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From the Reference Desk

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From the Reference Desk

by **Tom Gilson** (Head, Reference Services, Robert Scott Small Library, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29424; Phone: 843-953-8014; Fax: 843-953-8019) <gilson@cofc.edu>

Both Civil War scholars and enthusiasts will be impressed by the *Atlas of the Civil War* (2004, 0195221311, \$85) published by **Oxford University Press**. Written and compiled by **Steven E. Woodworth** and **Kenneth J. Winkle** with a forward and section introductions by **James M. McPherson**, this atlas maps the important battles and campaigns of the war. But while these military maps are at the heart of the *Atlas*, the authors offer even more. They provide additional maps and essays that clarify the social and historic context of the events leading to the war, the war itself and those of the Reconstruction after the war. Thus, there are maps that illustrate topics as diverse as population growth, immigration, railroads, elections and the value of farmland.

Divided into five parts by year 1861-1865, the *Atlas* covers the war in sections aptly subtitled The Coming of the War, The Struggle for Union, The Turning of the Tide, Total War and Triumph, Tragedy and Reconstruction. Within this framework, the text and maps are skillfully interwoven telling the story of the war from start to finish. In addition, the graphic production value is high. The maps are handsome, easy to understand and complemented by photos, illustrations and narrative text. The battle and campaign maps also have individual chronologies to help the reader follow the action, and a number have insets mapping specific, important details. The vast majority of maps are flat representations but there are some 40 three-dimensional maps of major engagements like Shiloh, Antietam, Gettysburg and the Wilderness. Added features include a year by year chronology, a glossary, and an index.

Interested readers will not only find the *Atlas of the Civil War* useful for locating maps of a particular battle, they will enjoy spending their time browsing through it, page by page. While intended for reference, a number of larger libraries may want it in their circulating collections, especially where there is strong interest in Civil War and military history. This title is recommended for both academic and public libraries.

Another geographic reference that many historians will find useful is **Routledge's Historical Gazetteer**

of the United States (2005, 0415939488, \$150). Written and compiled by **Paul T. Hellmann** this book provides place-by-place chronologies of thousands of cities, towns and localities, both past and present. Organized in 51 sections by state and the District of Columbia, the *Gazetteer* lists more than 10,000 cities and towns which are organized alphabetically within each state. All major and secondary cities are included but for lesser localities, the available amount of historical information dictates inclusion in the *Gazetteer*. While providing basic facts about the geographic location of each place, the emphasis is on the historic development of the city or town but always stressing "the local frame of reference." Entries note dates for events like founding and political incorporation, construction of the courthouse and other public buildings, the coming of the railroad, birth of prominent citizens, the rise of significant industries, natural and manmade disasters, the discovery of local natural resources, and the completion of major public works projects. In addition to the alphabetical arrangement within state, there is a general index that includes page references to both place names, as well as to prominent people.

Because the entries are based on available information they are necessarily uneven, but nonetheless interesting and useful. In his introduction, the author provides a thorough explanation of the limitations and strengths of the *Gazetteer* that readers will find helpful. One hopes that this is the first edition of a work that will be revised periodically as more information is uncovered. In any case, the *Historical Gazetteer of the United States* fills a void in the literature and it should find an interested audience in both public and academic libraries.

Sage has released a unique and timely two volume set entitled *The Encyclopedia of White-Collar and Corporate Crime* (2005, 0761930043, \$295). While the corporate world was rocked with scandal in the early 2000's, this encyclopedia makes clear that this was nothing new. The concept of white collar crime originated in the early 20th century but unethical business deals are as old as the republic. From **John Jacob Astor** cheating Native American of their fur pelts, to Civil War profiteering, to the Robber Barons in the 1890's, to **Enron** and **Tyco** today, American white collar and corporate crime has an infamous tradition. This *Encyclopedia* presents 500+ entries about a diverse number of topics ranging from scams and swindles to government attempts at regulation, and from specific cases of financial and securities fraud to the individual companies, and people, involved in shady schemes. There are also articles on specific crimes from insider trading to price fixing, as well as entries on the laws passed to combat these crimes and the agencies charged with policing them. The read-

ing level is geared toward general lay readers, as well as undergraduates and advanced high school students with the articles being clear and understandable. Generally, each entry has brief bibliography although some are more extensive. There is use of "see also" references linking related articles. However, some are misleading. For instance, in the article on stock fraud there is a "see also" reference to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act but there is not an individual article covering that piece of legislation in the *Encyclopedia*. Fortunately, a look in the index reveals that the Act is covered in other articles. (But oddly, there is a summary of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act in one of the appendices that does

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not appear in the index.) The fact that there is so much information on this seminal piece of legislation is a plus for the *Encyclopedia*. The fact that it is cumbersome to get to, is not.

