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From the Reference Desk-Reviews of Reference Titles

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electronic formats. Librarians are faced with challenging decisions as to which products they can afford and in what format will make the most sense and will gain the widest use. Our goal is to provide complete flexibility, helping the librarian make informed decisions as to which format will provide them with affordable and attractive content.

ATG: At your launch in Washington, DC, you mentioned M.E. Sharpe as a competitor. What other established publishing companies will you be competing with with the Sage Reference imprint?

RJ: There are several players that publish in academic and/or public library markets. Macmillan, OUP, Fitzroy Dearborn, Academic Press, ABC-CLIO just to name a few.

ATG: What kind of staff will you have in your new imprint?

RJ: As a new venture, I am starting with a limited staff. I will still be able to use resources and staff from Sage's book program but I do envision hiring acquisition and marketing staff in the near future. I should mention that I am working with a very experienced consulting staff working on product acquisition, publicity and market research.

ATG: Tell us about yourself. What do you like to do for fun? Hobbies? Reading?

RJ: I have been in academic book publishing for over 20 years. Before Sage, I was the Vice President and Publisher for ABC-CLIO. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, listening to music and enjoy reading books on American History. Now living in Santa Barbara, CA, I can spend more time during the year out on the golf course but unfortunately more time doesn't equal better play.

From the Reference Desk

by Tom Gilson (College of Charleston) <gilson@cofc.edu>

The much anticipated 5-volume *Encyclopedia of the American Civil War: A Political, Social, and Military History* (2000, 1576070662, \$425) has just been released by ABC-CLIO. In terms of content and scope, this encyclopedia generally lives up to the pre-publication hype. It offers the reader a comprehensive and informed view of the complicated events, issues and people that make the Civil War such a seminal part of American History.

There is a lot of information within the covers of these 5 volumes. Naturally the military side is given full treatment. There are entries on the great armies, the major and minor battles, the weapons and ordinances used to create the carnage, the successful strategies and costly blunders of both sides and the competent and inept generals. The political part is also given thorough coverage. There are individual articles on each presidential election leading to and, during the war, as well as coverage of the leading politicians. In addition, there are articles on the political parties and movements, laws and policies, as well as formative issues like abolition and secession. The *Encyclopedia* also lives up to the "social" part if its subtitle. There are articles on the role of women, peace movements, class conflict within the armies, the influence of religion, and protest riots, both north and south. Specific entries also attest to the influence of popular songs like the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* and *Dixie*, books like *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and newspapers like the *Richmond Examiner* and the *New York Tribune*. In addition, each state, and its unique role, has a separate article. However, there is at least one surprising lack of clarity. Finding information on the issue of States' Rights is more difficult than it needs to be. There is no specific article about

the topic and the index makes no cross-reference to the article on Secession that discussed the concept. But even there, one senses a reluctance to emphasize the term States' Rights.

Production quality is a definite plus. The print is clear and easy to read, and the set is strikingly illustrated with black and white drawings and photos, as well as numerous battle maps. There are also some added features that increase the value of this encyclopedia. Volume V includes 273 pages of original documents arranged by broad category, lists of officers and government officials, maps of battlefield sites by state, a chronology, bibliography and a fairly thorough index. However, the index can be a bit cumbersome. The set is continuously paged throughout the volumes and while the index refers to specific page numbers, it contains no key telling which pages are in each volume.

Despite these criticisms the *Encyclopedia of the American Civil War: A Political, Social, and Military History* is a quality production. It will delight scholars and civil war buffs alike. Comprehensive but accessible, this encyclopedia gives the reader a thorough and inclusive source of information that will answer specific questions, as well as serve as a foundation for further research. With this multi-volume set, the American Civil War has a worthy subject encyclopedia, and that is no small accomplishment. Academic, public and some high school libraries will want it in their collections.

Academic Press has just published another timely and important set. The *Encyclopedia of Biodiversity* (2001, 0122268652, \$695) is evidence of the growing concern for conservation and the enhanced appreciation of ecological diversity. This is one of those areas of study where science has mixed with social science to the betterment of both, and the *Encyclopedia of Biodiversity* reflects, and benefits from the mix.

