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From the Reference Desk

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From the Reference Desk

by **Tom Gilson** (Head, Reference Services, Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, 66 George Street, Charleston, SC 29401; Phone: 843-953-8014; Fax: 843-953-8019) <gilson@cofc.edu>

Sage Reference recently published a title that is timely while offering valuable historical perspective. The *Encyclopedia of Immigration and Migration in the American West* (2006, 1412905508, \$295) lends context for some of today's headlines but makes it obvious that immigration/migration issues are nothing new. This two-volume set traces the impact of demographic changes from the initial European contact with Native Americans to the flood of immigrants drawn by the California gold rush to the relocation programs of World War II to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Editors **Gordon Morris Bakken** and **Alexandra Kindell**, along with their contributors, provide articles that focus on specific people and events, ethnic and racial groups, immigration laws and land policies, and individual cities and towns. There are also entries that discuss the relationship of immigration/migration to economic change and on the impacts of war, the military and the defense industry.

Taken as a whole, the articles in this encyclopedia tell a fascinating story of opportunity, enterprise and community building coupled with forced migration, natural disasters and exploitation. The articles are informed by recent scholarship but written to be of use to the lay reader, as well as the college student. Each entry has its own list of references and there is a master bibliography reproduced at the end of both volumes. There are also brief librarian-produced research guides on topics ranging from how to use the census to mining and immigration in Nevada. However, maps and other illustrations are not a strong element in this work. A set of maps that traced migration patterns and population shifts would be a welcome addition to any future edition.

The *Encyclopedia of Immigration and Migration in the American West* should have particular appeal to academic libraries interested in the history of American West, as well as those wanting to build collections on immigration and

migration. It should serve to update and complement related titles like **Macmillan's** *Encyclopedia of the American West* (1996, 0028974956, \$50 used), and **Howard Lamar's** *New Encyclopedia of the American West* (1998, 0300070888, \$75) published by **Yale University Press**. Overall, this encyclopedia is a worthy addition to both academic and larger public library collections where there is need.

Anyone interested in musical theater could spend hours with *Broadway Musicals, 1943-2004* (2006, 0786422440, \$195). **John Stewart's** most recent work published by **McFarland** is an exhaustive list of musicals performed on Broadway since the 1943 opening of *Oklahoma*, considered by many to be the first modern musical. In addition, it treats revivals of earlier works so readers will find coverage of **George M. Cohan's** *Little Johnny Jones*, first performed in 1904, along with those of Broadway greats of the twenties and thirties like **Irving Berlin** and **Cole Porter**.

But of course, *Broadway Musicals* is more than a mere reference list of titles. Each entry contains a brief synopsis of the show and a thorough history including events before it opened, as well as descriptions of the Broadway run and other performances after it first appeared on Broadway. The description of the actual Broadway run includes the essential information like the name of the theater, number of performances, the producers, directors, writers, cast, choreographers, costume designers, managers, understudies, and brief act and scene descriptions. Similar information is provided for any after Broadway production as well. Added features include a chronology of openings, as well as individual song and personnel indexes. There is also an appendix of other musicals that includes Off Broadway shows, non-Broadway revivals of original Broadway shows, and productions that are not strictly musicals but "plays with music or some form of special presentation." One possible feature for a future edition would be an index of revivals.

Public libraries with interested clientele and academic libraries supporting theater research will find this a treasure chest of fascinating facts and hard to find information. *Broadway Musicals, 1943-2004* should find a place on reference shelves besides other standards in the field like **Richard Norton's** three-volume *Chronology of American Musical Theater* (2001, 0195088883, \$395) and **Gerald Bordman's** *American Musical Theatre: A Chronicle* (2000, 019513074X, \$80), both published by **Oxford**.

Most public libraries, as well as many academic libraries supporting courses in landscape architecture, will also be interested in a more recent **Oxford** title. The *Oxford Companion to the Garden* (2006, 0198662556, \$65) updates a similar title first published 20 years ago. The major focus is still on American and Western European gardens but coverage also includes gardens in China, India, Japan, Russia, South Africa, Thailand, Mexico, and a number of other countries. In addition, there are articles on specific cities known for their gardens.

Naturally, many of the articles describe the history and importance of specific gardens ranging from the **Kirstenbosch National Botanic Garden** in Cape Town to the **Orczy Gardens** in Budapest and from the **Botanical Gardens** of Rio de Janeiro to the **Qianlong Garden** in Beijing. Another emphasis is on the biographies of notable garden and landscape designers, naturalists and botanists, garden theoreticians, architects and planners, as well as landowners and patrons. There are also entries that discuss features like buildings, plant types and ornamentation, as well as diverse issues ranging from composting to genetic modification and from global warming to soil improvement. The entries are fact filled and informative and will be of value to the serious student of gardening, as well as the interested novice.

Aside from the thorough coverage and obvious expertise provided in the text, numerous color plates make this book a visual treat. It is handsomely produced and if not for the serious information provided could pass as a coffee table book.

