through the space race and the Cold war on to the Human Genome Project, Chaos Theory, the personal computer and the explosion of fiber optics in communications technology.

The writing is direct and uncluttered by jargon. Presentation is good with photos, illustrations and sidebars complementing the text. Unfortunately, the inexpensive binding may not hold up to intense use. But, in spite of this, and the confusing publishing schedule, *Science and its Times* obviously merits consideration. It will be a helpful addition to high school and public libraries, as well as some undergraduate libraries where the history of science is a recurring interest.

With the political season heating up it is only fitting that we take a look at two of Sharpe Reference's recent additions. The *Encyclopedia of Interest Groups and Lobbyists in the United States* (2000, 076568022X, \$185) gives the reader a real perspective on the central role that interest groups and their representatives play in the political process. The coverage is diverse. A total of 197 interest groups are listed in categories like banking and finance, health and medical, labor, civil and human rights, agriculture, industry, construction and transport and media, entertainment and information. There are also sections on

single-issue interest groups and foreign governments who promote their political agendas. Each category is preceded by an essay that gives a useful overview while the individual entries discuss the history, activities and financial facts related to the specific interest group covered, as well as providing a brief bibliography. The information is both interesting and helpful while the writing is factual and objective. However, the bibliographies could be a lot stronger. They range from the one entry listings (both organizational Web sites) for Friends of the Earth and the Environmental Defense Fund to those with up to ten entries like the Nuclear Energy Institute. (The NRA has only three references listed.) But the set has added strengths. There is a section of statistical information provided in a number of tables and charts about the top PAC's and lobbyists, as well as complete contact information for each organization. There is also a helpful index, a table-of-contents and a list of the abbreviations and acronyms used in the set.

Overall, the *Encyclopedia of Interest Groups and Lobbyists in the United States* brings together a good deal of important and

useful information. Both undergraduate and public libraries will find it a beneficial addition to their collections.

Another Sharpe reference which brings together a lot of information is the *Encyclopedia of Third Parties in America* (2000, 0765680203, \$275). The eclectic diversity of American politics shines through the pages of this set. The *Encyclopedia's* three volumes are divided into four parts. The first is a collection of eight essays that set the historical context, in broad chronological order, for the rise of third parties. The second is a group of 40 color maps that reflect the presidential voting percentages of major third party movements. The third part contains the actual articles on the individual parties. These articles provide informative discussions of the origins, platforms, electoral results and the legacies of each party. Coverage is impressive and ranges from the anti-immigrant Know-Nothings to the abolitionist led

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TestDriving CD-ROMs — Reviews of CD-ROM Products

The American Indian: A Multimedia Encyclopedia

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The American Indian: A Multimedia Encyclopedia ver. 2.0

Facts on File, Inc., 11 Penn Plaza, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10001-2006
tel.: 800-322-8755, fax: 800-678-3633, <http://www.factsonfile.com>

ISBN: 0-8160-3607-1 (Windows single user), 0-8160-3609-8 (Windows network)

0-8160-3608-X (Macintosh single user), 0-8160-3610-1 (Macintosh network)

Price: \$149.95 (single user), \$499.95 (5-user network) System Requirements: DOS: MS-DOS 5.0 or later, 640 KB RAM, 2 MB free hard drive space, color monitor, printer, double speed CD-ROM drive. Windows: 386-16 or better, Windows 3.1 or later, 8 MB RAM, 2 MB free hard drive space, color monitor, mouse, printer, double speed CD-ROM drive, Windows compatible sound card. Macintosh: 68030 CPU or better, System 7.1 or later, 4 MB RAM, 1.3 MB free hard drive space, 13-inch 256 color monitor, printer, double speed CD-ROM drive.

Reviewed by **Norman Desmarais** (Providence College)
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The American Indian: A Multimedia Encyclopedia ver. 2.0 is a hybrid CD-ROM for DOS, Windows, and Macintosh. It comprises the text and maps from six Facts on File titles: *Voices of the Winds: Native American Legends* (1989 and now out of print), *Who Was Who in Native American History: Indians and Non-Indians from Early Contacts Through 1900* (1990),

World Dance: the Language of Native American Culture (1994), *Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes* (1990), *Atlas of the North American Indian*, and *Encyclopedia of Native American Religions* (1992). The last three titles have had revised print editions appear in late 1999/early 2000. A Web version of *The American*

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Book Reviews — Noteworthy Compositions

Column Editor: **Debbie Vaughn** (Reference Librarian, College of Charleston)
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In this issue, a veritable cornucopia of books is presented for your thoughtful consideration. I would like to introduce and thank the College of Charleston's **Phillip Powell** for enlightening us with his review of *Strangers at Home and Abroad: Recollections of Austrian Jews Who Escaped Hitler*, edited by **Adi Wimmer**. Phillip is a reference librarian and the Bibliographic Instruction Coordinator. While this is his first (but not certainly not his last) review for *ATG*, he has also written reviews for *American Reference Books Annual*. Welcome to the Grain, Phillip!