The articles offer in-depth treatment of the topics covered. Each is introduced by an outline and includes its own glossary of terms and a useful bibliography. Graphics in the form of tables, charts, maps

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and diagrams enhance each entry and aid in clarifying the text. As you would expect, there are a number of articles that deal with the scientific aspects of biodiversity. Articles that cover complete ecosystems from the Amazon to the Antarctic are interwoven with those on herbicides, ultraviolet radiation and parasitism. There are also articles on the systematics of biological classification, techniques like remote sensing and those that discuss a variety of both vertebrates and invertebrates. However, the social sciences are also given their due with articles on public policy, like the concept of stewardship, and government law and regulation. Global issues like the loss of rainforests and the impacts of human energy use are also included as are articles dealing with economics, like land use issues and the role of tourism. In short, the breath of coverage in this encyclopedia is truly impressive. A look through the "contents by subject area" section, in Volume 1, is revealing and will confirm this observation. It also serves to give the reader a sense of scope. Specific topic and subtopic access is provided by a useful index in Volume 5, which also contains a list of contributors and a full glossary.

The *Encyclopedia of Biodiversity* is an-

other significant effort by Academic Press. Comprehensive and thorough, it offers a scholarly look at an essential topic. It will have broad appeal and should include scientists, policy makers and students in its audience. Academic libraries and larger public libraries are an obvious market, but some governmental agencies and special libraries will also want to consider it.

Another multi-volume set that librarians will welcome is the third edition of the *Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology and Behavioral Science* published by John Wiley (2001, 0471239496, \$600). Edited by W. Edward Craighead and Charles B. Nemeroff, this set updates a reference that has become a standard tool in many academic libraries. More than 1200 articles by over 1000 contributors are squeezed within these 4 volumes. As authoritative, but more clinical in tone than Oxford University Press' recent *Encyclopedia of Psychology* (see the review in the Sept. 2000 *ATG*, p 54), this edition increases the emphasis on advances in the behavioral sciences. Articles on topics like Bipolar Disorder, specific aspects of brain function,

Alzheimer's disease, the effects of growth hormone, halfway houses, hallucinogenic drugs and psychosurgery are new, or substantially updated. On the other hand, articles like the ones on psychopharmacology, group dynamics and infant socialization are nearly verbatim. Another thing to consider, one-third of the articles have been replaced with newer topics. Articles like those on group pressure, the Guttman scale and psychoneurology that appeared in the second edition, are not in the new version. My point is, while the new information in this set is valuable, don't throw out the older edition.

This new edition also has the biographical sketches and bibliographies that made up so much of volume 4 in the second edition, appropriately interspersed within the entire set. Being a part of the whole and not in a separate volume makes this information more readily accessible and is an improvement. Academic libraries, in particular, will want to seriously consider this new edition.

Routledge's *Encyclopedia of Feminist Theories* (2000, 0415132746, \$140) makes no pretenses. It is proudly pro-feminist. In addition, it does not

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insist on the sacrosanct, quasi-biblical status afforded some reference works. Instead of claiming "objectivity," editor Lorraine Code offers "knowledgeability" and pointing to the inherently temporal nature of reference works, she offers the reader "interim authority." Regardless, what the *Encyclopedia of Feminist Theories* does is give a current framework for the state of feminist theory, and it is a framework well-grounded in serious scholarship.

This is not a full-blown historical treatment. The *Encyclopedia* concentrates on what Ms. Cole refers to as second-wave feminist theory that emerged during the social activism of the 1960's and continued through the 1990's. As one browses through the entries, it becomes apparent how much feminist ideas and theory have evolved into recognized subjects of academic inquiry. The articles in this book cover areas of study like feminist legal theory, ecofeminism, lesbian feminism, feminist literary theory, feminist theology and the development of women's studies as a discipline. There are also articles on specific types of feminist thinking like Black and Chicana feminism, as well as brief entries on developments in Asian feminism, Middle Eastern feminism, Latin American feminism and French feminism. Biographies are a major part of this volume with 60 sketches of theorists and activists like Betty Friedan, Mary Daly, Donna Haraway and Andrea Dworkin. In addition, issues of concern to feminist theory like the family, cultural politics, oppression, gender, patriarchy, systemic discrimination and reproduction are discussed in individual entries. Arrangement is alphabetical with links to related articles being made using bold-face within the text of each entry when appropriate, as well as with "see also" references. Bibliographies of varying lengths end each article and there is a useful general index.

The *Encyclopedia of Feminist Theories* helps define feminist theory and its challenges to entrenched, mainstream ideas. It will be of use to student and scholar alike. It has some limits by being centered on a brief, but productive, period of time, and by emphasizing the English-speaking world. But feminist theory is a big topic and the parameters are appropriate and help create a single, manageable volume that will appeal to a wide audience. Academic libraries supporting Women's Studies programs should have it on their list for serious consideration.