Luckily, there is more on the plus side. Beside the law summaries appendix referred to above, there is a glossary and a selected resource guide. In addition, there is a listing of all the articles divided into 17 broad categories to help readers get a better sense of the *Encyclopedia's* coverage. There is also a complete alphabetical listing of entries.

The scope and type of white collar and corporate crime in our history is far reaching and

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diverse. *The Encyclopedia of White-Collar and Corporate Crime* provides an impressive amount of fascinating and relevant information on the subject. It enables the reader to get a solid overview, while at the same time, gives the opportunity to explore specifics in greater depth. Admittedly, there are fine business encyclopedias like **Routledge's International Encyclopedia of Business and Management** (2001, 1861521618, OP) that discuss aspects of business ethics and quality works like **Sage's Encyclopedia of Crime and Punishment** (2002, 076192258X, \$500) that touch on corporate crime. However, this work puts its total focus on white collar and corporate crime. Editor **Lawrence M. Salinger** and his team of contributors have done a commendable job in pulling it all together in two volumes.

The *Tennessee Williams Encyclopedia*, recently published by **Greenwood** (2004, 0313321019, \$89.95) makes plain the great influence that the troubled playwright had, and continues to have, on American theater. Editor **Philip C. Kolin** and his contributors offer 150 articles in this handy one volume work, many of which summarize and interpret Williams' plays, their themes and plots, and the characters that inhabit them. There are articles on the famous and successful plays like *A Street Car Named Desire*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and the *Glass Menagerie*, as well as on his important, but less popular efforts like *Camino Real* and *Orpheus Descending*. In addition, there are discussions of his short stories, poems and other literary output.

It is also no surprise that there are entries on the many people in **Williams'** life. Given his central place in the popular culture of the time, **Williams** knew a number of talented and influential people in the film, theater and the literary worlds. Biographical sketches run throughout the *Encyclopedia*, ranging from his first agent **Audrey Wood** to fellow playwright **Clifford Odets**, from actors like **Karl Malden** to close friend and companion **Frank Merlo**, and from director **Elia Kazan** to publisher **Bennett Cerf**. There are also entries on family members that help shed additional light on **Williams** and his work. In addition, there are entries on issues and influences like politics, race and religion, as well as important places in **Williams'** life like Key West and Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Value added features like a guide to related topics, a chronology, a bibliography of primary and secondary sources increase the usefulness of the book. However, the indexing could be better. While there is an interesting article on Gender and Sexuality as it relates to **Williams** and his work, there is no mention of sexuality or homosexuality in the index. The phrase "gender and sexuality" is indexed and leads you to the article, but there are not more direct approaches.

While information about **Williams** and his

against the grain people profile

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BORN & LIVED: Born in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Grew up in Alexandria, VA. As an adult, I have lived all over the Southeast and spent a good deal of time in the Southwest.

EARLY LIFE: I was an active Girl Scout, played soccer everyday until it was too dark to see the ball, and my younger brother was my best friend.

FAMILY: My mother, of whom I am absurdly proud, returned to school last year to pursue a Masters in Library and Information Science. My father is semi-retired and spends most of his time playing bridge. My boyfriend is a high school science teacher and deserves a medal for what he does. He and I share our home with 2 dogs, 2 cats, and 1 turtle.

EDUCATION: BA in Theatre from the **University of Richmond**, MS in Information Science from the **University of Tennessee**.

FIRST JOB: An apprentice in a quilt shop.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I took a position as the Serials Librarian at **Mississippi State University** right out of graduate school with great trepidation. I had no training in serials, and I wasn't quite sure what I was getting myself into. Despite my original apprehension, I have found that working with serials and electronic resources is both challenging and rewarding. In my current position as the Electronic Resources/Serials Librarian at **Furman University** I have had the opportunity to work with the South Carolina state consortium, PASCAL, and I am an active member of the North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG).

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: Plan home improvements.

FAVORITE BOOKS: *Anne of Green Gables* (and the rest of the Anne books) by **L.M. Montgomery**, *Trixie Belden* / *Nancy Drew* era mysteries, anything by **Edward Gorey**.

PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD: People who don't think for themselves and noisy eaters.

PHILOSOPHY: Done is beautiful.

MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Being invited to speak about purchasing and providing access to electronic resources at two conferences, and actually being able to pull it off, despite my fear of public speaking.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: We have all heard a patron say it. "Is that available online somewhere?" The fact is print just isn't good enough anymore. The next five years will see a more widespread cancellation of print resources in favor of the electronic version. Until recently, those libraries that have undertaken a comprehensive cancellation of print titles have been considered ground breaking, but I predict that in the not so distant future such a tactic will become the norm. The more we have given our users, the more they have come to expect. Unfortunately, our pockets just aren't as deep as our imaginations. We can think of all kinds of resources that would be great for our patrons, but the fact remains that our libraries don't have enough money to buy everything. Something is going to have to give, and I believe it will be print resources, both serial and monographic.

work is available in a myriad of other sources, the *Tennessee Williams Encyclopedia* gathers the essentials together in a single concise volume. Appropriate for some reference collections, this *Encyclopedia* is another one of those well crafted works that may be even more useful in circulation, or on private shelves. In any case, academic and public libraries should find it a worthwhile choice.

