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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>

Oxford University Press has released a new four-volume set that is unique and fills a real void in the literature. The *Oxford Encyclopedia of Maritime History* (2007, 0195130758, \$550) lists over 900 entries that discuss maritime history from a rich variety of perspectives. To be honest, there is nothing else quite like it in terms of scope and diversity of coverage.

Readers will find the encyclopedia useful whether looking for articles on major naval engagements, voyages of exploration or specific methods of navigation. There is also serious consideration of subjects of economic concern like trade, finance, shipping, and maritime industries. As a result, researchers will find articles on specifics like marine insurance, banking and credit, shipping cartels, shipbuilding, oil and petroleum products, whaling, and trade routes. In addition, topics as specific as ship's equipment like anchors and flags or seafarer's skills like knotting and ropework are covered. The treatment is scholarly and thorough with many of the entries being substantial and comprised of numerous subentries. Each has a bibliography listing relevant and useful sources. In addition to "see also" references, volume four has a well designed topical outline of entries that links related articles. The general index is comprehensive and provides access to more specific areas of interest. Obvious attention has been paid to the look and feel of the set from the sturdy binding to appropriate photos and illustrations that compliment the text.

Oxford Encyclopedia of Maritime History is a significant contribution. Editor **John B. Hattendorf** has collect articles from a diverse group of highly qualified scholars that reflect both the complexity and the diversity of maritime history. But maybe more importantly, this set allows the reader to see maritime history as more than a collection of independent disciplines. Examining this set gives the reader the sense of a unified whole.

These four volumes will be an important addition to any academic library where maritime history is of interest. And given that it will appeal to both the generalist and those with specific interests, larger public libraries

will also want to consider it. It will serve as a cornerstone



of collections that already have related titles like *Naval Warfare: An International Encyclopedia*, **ABC-CLIO**, (2002, 1576072193, \$295), and *Ships of the World: An Historical Encyclopedia*, **Houghton Mifflin**, (1997, 0-395-71556-3, \$50)

Greenwood has published another title in the well regarded *Greenwood Milestones in African American History* series. Edited by **Walter Rucker** and **James Nathaniel Upton**, the *Encyclopedia of American Race Riots* (2007, 978-313-33300-2, \$199.95) is a two-volume set that, as the title states, centers on race riots in American history. However, it does more than that. It discusses "collective violence" in its various guises between white and black Americans since the **Civil War**, along with the social environment that allowed it.

In close to 265 articles written by some 80 scholars, instances of lynching, murder, and vigilantism, as well as specific race riots are described in detail. But these events did not occur in a vacuum. Wisely the *Encyclopedia* acknowledges this fact with articles that discuss ideologies ranging from Black Nationalism to white supremacy and entries that focus on specific laws and legislation, anti-lynching and civil rights movements, racist organizations, the role of newspapers and the media, influential people ranging from politicians to poets and discussions of related social issues. The articles are well written and deal with fascinating, if sometimes frightening, topics. There is an informative Forward by noted scholar **Dominic J. Capaci**, as well as an introduction that lay the foundation for the *Encyclopedia*. All this quality content is nicely complimented by a topical index, a chronology of events, 23 primary documents, a select historiography of race riots, an impressive bibliography and, of course, a general index.

Encyclopedia of American Race Riots is a serious and scholarly work about an aspect of American racial history that commands attention. Editors **Rucker** and **Upton**, along with their contributors, provide readers with a reference that is worthy of its topic. It admirably compliments the other titles in this series of references and will be a worthy addition to collections in both academic and public libraries. This work, as well as other titles in the *Milestones* series, is also available electronically in **Greenwood's** African American experience database at www.africanamericanexperience.com.

At first blush a reference work entitled *An Encyclopedia of Swearing* may sound somewhat superficial. However, as the subtitle states, **Geoffrey Hughes'** recent work is a serious "social history of oaths, profanity, foul language, and ethnic

slurs in the English-speaking world." Published by **M.E. Sharpe** (2006, 0765612313, \$110), this single-volume encyclopedia proves a compelling and informative work that not only highlights the power of these words and phrases but provides the necessary context to understand their use and development.