Routledge has also released a third volume in their *Encyclopedias of Religion and Society* series published under the Berkshire imprint. Edited by Richard A. Landes, the *Encyclopedia of Millennialism and Millennial Movements* (2000, 0415922461, \$125) examines the product of human spirituality merging with the need and hope for social change. The resulting movements are called many things from messianic cults to apocalyptic movements, but they often have historic significance. According to editor Landes, all of the major religions, except for Hinduism, began as millennial movements.

But this is not a study of the world's major religions. It is a reference that covers the diverse manifestations of millennialism, especially in the Western world, but also in Africa, Asia, and Oceania. This encyclopedia contains entries ranging from the Cargo Cults of the South Pacific to camp meetings in America, from the Baha'i Faith to the Ghost Dance movement of the Native North American and from Rastafarianism to the Promise Keepers. There are also discussions of concepts like fatalism, utopia, the new world order and messianism, as well as those on doctrines like the Rapture and belief in the apocalypse and the antichrist. Of course, headline grabbing movements like the People's Temple, Heaven's Gate and the Davidians are covered, but so are the millennial tendencies of mainstream religions like Roman Catholicism, Islam and Judaism.

The *Encyclopedia of Millennialism and Millennial Movements* is unique. It offers a serious look at an often maligned, but yet fascinating aspect of religion along with its social implications. The articles are clearly written and thorough, and many of the bibliographies are impressive, reflecting the scholarly intent of Mr. Landes and his contributors. "See also" references lead to related articles and the index is adequate. Overall, this encyclopedia is a worthwhile addition to academic libraries with religious studies collections. It is also deserving of consideration by public libraries where interest in such topics is often high.

One of the benefits of a good subject encyclopedia is that it gives the reader an efficient tool to hone in on a specific topic and its various elements. It provides specialization in quick manageable bursts of information. While many of the facts in Garland's *Encyclopedia of the Scientific Revolution*

From Copernicus to Newton (2000, 0815315031, \$150) can be found elsewhere, this book ties the topic together, shedding light on relationships not as apparent in other more disparate works.

As you would expect, the *Encyclopedia of the Scientific Revolution* highlights the incredible scientific advances that led to this "turning point in the history of science." The time period defined as the scientific revolution is the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Names like Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler, Harvey, Bacon, Descartes, Leibniz and Newton ring through these 200 years and give a sense of what is covered. Besides the contributions of these scientists there are also articles on changes within broad disciplines like mathematics, astronomy, physics, optics, medicine and technology. There is also an effort to set the stage for these advancements with articles on prior "philosophies" and worldviews from the ancient Greeks through the Renaissance. But science does not occur in a vacuum. The *Encyclopedia* also treats the social and cultural contexts in which these discoveries were made. There are entries that deal with relationships between the sciences and social concerns like politics, religion, class, language and literature, as well as articles on the occult, and what are now perceived as pseudo-sciences, like astrology and alchemy. Designed for ease of use, this visually attractive volume is arranged alphabetically and contains both a topical outline and a helpful index. Related articles are linked by "see also" references and each entry has a brief bibliography.

The *Encyclopedia of the Scientific Revolution from Copernicus to Newton* provides focus to a time of sweeping change that firmly broke with past beliefs and helped usher in the modern era. It is a compelling story, and one that this encyclopedia helps clearly define for both student as well as interested lay reader. It is deserving of serious consideration by reference librarians wanting to strengthen their history of science collection.

Archaeology of Ancient Mexico and Central America: An encyclopedia (2001, 0815308876, \$95) is another Garland single volume reference that will stir interest. This book capitalizes on the increasing attention given the pre-Columbian civilizations of Mesoamerica and responds with over 500 articles informed by current research.

Coverage stretches from the earliest evidence of human occupation during the Paleo-Indian period up through the Colo-

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nial period (1521-1800's). However, most of the concentration is on three periods, the Formative (2000 BC – AD 300), the Classic (AD 300-900) and the Postclassic (AD 900-1521). A number of articles cover the geography and climate, including the flora and fauna, and mineral and water resources. There are also articles that deal with cultural features like ethnicity and language, as well as settlement patterns, economic, social and political organization, rituals, art and the material culture. In addition, there are numerous articles on specific regions and their individual cultures, as well as on the practice of the archaeology itself. These articles cover individual sites and discoveries, various research methods and specific scholars.

