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From the Reference Desk

Thomas Gilson

College of Charleston, gilsont@cofc.edu

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verse, in 1986. It was a layman's guide to the frontiers of astrophysics and cosmology. This was followed in 1993 with *Through a Universe Darkly*, a history of astronomers' centuries-long quest to discover the universe's composition. My latest book, published in 2000, is *Einstein's Unfinished Symphony*, about the on-going attempt to detect gravity waves, the last experimental test of Einstein's theory of general relativity. It was my most enjoyable book to research and write, because I was able to capture the excitement of a field just as it is emerging.

Einstein's Unfinished Symphony is a sneak preview of the first new astronomy of the twenty-first century. New observatories have just been built, in both the United States and Europe, which promise to provide a whole new sense with which to explore the heavens. Instead of collecting light waves, these novel instruments will allow astronomers to detect vibrations in the fabric of space-time, literally cosmic spacequakes created by the universe's most violent events, such as stars exploding or black holes and neutron stars colliding. Since gravity waves share the same frequencies as sound waves, when they are recorded they will be played back as sound waves. Hence, the title of my book: capturing these waves will complete Einstein's unfinished symphony. Detection is important to astronomy because gravity waves are the only means to obtain the first direct evidence that black holes exist and will eventually allow us to eavesdrop on the remnant echo of the Big Bang itself. My book chronicles the forty-year quest to reach this moment when observations are beginning.

ATG: You have been published by big commercial trade presses and by lesser presses. Tell us about your publishing experience with these various presses.

MB: My first two books were with two well-established New York publishers: First, **Times Books**, an imprint of **Random House**, and then **HarperCollins**. Big trade presses do have certain benefits for an author starting out. Their far-flung distribution networks get your book into the major outlets, and their connections help you get reviewed in major newspapers and magazines. But, unless you win the "book lottery" and get on the best-seller list, they don't provide much support for marketing and publicity. First-authors are often on their own in getting the word out and setting up lectures and signings through their own networking. This situation has only magnified in recent years as publishing houses merge and focus more attention on selected blockbuster projects, which have higher potential for big profits.

But I have discovered recently that there are alternate paths. Several academic and university presses are now broadening their mission to include works for the general public. Within the last few years the **National Academies Press**, for example, established the **Joseph Henry Press (JHP)** to publish books on science, technology, and health that are aimed for a wider audience. **Stephen Mautner**, the executive editor of **Joseph Henry** and an artful

persuader, convinced me to sign on with them for *Einstein's Unfinished Symphony*. It turned out to be my most delightful publishing experience. Since they bring out fewer books each publishing season than the larger presses, I became the bigger fish in the smaller pond. **Joseph Henry** not only sent me on book tours on both the East and West Coasts, they also ran advertisements in major media outlets, publicity that ultimately led to book sales that surpassed my numbers with the bigger trade presses. My experience with **JHP** was also a return to the publishing days of old, where the author knows everyone on staff personally. There was a "let's-put-on-a-show" atmosphere within the **JHP** offices that was exhilarating. Although I continue to work with commercial publishers (**Pantheon/Vintage** approached me to compile an anthology of the major discovery papers in astronomy, a book that will be out next year), I hope to maintain my relationship with **JHP** as well.

ATG: You have worked with libraries the span of your twenty year career. How have libraries changed? Do you use libraries and librarians as much as you used to? What has changed for the good? And for the bad?

MB: I grew up in an era—the fifties and sixties—when there was little education about library resources. In high school and college, I thought of librarians as the people who primarily rubber-stamped your books at the check-out. I had no idea the wealth of knowledge at their fingertips. I stumbled about the stacks learning about abstracts, indexes, and such on my own. This changed during my employment at *Discover* magazine, which was then part of the *Time-Life* magazine empire. There was an extensive library covering a whole floor of the *Time-Life* building in New York, and when getting background information on various stories I quickly learned how valuable it was to ask the librarians where to find the answers. After that, I never hesitated to seek out new "tricks of the trade" when visiting other archives and libraries. If only they told me back in high school! With these added skills, I probably use the li-

brary more now than in the past. Granted, today I download more journals and magazine articles right from the Internet (I'm in love with **JSTOR** for looking up old science papers), but nothing as yet has replaced the ability to spend all day in the library perusing the books. Until books, old and new, are completely digitized, I'll be a regular library visitor. The one thing I do miss is the old card catalog; a computerized index doesn't feel quite the same. I recall always finding something interesting by taking out one of the boxes and spending some time flipping through the cards in and around my topic of concern.