While few of the entries have their own bibliographies, there is a helpful selected list of further readings at the end of the book. For the most part, they are divided by country and region. The alphabetically arrangement of entries is sufficient for finding needed information but there is also a selected index that lists "gardens, people, themes and features which are mentioned in the course of other entries but which do not have an entry of their own." A thematic index is also available that is very helpful in grouping related articles.

Editor **Patrick Taylor** and editorial team have reason to be proud of this work. Readers interested in gardens and gardening will find the *Oxford Companion to the Garden* a useful and significant reference. It is also affordably priced so that many who first seek it out on library shelves may end up with personal copies.

Grey House Publishing seems to be branching out. Best known for their directories and guides, they are now issuing new editions of encyclopedias once published by **ABC-CLIO**. The *Encyclopedia of Prisoners of War*

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and Internment (2006, 1592371205, \$135) is a case in point. Edited by **Jonathan Vance**, this second edition has been updated to include articles on topics related to recent wars in Rwanda, Chechnya, Sierra Leone, Bosnia, Tajikistan, Kosovo, and of course the war on terror, and the Iraq War. Joining past entries on topics like the Geneva Conventions, the Napoleonic Wars and Prison Ships are those on the Srebrenica Massacre, the Guantanamo Bay Detention Center, and Abu Ghraib. There is also an expanded legal documents and commentary section that contains new items ranging from the White House Fact Sheet on the Status of Detainees at Guantanamo to the International Committee of the Red Cross' Deprived of Freedom document. Another new and useful feature is a historic timeline of entries and a set of color maps locating NAZI Concentration Camps and POW camps for conflicts at different times in different places, worldwide. (One small caveat, more care could be given to proof reading. The heading for the main entry on the Srebrenica Massacre is spelled Srebernica. It is correct in the text of the article.)

The *Encyclopedia of Prisoners of War and Internment* offers a well designed historical survey of an important subject and effort has been given to updating this second edition to make it more relevant and useful. Given the timeliness of the topic and the expanded coverage offered by this second edition, both academic and public libraries will want to consider adding this newer version. Depending on individual need, it would be appropriate for both circulating and reference collections.

Globalization: Encyclopedia of Trade, Labor, and Politics (2006, 1576078264, \$185) is another work that treats a subject of growing relevance. Published by **ABC-CLIO** and edited by **Ashish K. Vaidya**, this two-volume set covers the "economic, international business, political, legal, and environmental" aspects of globalization from a decidedly academic vantage point. It is divided into four parts with articles arranged alphabetically within in each part. The individual parts are devoted to Trade and Investment, Major Business and Economic sectors, International Blocs and Organizations, and Environmental, Legal, Political, and Cultural Issues. The essays in each section are substantial and informed by charts, tables, and statistics whenever needed. The topical essays offer the history, current status and potential developments of the issue under discussion. The essays in part three devoted to international blocs and organizations provide brief descriptions along with a list of "member countries, the organizational structure, purpose, profile and economic and socioeconomic data on statistical indicators."

While the concepts under discussion are clearly defined, the intended audience for this work is undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty in economics, international business and related fields. The essays range from 4-5 pages to over 20 pages in length and each is followed by a useful list of related references. There is also a collected bibliography of books, journal articles and electronic sources at the end of volume two.

However, with a four-part arrangement like this the importance of the index is heightened

when looking for specific information. In this case the indexing could benefit from the use of cross references. Looking for information on "unions" one can locate references under "labor unions" which is fair enough. However, a cross reference from unions or trade unions (another term popularly used) within the index would make the search for the relevant term quicker. Of course, given the sophisticated and diverse nature of the material in this reference, serious users will still need to familiarize themselves with each section's table of contents to get the most out of this reference.

Globalization: Encyclopedia of Trade, Labor, and Politics will be of value to academic libraries supporting courses in international business and political affairs. Students will appreciate the clear focus it provides on individual issues related to globalization. It is another title that could find its way into circulating collections. This reference is also available in an eBook version for \$230.00 (1576078272) while the combined print and eBook are priced at \$325.

A growing sub-discipline of philosophy is given individual treatment in a recent **Routledge** publication. The *Philosophy of Science: an Encyclopedia* (2006, 0415939275, \$350) covers developments in this field since the "turn of the twentieth century." Editors **Sahotra Sarkar** and **Jessica Pfeifer** enlisted 105 contributors to write the more than 130 entries that cover philosophical concepts related to biology and the physical sciences, in addition to psychology and the social sciences. Individual articles appear on topics as diverse as genetics, episte-

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mology, space-time, game theory and artificial intelligence. There are also entries that discuss the careers and contributions of principal theoreticians ranging from **Jules Henri Poincare** to **Karl Popper** and from **Thomas Kuhn** to **John Searle**. The articles are substantial in length ranging from 3000 -7500 words and each ends with an impressive bibliography and a list of "see also" references to related articles. The general index is well constructed and helpful. The binding of this two-volume set is solid and should hold up well while the print font is clear and easy to read. As befitting the subject, the writing is academic and scholarly and some articles require careful reading, especially for those not very familiar with the concepts discussed.