From sacred oaths to vulgar profanities, **Hughes** presents thoroughly researched evidence of their historical development and change. However, the *Encyclopedia* is not restricted to specific examples of swearing. **Hughes** also discusses relevant issues like censorship and the stereotyping of women, as well as important concepts like the psychology of swearing and its use by gender and class. He also delves into the works of writers from **Chaucer** to **Philip Larkin**, discusses specific time periods like the Victorian age, and reminds us of which groups have been the victims of slurs ranging from Blacks to the Irish and from homosexuals to women.

Geoffrey Hughes covers a lot of ground in *An Encyclopedia of Swearing*. Not only does he give the historical background of specific words and phrases, he provides informed discussions of the various modes of swearing and the societal environment from which they arose. Scholarly and expertly researched, his book is an obvious choice for most academic libraries and many larger public libraries. It is also one of those titles that is worthy of both reference and circulating collections.

A single-volume encyclopedia that will have particular appeal to academic libraries is **Routledge's** *Encyclopedia of the World's Endangered Languages* (2007, 978-0700711970, \$310). This is a highly specialized title that attempts to address the need to "catalogue and describe those languages ... which are in danger of disappearing within the next few decades." In his introduction, Editor **Christopher Moseley**, notes that "96% of the world's languages are spoken by 4% of the population." He also points out that by one estimate two-thirds of them are in danger.

The basic organization of the book is geographical by continent. Individual sections are devoted to the languages found in North America, Latin America (South America and Meso-America), Europe and North Asia, South Asia and the Middle East, East and Southeast Asia, Australasia and the Pacific, and Africa. Each section is introduced by an overview essay tracing language development, classification of the forces leading to endangerment, and other concerns. One caveat, while the information in each overview is valuable, they are of varying lengths and organizational structures making for a lack of consistency that might be disconcerting for the non-specialist. Fortunately, the bulk of each section is an al-

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phabetical listing of the endangered languages along with a brief description consisting of the “linguistic affiliation, demographic data, the degree of endangerment, and the causes of the threat to it.” Each section also has maps that offer a sense of where the language is spoken. In addition, there is a bibliography of scholarly sources and an index of languages that points the reader to specific pages.

Some may argue that many of the languages discussed here are, in fact, dialects. However, that does not detract from the fact that language endangerment is real and that it is a concern for many linguists, native speakers and in some cases, policy makers. By crystallizing the extent of the problem, the *Encyclopedia of the World’s Endangered Languages* performs a valuable service for the discipline, not to mention the languages themselves. Its publication will be welcomed by scholars and serious students. Aside from some concerns about the inconsistency of the book’s organization and its fairly hefty price tag, this title is recommended for academic libraries that support language and linguistics programs.

Another title that is quite specialized is the *Praeger Handbook of Latino Education in the U.S.* (2007, 978-0313328336, \$175). However, because of its topical nature, this title could find audiences in both academic and public libraries. Everyone from parents to policy makers and from students to professional educators could be interested in the issues raised here.

Edited by **Lourdes Diaz Soto**, these two volumes contain articles from over 100 scholars covering numerous topics. Essays range from those that discuss broad subjects like academic models, testing and urban education to articles on specifics like California’s Proposition 227, Puerto Ricans at the Carlisle Indian School, and technology adoption in New Mexico. There are also entries on various policy approaches from Bilingual Education to the English Only movement. Articles offer historical context, a description of the current situation, and in many cases, prescriptions for improvement. Each is based on solid scholarship but at the same time written in a style accessible to the informed and interested reader. Each entry has a useful bibliography that matches the extent of the article. In addition, there is a set of tables, charts and maps reflecting useful demographics, as well as a short glossary of terms and a general index. However, to reinforce the interrelatedness of the articles, future editions might consider a thematic list of articles or at least the use of “see also” references. Such organizational tools assist the reader in gaining a sense of scope, not to mention the categories of topics treated. They are missed in the present volumes.