Archaeology of Ancient Mexico and Central America: An encyclopedia is an inclusive and comprehensive scholarly work, with high production values. Editors Susan Toby Evans and David L. Webster are to be applauded. The bibliographies are solid, the index good and the text is nicely complemented with photos, diagrams, charts, as well as site and geographical maps. This is a well-conceived

and useful work, at a reasonable price. It is a natural for academic libraries. Where there is heavy interest, larger public libraries will also want to consider it.

Academic librarians, in particular, will welcome the second edition of George L. Campbell's *Compendium of the World's Languages* (2000, 0415202981, \$400). Published by Routledge, this two-volume set has been expanded to include 24 more languages and most of the remaining articles have been updated. There is coverage of nearly 400 languages or language families. All the articles follow the same structure starting with an introduction that provides historic and social background and then continues with sections on script, phonology, and morphology and syntax. In addition, each entry includes an illustrative text providing a visual of the language in print. Entries are arranged alphabetically and there is a list of all entries with appropriate "see" references for those languages not covered individually. Because of the no-frills arrangement, using this reference is fairly straightforward. However, it is not meant for the novice. There is no glossary ex-

plaining the terminology employed and to make best use of it, some knowledge of language and linguistics is necessary.

The *Compendium of the World's Languages* is authoritative and scholarly, but it gives the reader more than specifics about individual languages. While browsing through this set you are also struck by the multiplicity and richness of human language. Nonetheless, its main value is as a handy, but substantial, collection of information related to a diversity of languages. My only reservation is the price. Admittedly, this title is specialized and may have a limited audience. However, \$400 for a 2-volume set is a bit steep and libraries that own the first edition may question the high cost. Still, academic libraries that seriously support courses in linguistics and the study of comparative language will want to add this second edition to their collections.

(Those libraries needing something for their circulating collections may want to consider the paperback edition of Bernard Comrie's *The World's Major Languages* (1990, 0195065115, \$39.95) published by Oxford University Press. Although lacking coverage of Native American languages, at this price it is a real value.)

Book Reviews — Monographic Musings and YA Literary Commentary

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

When I think of the month of February, images of red construction paper hearts lined with white rickrack and pink Cupid cutouts come to mind. Sometimes, I can even smell the heart-shaped, iced sugar cookies that my wonderful mother still makes for Valentine's Day. Certainly, the fourteenth day of the second month, the day that the legendary priest Valentine was martyred, is the most celebrated February holiday. But for those of you who may have tired of this mostly-romantic observance, or for those of you who are looking for an additional holiday to keep, the **Friends and Foundations of California Libraries** offer **Library Lover's Month**. The Library Lover's Month Web page (<http://www.calibraries.org/librarylovers/>) presents, among other things, tips on how to love your library (contribute, be a friend, volunteer, and promote) and a sample proclamation to officially declare Library Lover's Month in your library. What a wonderful way for bibliophiles to express their passion and ardor!

Of course, the heart of any library is information and books, and this month's reviewers celebrate their love of the printed word. The great **Ellen Finnie Duranceau** shares her thoughts on **Bill Bryson's** *In a Sunburned Country*; the tried-and-true **Phillip Powell** explores **Dorothea von Schwanenflugel** *Lawson's* *Laughter Wasn't Rationed*; and newcomer **Angela Megaw** dives into **Norman Desmarais's** *The ABCs of XML* and **Reaz Hoque's** *XML for Real Programmers*. A reference librarian and instructor at **Gainesville College** in **Gainesville, Georgia**, Angela received her BA in Psychology from the **University of Georgia** and her MLIS from the **University of South Carolina**. Currently, she is back at UGA working towards a **Masters in Instructional Technology**. Welcome, Angela!

This Library Lover's Month, pour your heart and mind into volumes of information, and prepare yourself for the April celebration of National Library Week. Hugs and kisses, and happy reading! — DV

Monographic Musings

Bryson, Bill. *In a Sunburned Country*.
New York: Random House, c2000.
307p. ISBN 0767903854. \$25.00.
[Worth every penny.] Includes Bibliography. [No index, which is a shame.]

Reviewed by **Ellen Finnie Duranceau**
(Assistant Acquisitions Librarian for
Digital Resources, MIT Libraries)
<efinnie@mit.edu>

Bill Bryson is one of the funniest writers I know of. His latest book, *In a Sunburned Country*, is simply hilarious, and the most impressive thing about it is that you'll learn a tremendous amount about Australia while you are laughing yourself silly.

You may know Bryson as the best-selling author of *A Walk In the Woods*, about his abortive attempt to hike the entire Appalachian

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