Robots for Kids: Exploring New Technologies for Learning
Edited by **Alison Druin** and **James Hendler**
(2000, Morgan Kaufmann Publishers,
1558605975, 377 pp, \$44.95)

If you have recently watched MTV's *Real World New Orleans*, you might be familiar with the house dog. For those of you who have not given up a Tuesday evening at the ten spot for the sake of witnessing popular culture, what you have been missing is a robotic canine. Most of the *Real World* casts are given fish; the *New Orleans* crew was given a hunk of wires and metal named Shorty. Being slightly skeptical of the usefulness of a robotic dog, I jumped at the chance to read editors **Alison Druin** and **James Hendler's** *Robots for Kids: Exploring New Technologies for Learning*.

Many of the books I review address one of the many issues associated with technology; *Robots for Kids* is no exception. Arguably the new technological frontier, robots are no longer funny little humanoids that used to make us laugh on television shows like *Silver Spoons* and *Saved by the Bell*. Rather, robots and other forms of artificial intelligence (AI) are used not only as toys and pets but also as assistants to the disabled and as educational tools. *Robots for Kids* is certain to introduce you to new frontiers in mechanical technology.

Druin and Hendler are no strangers to robotics. Druin, an assistant professor at the **University of Maryland** in both the **Institute for Advanced Computer Studies** and the **College of Education**, has focused her recent research on robotic storytelling technologies. Hendler, also a professor at the University of Maryland, heads the **Autonomous Mobile Robotics Laboratory** and the **Advanced Information Technology Laboratory**.

Robots for Kids covers three central topics: robot technologies for children, robots in education, and future visions for robotics. It is in the first section that **ABIO**, Sony's four-legged autonomous friend, is discussed. These entertainment robots, like the *Real World's* Shorty, have five modes of enjoyment: watching (It's so cute!), interacting (through gestures and vocal stimulation), raising (much like a child), controlling (as in playing a game with the robot), and developing (creating your own robot). *Robots for Kids* thoroughly explores the ingredients needed for creating a pet-type robot, the design opportunities and limitations, and the implementation of these robots into real-life situations. Pet-type robots are not the only mechanical issue explored, however; Druin and Hendler also highlight **PETS (Personal Electronic Tellers of Stories)**, the **LEGO Intelligent House**, the **KISS Institute**, girls and technology, and several other themes. Kid's View sections essays by children that describe personal experiences with robotics are also included.

Robots for Kids begins with an exceptional table of contents that allows the reader to easily and quickly flip to chapters and sections of interest. Diagrams of robot construction, tables and graphs representing case study findings, black and white photographs, and color plates are also included. In short, this interesting book offers a bundle of information on a topic that is rarely explored in such depth. If your academic library supports programs in educational or instructional technology, engineering, artificial intelligence, and/or human-computer interaction, *Robots for Kids* would be a beneficial addition to your collection.

PC Buyers Handbook 2000
by **Gordon P. Foreman**
(2000, McFarland, 078640907x, 127 pp, \$22.50)

The month of September conjures up memories of buying new pencils, searching for the coolest notebook for English class, shopping for back-to-school clothing, and hoping to figure out exactly what your new teachers expect from you. It is not surprising that many students—from kindergarten to college—are expected to have access to a computer. If you are shopping for a new Mac or Windows machine, be sure to reference **Gordon P. Foreman's** *PC Buyer's Handbook 2000*. Right away you might be thinking that it is useless to buy a book about computers when the information in it is obsolete

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The American Indian: A Multimedia Encyclopedia is a very good product that combines several reference sources and makes searching for information easy and enjoyable. Topics not identifiable from the main access points can usually be retrieved with the search function. We could not identify a single topic about which we could not locate at least some information. Many of the entries contain printed pronunciation information, particularly for tribal names. A multimedia encyclopedia should replace these notes with an authoritative audio pronunciation. 🌿

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Liberty party, the Nationalist Socialist White People's Party to the Black Panthers and the National Women's Party to the Chicano La Raza Unida Party. The fourth part of the encyclopedia consists of biographies of the main actors associated with the parties discussed. Included are more familiar names like Jane Addams, Robert LaFollette, and H. Ross Perot, as well as the more obscure like Lucy Parsons, Nathaniel Banks and Vito Marcantonio. The set also includes biographies and a glossary of terms.

Besides giving specific information about the parties discussed, this *Encyclopedia* reveals both the difficulties faced by third parties in the American political system and the significant impacts these parties had on the mainstream. Most of the parties included in this encyclopedia were blips on the political radar screen. The fact they existed at all, is testament to political vitality and independent thought. Reading through this work makes this crystal clear. Academic, public and some high school libraries will find the *Encyclopedia of Third Parties in America* a worthwhile and useful purchase. 🌿