Nonetheless, the *Praeger Handbook of Latino Education* in the U.S. succeeds in meeting its goal of informing “educators and the public of both the challenges and the opportunities for

Latino/a learners.” This reference does more than reflect the state of Latino/a education; it raises relevant issues and offers possible solutions. Depending on need, this set would be appropriate for either reference or circulation collections.

From Suffrage to the Senate: An Encyclopedia of Leaders, Causes & Issues (2006, 978-1592371174, \$195) is in its second edition. Originally published by ABC-CLIO in 1999, this new version is now available from **Grey House Publishing**. Having been written by the same author, **Suzanne O’Dea**, continuity with the initial edition has been maintained while at the same time, features and content added.

Essentially an encyclopedia of women in American politics, this reference has been updated and expanded to include “journalists, commentators, and columnists... political pollsters, campaign advisors, and campaign managers.” The number of primary documents has been “nearly doubled” and they are now referenced at the end of relevant entries. All of the original entries have been updated and 144 new entries added, taking the total to

844. Some 65% of those are brief biographical sketches, many of which are drawn from respected sources like *Congressional Quarterly*, *Politics in America*, *Women in the United States Congress* and *Current Biography* among others. The remaining articles cover “court cases, legislation, organizations, movements, and social issues.” The entries are written in an unadorned, objective, and factual style with related articles linked by “see also” references. There is a complete list of entries at the front of both volumes of this two-volume set, as well as tables of facts and statistics, a chronology, a bibliography and a helpful general index at the end of Volume II.

Perhaps the most useful added feature is the collection of primary documents alluded to earlier. This section provides a relevant and diverse group of documents ranging from the Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions in 1848 to the Declaration of Sentiments of the National Organization for Women in 1998, and from **Susan B. Anthony’s** speech after being convicted of voting in 1872 to a **Molly Irvins** column on **Hillary Clinton** in 2006. These documents are organized in a

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Something to Think About — Positive Dreaming

Column Editor: **Mary E. (Tinker) Massey** (Serials Librarian, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Jack R. Hunt Library) <Mary.Massey@erau.edu>

I guess all of us have done our share of dreaming — even at work while doing routine tasks. No? Well, it’s a good thing to do, because it is a relaxation and meditation technique that allows us to function in our jobs without undue stresses. What are your dreams? Exotic or rural locations with water/snow/sunsets/or more? Wild times? Quiet times? I could name so many scenarios that would make you excited from a rush of adrenalin. But ... could you name some work dreams? When I came for an interview here, I arrived early to look around. I began to make a mental list of all the things I wanted to do to give the library a more professional appearance in the serial and microfilm sections. When I was hired, I typed those dreams in black and white, put them on my **Outlook** task list and began work. Every day I see the list as I check my email, and it is a reminder to me that there is always something important to do. We have worked on the binding — to increase the amount done each year; we are weeding the collection to make more room and “lean” it out; we are almost finished labeling a microfilm cabinet that never had labels; our two inch wide plastic boxes have just arrived to replace the four inch wide ones in our Special Collections, and we will soon have that inventory completed as well



as picking up eight shelves of empty space. There will be other dreams too. What else could I want? A dream I have always wanted to design and carry through, is to write and obtain a grant that will allow us to scan our **World War II** airplane factory employee newsletters. There is so much history in these publications that will soon be lost to all of us because they are deteriorating into brown debris and dust. The activities, quantity and quality of work, as well as the people’s creative abilities are placed in the archives of these newsletters to remind us of the cultural changes and supreme human efforts during wartime. Once our collection has been scanned onto CD’s, I would hope that other universities having similar collections of these and other factories would join into the program and complete their scanning as well. Perhaps between us, we would be able to expand all of the holdings of these materials and share the results with innumerable institutions with the same needs. It is a dream, but the good vibes are getting stronger and the positive nature of this project is being heard by others who have similar emotions about the doomed material and may some day “light the fire” that will make it a reality. That, I think, is something to really think and dream about! How ‘bout you? Do you have a dream too? 🌱