ATG: Do you publish in electronic format? In print? Can you tell us the pros and cons of each one from your standpoint as an author?

MB: Up to this point, I have always published the old-fashioned way: in print, although some of my articles have been posted on magazine Websites. Primarily, that's because of finances: a successful business model has not yet been established for freelance writers to receive as much compensation for an electronic article as one published the traditional way. If that ever changes, I would be eager to disseminate my writing more widely on the Web.

Einstein's Unfinished Symphony is available—free—to read on the Web, a situation that disconcerted me when first informed of this fact. The **National Academies Press** has a policy that most of their works be freely available to the public electronically. You can try for yourself at <http://books.nap.edu/catalog/9821.html>. Over time, I've come around to the **NAP** viewpoint: they see this service as equivalent to someone going into a bookstore and casually perusing a book to see if they want to buy it. The Web book cannot be downloaded in its entirety but only read one page at a time. So, it offers the public the opportunity to take a book out for a test-drive, viewing the pages exactly as they appear in print. Since it didn't seem to affect my book sales in any negative way (it may actually have helped), I'm now very supportive of this idea.

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) <gilsont@cofc.edu>

Protestantism, a dominant force in Western development since the early 1500's, has grown and spread worldwide. Now there is a comprehensive four-volume reference set that examines and informs its historic diversity and major traditions. Published by **Routledge** and edited by noted scholar **Hans J. Hillerbrand**, the *Encyclopedia of Protestantism* (2004, 0-415-92472-3, \$495) contains over 1,000 entries written by a team of international scholars.

As **Mr. Hillerbrand** notes in his introduction, "the historical dimension dominates" this encyclopedia. However, its coverage is rich and

complex. There are entries on Protestant development in places as different as Estonia and Zimbabwe, and Ulster and the Philippines. Specific movements are discussed ranging from the Awakenings in America and England to the Mass Movements, or conversions of the lower castes, in India. Theological issues from the hallmark teaching of justification to toleration and the acceptance of pluralism to the millennial notion of rapture are given equal consideration. There are also articles on particular creeds and individual religious works, as well as those on specific institutions and organizations. Darker

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issues are confronted in articles on Anti-Semitism, the Ku Klux Klan, Totalitarianism and Colonialism. A great deal of space is given to biographical sketches. But the coverage is varied and in some cases surprising. Theologians, churchmen and philosophers are included, but so are literary figures like **Robert Browning**, the composer **Benjamin Britten**, and the French aristocrat **Alexis De Tocqueville**.

The *Encyclopedia of Protestantism* has all the features that you would expect from a set of this caliber: useful bibliographies, a thematic index of related articles, a list of contributors and a good general index. In addition, there is an appendix of five statistical tables covering various aspects of global Protestantism. The text is not illustrated, but the printing is clear and the layout appealing. The set is attractively bound in a solid cloth binding.

With the *Encyclopedia of Protestantism* Mr. Hillerbrand and his contributors have created an impressive work of distinct quality. It will find its place among other respected encyclopedias like the *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Reformation* (1996, 0195064933, \$495 - also edited by Mr. Hillerbrand.) Reference librarians in both academic and larger public libraries will see it as a requisite part of a serious religion collection.