The *Philosophy of Science: an Encyclopedia* is worth serious consideration from academic libraries needing resources that cover this sub-discipline of philosophy. It also serves to update and supplement more general reference works and will be of value to those needing comprehensive coverage in their philosophy collections. However, a lot of the material here is covered in **Routledge's**

acclaimed ten-volume *Encyclopedia of Philosophy* so some libraries already owning this set, or having a subscription to the online version, may want to forgo this new title. (For further details on the **Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy** check their Website at <http://www.routledge.com/>.)

The Qur'an: an Encyclopedia (2006, 0415326397, \$225) is another **Routledge** title that deserves comment. Given the growing interest in Islam, it will be viewed by many as timely and relevant. Articles on concepts, beliefs, figures, and places related to the Qur'an are covered. Entries on forgiveness, grace and repentance join those on marriage and shahada (martyrdom) along with articles on **Ibrahim (Abraham)** and **Yahya (John the Baptist)**. There are also articles treating broader topics like the origins of the Qur'an and its relationship to the natural world, historic events, education, language and science. Many of the entries are short, providing brief descriptions and definitions, but others can be five pages or more in length with multi-citation bibliographies. In addition, there is a bibliographic essay at the end of the book highlighting other significant reference sources, as well as providing lists of recommended books and articles divided by subject category. There is also a "How to use

this encyclopedia" section containing useful explanations, as well as an index to Qur'anic passages. And although the entries are in a straight alphabetical listing there are name and subject indexes. Unfortunately there is no thematic index but there are "see" and "see also" references.

The Qur'an: an Encyclopedia offers a scholarly but accessible one-volume work that will serve as a useful starting point for students and informed lay readers alike. Editor **Oliver Leaman** and his 42 contributors not only provide answers to specific questions but also attempt to stimulate thoughtful consideration of the commentary and interpretation presented. **Mr. Leaman** purposefully includes "accounts that often go against each other in order to illustrate to readers the contested nature of interpretation that exists in a subject area." No doubt a worthy goal and it reinforces the role of *The Qur'an: an Encyclopedia* as a starting point. The Qur'an is a complex and important topic and serious students should make use of the bibliographies provided in this work, as well as seek out more comprehensive references like **Jane Dammen McAuliffe's Encyclopedia of the Qur'an** (2001-2006, 9004147438, \$1674) published by **Brill**. (For more information on the online version see <http://www.brill.nl/default.aspx?partid=18&pid=24338>.)

Book Reviews — Monographic Musings

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

Column Editor's Note: At an accreditation and assessment institute last week, I had the pleasure of hearing **Charleston Southern University Library Director Enid R. Causey** discuss the quality enhancement efforts of her institution. When explaining why she, a librarian, was chosen as the head honcho of **CSU's** accreditation endeavors, she made a poignant remark: libraries, and therefore librarians, serve everyone. This statement has stuck with me for days, and my mind continues to reflect upon the weight and breadth of **Causey's** words. Libraries serve everyone at all stages of life. Furthermore, it is the "everyone" in the library-service equation that allows librarians to maintain such an integral role in society.

The books and their reviewers in this month's **Monographic Musings** illustrate this idea of libraries' magnetic qualities. As stockers and spreaders of information, librarians lead readers, historians, educators, linguists, other librarians, and "students of life" to

learn about segregation, linguistics, etymology, and the function and responsibility of the very libraries in which they work.

Many thanks to faithful **ATG** reviewer **Phillip Powell** for gracing our pages with his thoughts on **R. Scott Baker's Paradoxes of De-segregation**. I'd like to extend a hearty welcome to **ATG** newcomers **Michael Andrews**; **Jane Tuten**, director of the **University of South Carolina - Aiken's Gregg-Graniteville Library**; and **Pamela I. Niesslein**, a linguist by education and the **College of Charleston's Associate Vice President for Accountability and Accreditation**. Happy reading, everyone! — **DV**

the habitués of journal publishing.

Let Them Eat Cake is a **Tom Sharpeian** romp (soon to be followed by a sequel) loosely based on the intersecting worlds of scientific research, scholarly publishing and the food supplement business set at the end of the print era and before the World Wide Web. The story moves between the luxuri-

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Angus, Tom. Let Them Eat Cake! A Novel. Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2005. 1420810480 (paperback); 1420810499 (electronic book). 332 pages. \$14.50 (paperback); \$4.95 (electronic book).

Reviewed by **Michael Andrews** (RSL)

In 1899 **Sir Edward Elgar** premiered his breakthrough orchestral work *Variations on an Original Theme* (now known as the *Enigma Variations*) in which he created sound portraits of his cryptically identified "friends pictured within." *Let Them Eat Cake* will

have a similar fascination for those involved in STM publishing, many of whom are also to be found "pictured within" — more or less thinly disguised, since the author, hidden like this reviewer under a *nom de plume*, will be familiar to readers of *Against the Grain* and