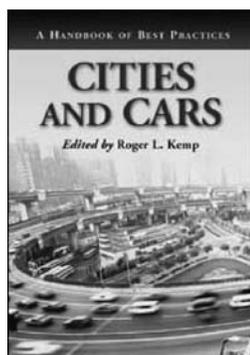
Book Reviews — Monographic Musings

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



Column Editor's Note: It is fascinating to ponder popular issues throughout history. Today, and especially in a rapidly-growing city like Charleston, urban sprawl and increasing commute times are a common subject of articles in weekly national news publications and stories on news radio. Another oft-heard subject is about conservative voters, including the religious right. But what were the hot topics two centuries ago? Or two millennia ago? It's plausible — perhaps likely — that the subject of religion was on the fashionable list of talking points even then, as the relatively new creed, Christianity, was on the rise. These issues, popular throughout history, are explored in this month's **Monographic Musings**. Who knows what areas of interest will be of widespread conversation next month?!

In this issue, **ATG** readers will recognize the work of two veteran reviewers: **Steven Profit** and **Phillip Powell**. A warm welcome is extended to **College of Charleston** Associate Professor Emeritus **Lawrence Simms**. Happy reading, everyone! — **DV**



Kemp, Roger L., ed. *Cities and Cars: A Handbook of Best Practices*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2007. 9780786429196. 278 pages. \$35.00.

Reviewed by **Steven Profit** (Reference Librarian, College of Charleston) <profits@cofc.edu>

I grew up on a dirt road with-in easy walking distance of downtown Summerville, South Carolina. When

I was a boy, Summerville was a small town of about 4,000 residents and my neighborhood was where “the country” began. There were large forested tracts of land across the road and around the corner from my home; bobcats and foxes were frequently spotted therein. Neighbors on both sides raised hogs, and the family behind us grew corn on two large parcels. Horseback riders were not uncommon travelers on my street. Charleston, 25 miles away, was considered “a far piece.” Trips to “the city” were infrequent and, as a result, very special. You didn’t want to be ill or to have been caught misbehaving around the time of a trek to the city. You didn’t want to miss it.

Today nearly 42,000 people live in Summerville. While it will always be my hometown, Charleston is home for me now. I live in its historic downtown and ride my bike everywhere; it takes me just eight leisurely, invigorating minutes to get to work.

A major factor for this relocation is that I now hate with a passion the commute be-

tween Summerville and Charleston. It is very congested, frustrating, time-consuming, and expensive considering today’s high gas prices and the costs of owning and maintaining an automobile. Unfortunately, attractive alternatives to the private automobile are extremely limited for most people here. And it’s not just a situation specific to Summerville: communities throughout the Charleston-North Charleston metropolitan area are growing dramatically and experiencing the problems associated with rapid development, from traffic congestion and overcrowded schools to increased pollution and loss of green space and wildlife habitat.

Living in a region grappling with these issues added a sense of urgency to my reading of **Roger Kemp’s** *Cities and Cars: A Handbook of Best Practices*. **Kemp**, a university lecturer and author with 15 years of city management experience, has compiled a strong collection of 46 informative and inspiring articles from several leading land use policy publications — including *Urban Land; Planning; Governing; American City and County; Public Works Management and Policy; Western City*; and other relevant sources.

The first section, made up of five articles, provides the reader with some background insights into the domain of urban planning and transportation professionals. Discussed are the interlocking relationships between people, buildings, streets, cars, parking, traffic flow, safety, and federal and state transportation policies. The last section offers some prognostications about the future, from what lies down the road for roadways and how technological innovations may change the car in years to come.

The middle section comprises the majority of the book. The 36 articles therein take the reader on a tour of cities where efforts are underway to create livable, lucrative, environmentally sensitive, human-oriented communities in societies largely dominated by and

designed for the automobile. The pieces primarily address locations across the United States (Boulder, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, West Palm Beach, to name a few), however the cities of London, England, Nagano, Japan, and a couple of Canadian locations are destinations as well.