Communications is a field of study increasingly popular on college campuses and the *Encyclopedia of International Media and Communications* (2003, 0123876702, \$995) published by **Academic Press** should appeal to interested students and faculty alike. Edited by **Donald H. Johnston**, the *Encyclopedia* offers a comprehensive, scholarly review of both the historic background and current state of mass communications worldwide. In keeping its international scope, there are articles on the status of the media in third world countries like Armenia and Botswana, as well as in advanced nations like the Germany and United States. In addition, there are entries on media types and formats from books to satellite broadcasting and from the Internet to television. Different genres

as diverse as political cartoons, encyclopedias and dictionaries, documentary films, and reality TV are discussed, as are media concepts like the information society, freedom of the press and prior restraint. In addition, there is coverage of specific issues like copyright law, violence in film, political bias, and the media depiction of minorities. In all, these four-volumes contain 219 lengthy and substantial articles divided in discrete sections, with a number of the articles having their own glossary. Each entry also has its own bibliography containing books, articles and some Websites. Other features include "see also" references, a thematic index, as well as a thorough list of contributors and a useful general index.

The *Encyclopedia of International Media and Communications* measures up to the standards set by other **Academic Press** titles. The overall selection of topics reflects both the uniqueness and interdisciplinary nature of the field. Each individual article offers inclusive and informed coverage of its topic. Despite its hefty price, academic libraries supporting communications majors will want it in their collections, as will larger public libraries where there is interest.

The *Encyclopedia of Caves and Karst Science* published by **Fitzroy Dearborn** offers a scientific look at these natural openings in the earth's surface. But more than that, it discusses their related surface landscape, as well as the underground environment as an overall system. Landforms and their geology along with accompanying subterranean biological forms, hydrology, climate, cave faunas, and overall ecology are covered in a serious and academic manner. Specific karst regions, as well as individual cave systems are also featured in separate entries. While the emphasis is on science, there are articles on the human impacts and uses of caves with related articles on cave art and archaeology shedding light on the evolution of hominids and modern humans. In addition, the *Encyclopedia* has entries that discuss negative environmental impacts like groundwater pollution, as well as those that focus on conservation and management. There are also articles on cave exploration as sport, as well as for scientific discovery.

John Gunn, joint editor of the journal *Cave and Karst Science* and a professor at the University of Huddersfield, U.K., assembled an international group of specialists to produce the 351 articles in this work.

The content is scientific but clearly written and the bibliographies are impressive, reflecting the scholarly nature of the work.

The text is well illustrated with a section of color plates, as well as numerous black and white photos, charts and tables.

In his introduction, Mr. Gunn displays both knowledge of the science, as well as an enthusiasm for caves and caving that is reflected in the coverage and treatment in the *Encyclopedia*. The *Encyclopedia of Caves and Karst Science* is a natural choice for any academic library supporting courses in geology, hydrology and their related sciences.

There are few who can claim having more impact on human history than **Jesus of Nazareth**. A new reference work, *Jesus in History, Thought, and Culture: An Encyclopedia* (2003, 1576078566, \$185) published by **ABC-CLIO**, informs the reader on the phenomena of **Jesus**, and the impact of his life.

Edited by **Leslie Houlden**, professor emeritus at **Kings College**, London, *Jesus in History*, contains close to 200 entries authored by more than 100 scholars. Naturally, this two-volume set discusses early works of faith like the letters of **Paul**, and both the canonical and non-canonical gospels, but the focus is not limited to scriptural concerns. **Jesus** is discussed in context, emphasizing what has been learned from the "public affairs and culture" of the time, as well as from "archaeological discovery," and contemporary sources like **Josephus**.

In addition to this concern with early Christianity, the meaning of **Jesus** and his life to the people of the Middle Ages, as well as during the Renaissance, through the Age of Enlightenment to modern times are traced.

As you might expect, the entries in this encyclopedia cover diverse subjects. Articles cluster around broad interests like trends in biblical scholarship, schools of Christian thought, cultural manifestations, ethical issues, major styles and forms of Christianity, concerns related to worship and prayer and **Jesus'** relationship with other major religions. Individual articles cover topics from **Albert Schweitzer** to the **Jesus Seminar**, African Christianity to Pentecostalism, Gnosticism to the miracles of **Jesus**, and from Augustine to Feminist Theology. Each article has a bibliography, for the most part of scholarly books, and there is generous use of "see also" references helpfully linking related articles. A topical list of entries, a good general index and a glossary also enhance the usefulness of this work.