Bernan Press, noted for its statistical sources, has branched out a bit with this next title. Teamed with the **Library of Congress**, they have just published the *Encyclopedia of the Library of Congress: For Congress, the Nation & the World* (2005, 0890599718, \$125). The book is co-edited by **John Y. Cole**, Head

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of the Center for the Book at the **Library of Congress** since 1977, and **Jane Aiken**, who is the Senior Academic Advisor, Division of Research Programs at the National Endowment for the Humanities. Together they have produced a work both visually attractive and full of information.

The contents of the *Encyclopedia* are divided into four main sections. The first is a collection of essays that discuss the Library's service components like the Copyright Office, the Congressional Research Service and the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. This section also includes essays on relevant topics like the Library's Digital Future, its role in scholarship and its relationship to other institutions like the **National Archive** and the **Smithsonian**. The next section is an alphabetical collection of articles that make up the bulk of the work. They include biographies of the Librarians and other influential figures, as well as topical articles like those on the classification of collections, the individual buildings, functions like acquisitions and reference, preservation and conservation activities, and unique holdings like the Giant Bible of Mainz, the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. Reflecting the collections and contents of the Library there are also articles that cover topics like Rare Book and Special Collections, the Geography and Map Division, the Asian Division, the Manuscript Collection and the Music Division. The third section of the book contains appendices that provide a selective list of senior Library officials from 1802-2004, statistical tables of Library appropriations from 1800-2004, as well as tables reflecting the growth of collections from 1801 to 2003. There are also lists of major gifts and endowments. The final section is a short list of further research and readings. The book is rounded out by a useful general index.

The more time the reader spends exploring *Encyclopedia of the Library of Congress*, the more obvious it becomes that **Library of Con-**

gress is a national treasure. Editors, **John Y. Cole** and **Jane Aiken**, along with their contributors, have produced a book that mirrors the central role the Library has played, and still plays, in the cultural life of the country. While the Library is discussed in other works like **Miriam Drake's** four volume *Encyclopedia of library and information science* (**Marcel Dekker**, 2003, 082474259, \$1295), this is the first encyclopedia devoted to the Library itself.

As a resource, it is suitable for both public and academic libraries. Whether it is placed in reference or circulation will depend on the need. Regardless, it would be a worthwhile addition.

Grey House Publishing has released the 3rd edition of a book that has been well received in the past. Written by **Scott Derks**, the *Value of the Dollar 1860-2004* (2004, 1592370748, \$135) is both a browser's delight and a serious reference work. As the title implies, it traces the value of the dollar through times of war, depression, prosperity and inflation. Arranged chronologically, the first section of the book is divided into six parts, the first of which is devoted to the years 1860-1899 and subtitled the Age of Endeavor. This is followed by five more parts that cover the 20th century and beyond. They include: 1900-1919: The Progressive Era and World War I; 1920-1939: Return to Normalcy, the Great Depression, and Recovery; 1940-1959: World War II: Recovery and the Cold War; 1960-1979: The Vietnam War and the Global Economy; and 1980-2004: From Recession to the Era of Possibilities. Each of these parts is further sub-divided into five year increments. An historical snapshot, selected income, consumer expenditures, investments, standard jobs and their salaries, selected prices of typical food basket, as well as a large listing of miscellaneous prices are provided for the first part and all of the following five year sub-divisions.

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The second section of the book is a new and welcome addition. Devoted to noticeable trends from 1900-2000, it uses a series of bar charts to trace price trends for household goods ranging from magazines to toasters and fashion items like women's dress suits and men's sweaters. It also includes compensation trends from the minimum wage to the NY Yankee payroll, food prices for basic commodities and prices for entertainment ranging from tickets to Disneyland and the price of a roll of film. The sources for these statistics are diverse and run the gamut from the *Federal Reserve Bulletin* to Sears & Roebuck Catalogs. Author **Scott Derks** provides a full list of sources, along with a two page bibliography, in the back of the book. There is also a subject index with references to specific page numbers.

The *Value of the Dollar* is by no means comprehensive, but it is nonetheless highly useful. Taken together, these statistics paint a fascinating portrait of American life during the periods covered. Of course, one wishes that there were even more of price listings, especially when the figures you are looking for are not available. However, the *Value of the Dollar* is intended for those interested in social history, not economics majors. These price lists help the reader get a feel for what it was like to live during a selected time periods. In addition, they often provide specific numbers to support and enhance research. This latest edition of the *Value of a Dollar* should join past editions on shelves in both academic and public libraries.

IT'S TRUE!!!!

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