Approaches to designing greener, more people-friendly settlements vary about as widely as the geography covered. A public utility in Miami converts its fleet to hybrid-powered vehicles; Trenton alters a freeway to exchange higher speeds for slower, safer traffic and an accessible riverfront; Bethesda encourages urban renewal around public transit nodes; London charges motorists to drive into the city center; Nagano uses the latest in information systems and communication technology to manage traffic flow in real-time. All of these interventions are manifestations of a few basic concepts in contemporary urban policy and planning: new urbanism (a movement dedicated to bringing the traditional design elements and patterns of older successful communities to new developments and redevelopments), transit-oriented development (mixed-use development clustered around public transit stations to encourage less dependence on cars), congestion pricing (charging drivers to use heavily traveled roads at peak times to reduce congestion), and smart highways (hi-tech traffic management systems responsive to actual highway conditions). These articles act as case studies in the ways these ideas have been implemented under various conditions. They demonstrate how communities can actively work to reverse decades of policy, planning, and development that has privileged the car over other means of transportation.

The back matter of *Cities and Cars* provides the reader some avenues for becoming more informed about and involved in the issues of transportation management and urban transportation. Included are a short annotated list of subject-specific periodicals; contact information for relevant agencies and associations at municipal, regional and national levels; and the same for research centers and libraries in the United States dedicated to the exploration of these subjects. The index is adequate, but the glossary could be more helpful if expanded.

On the whole, **Roger Kemp’s** *Cities and Cars: A Handbook of Best Practices* is a successful enterprise. It educates the reader concerning the guiding themes of contemporary urban transportation policy and design; demonstrates the wide applicability of these concepts through geographically dispersed case studies; inspires us to envision the possibilities with concrete examples; and points the way for those motivated to learn more about how to constructively combat some of the pressing problems of the modern urban condition.

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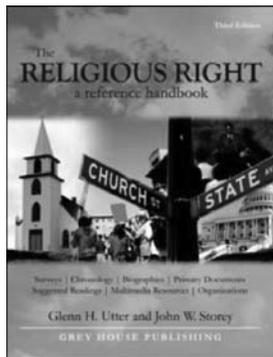
useful topical arrangement with an index in the front of both volumes.

From Suffrage to the Senate: An Encyclopedia of Leaders, Causes & Issues is a handy and helpful reference. It is well researched bringing together valuable information from

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Utter, Glenn H. and John W. Storey. *The Religious Right: A Reference Handbook*. 3rd ed. Millerton, NY: Grey House Publishing, 2007. 9781592371136. 800 pages. \$135.00.

Reviewed by **Phillip Powell** (Reference Librarian, College of Charleston) <powellp@cofc.edu>



Six years have passed between the publication of the second and the new third editions and having the chance to look at both, the thought of “the same, only different” comes to mind. Certainly, with a change in publishers, the new edition is physically larger and the content is noticeably expanded. Yet, the premise and emphasis remain the same between the two editions. The authors are attempting to bring an objective presentation of the Religious Right — its philosophies, its personalities, its organizations, and its com-

munications networks. Even more surprising is that **Utter** and **Storey** have included essays and the names of organizations highly critical of the Religious Right and its evangelical and fundamentalist beliefs.

Sections in the newest edition having been updated significantly include the chronology, the biographical profiles, and the analysis of survey data. The chronology runs to as late as July 2006 covering **George Bush**’s first term and half of his second. It is an interesting combination of events detailing both social

and political events regarding the Religious Right.

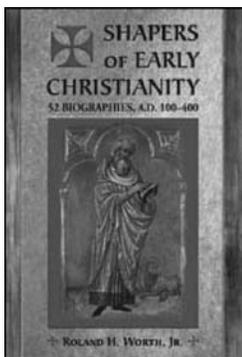
The new edition now includes two sections of articles and commentaries both defending and criticizing the Religious Right and Fundamentalism. Comparing each group of articles ably demonstrates how the two sides are truly parallel universes. For the reviewer, a mainstream Protestant on a good day, reading these articles has been a revelation. It ably demonstrates how there are no shades of gray between members of the Religious Right and the people who are more part of the moderate to liberal mainstream.

Additionally, strongly represented are bibliographies of books about and from the Religious Right. Similarly, there are lists of periodicals produced by these various organizations. Finally, completing this list are multimedia and Internet sources. Each entry is briefly and objectively annotated.

Initially, the reviewer looked upon reviewing this book with certain trepidation, but the concerns were unfounded. The authors’ efforts in writing a concise and objective work about the Religious Right are outstanding.

Worth, Roland H., Jr. *Shapers of Early Christianity: 52 Biographies, A.D. 100-400*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2007. 9780786429233 (13). 201 pages. \$45.00.

Reviewed by **Lawrence J. Simms** (College of Charleston)



In *Shapers of Early Christianity*, **Roland H. Worth, Jr.**, has provided a succinct overview of the first full three centuries of Christianity

through a series of brief biographies. Divided into seven chapters, the biographies are presented according to conceptual groupings with the exception of chapter one, titled “Second Century Christianity.” Thus, the author looks at early Christianity from the perspective of politics, the intellect, Bible translations, orthodoxy, heresy (terms which he qualifies in the preface), and asceticism. Each chapter is amply supplied with scholarly notation at the back of the book, followed by a bibliography of primary and secondary sources, including Internet resources, both attributed and unattributed. The index incorporates names, subject areas, and literary works.

The author’s purpose, as stated in the preface, is “to understand the beliefs and behavior of both key and representative figures in the crucial transitional phase from primitive Christianity to early medieval Catholicism.” In the final paragraph of the introduction, he expresses the hope that by presenting a “cross section of personalities and attitudes, we gain insight into the rival approaches to Christian faith that warred during the first few centuries after Christ.” He has succeeded, in general, on both counts through a balanced and non-judgmental presentation of the diverse personalities

who achieved prominence or, in some cases, notoriety in the earliest centuries of developing and evolving Christianity. Although many of these individuals were eventually canonized, the author refrains from using the title of saint, since it was, as he says in the preface, “bestowed upon many of those later regarded as ‘orthodox’” who “became the ‘orthodox’ because they won.” He judiciously qualifies the terms “orthodox” and “heretic” without “necessarily endorsing either side in the religious controversies that are described.” Given that this author does not write as a disinterested observer, but rather as one who has “preached the gospel for more than two decades,” his evenhanded approach is refreshing and commendable.

In his selection of biographical subjects, he has included the major figures of the period, as well as some with whom the general reader is not likely to be familiar, such as **Pammachius**, the Roman senator turned monk; **Ulfilas**, who translated the Bible into Gothic; and **Bonosus**, bishop of Naissus, who maintained that **Jesus**’ mother need not have remained a virgin throughout her life, thus accounting for the mention of siblings of **Jesus** found in the New Testament. Moreover, despite the male domination of early Christianity, we meet with a number of prominent Christian women, including **Faltonia Proba**, who adapted **Vergil**’s *Aeneid* to a Christian interpretation.



In a book of slightly less than two hundred pages, **Roland H. Worth, Jr.**, has provided a good introduction to early Christianity, of which there are already many to be sure. But his biographical format sets his book apart from the more conventional, and often dry, narrative histories. The focus on those men and women who contributed positively or otherwise to the formulation of Christianity as a belief system in its formative centuries should appeal to many, especially younger readers immersed in a culture of celebrity-mania.

The book itself is “user-friendly,” with clearly legible typeface, flexible binding, and a detailed table of contents that lists each biography for ready reference, with many of the biographies themselves subdivided with appropriate headings. Even the “packaging” is effective. The front cover with its full-color portrait of **Saint Jerome** is an eye-catcher. Given the ongoing popularity of the subject matter, this book should find a readership in academic (both high school and college/university) and public libraries.

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diverse sources. The selection of articles in this set offers numerous facts about individual women, as well as providing historic context for the expanding role of women in American politics. Both academic and public libraries will want to consider it for their collections.