Jesus in History, Thought, and Culture leaves few issues left uncovered in treating a fascinating, controversial and often elusive subject. One might quibble with some minor things. Why include articles on **Auden** and **T.S. Eliot**, but not **C.S. Lewis**? Why a full article on **John Dominic Crossan** but no mention of **Elaine Pagels**? And recent scholarship related to the role of women in the early church could have been given more emphasis. However, from the larger perspective, this encyclopedia offers a well planned and well written overview. It tries to be as objective as possible with individual articles treating traditional views with respect, while at the same time, shedding light on controversial theories. Students, scholars and lay readers with an interest in the life and impact of **Jesus** will turn to it repeatedly.

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Tariffs have played a complicated and controversial role in American trade from the beginning of our history. Protectionism and free trade are still actively debated with concern about the impacts of **NAFTA** and the **World Trade Organization** coloring our current politics. The *Encyclopedia of Tariffs and Trade in U.S. History* (2003, 0-313-32789-0, \$299.95) published by **Greenwood**, is a three-volume set that tackles this specialized, but important aspect of U.S. trade history and policy. The first volume provides an alphabetical list of entries that cover "key individuals" and organizations, offer descriptions of important events, discuss the role of political parties, define specific concepts and explain the ramifications of individual tariffs. Volume two contains 36 selected primary documents related to tariff and trade history. These sources are varied and include excerpts from the *Wealth of Nations* and the *Federalists*, as well as **Jackson's** message to Congress on Nullification, **FDR's** 1932 campaign radio speech and the **Gore-Perot** debate over **NAFTA**. The last volume contains the actual texts of the tariff acts from 1789 through 1930 when "Congress passed the last major tariff, the **Hawley-Smoot** tariff."

The *Encyclopedia of Tariffs and Trade in U.S. History* is a useful set appropriate for lay readers, high school students and lower division undergraduates. The coverage of topics, as well as the selected primary sources and the text of the various tariff acts serve to define the scope of tariff history for the reader. The articles are factual, but not overly technical, making the concepts and historical relationships clear and understandable. A Guide to Select Topics and use of "see also" references also aids in clarifying these historical relationships. One negative, the bibliographies are skimpy with one to three references per entry. The primary source documents and actual tariff text help compensate, but more solid bibliographies would enhance the set.

Sometimes it seems like there is a directory for almost everything. Now there is one for possibly the fastest growing industry in the U.S., homeland security. **Grey House Publishing** has recently released the first edition of the *Homeland Security Directory* (2004, 1592370357, \$195). More than 2,600 entries in this directory provide access to a variety of useful information. Federal and state agencies, relevant professional associations, companies specializing in homeland security products, as well as lists of resources like databases and periodicals, are covered. The entries contain snail and email addresses, fax and phone numbers, Web page addresses, and the names of key individuals as well as their positions. In addition, there are brief descriptions, or profiles for many of the entries.

Artists, Technology & the Ownership of Creative Content

Artists, Technology & the Ownership of Creative Content, published by the USC Annenberg Norman Lear Center Press, explores the new digital environment & the impact of intellectual property rights on innovation and creativity. An excellent sourcebook for students & practitioners of IP law, this book covers cutting-edge issues in IP & creativity in a unique & ground-breaking way. This publication, which includes a CD-ROM, is available from the USC bookstore.

"A tour de force. Brilliantly argued, artistically rendered. This book cuts through the usual polemics on this complex & highly charged subject & engages the reader in the subtle twists & turns of the challenge of the digital age." **John Seely Brown**, Former Director, Xerox Palo Alto Research Center; Co-author, *The Social Life of Information*

"Copyright & the control of creative work in the digital world is the most important policy issue that most important policy makers don't yet begin to understand. In this book, the Lear Center has done something extraordinary: It has made understandable...this vitally important topic, in a brilliant & beautiful form. Let this be the first of many such contributions to this debate." **Lawrence Lessig**, Stanford Law School; Author, *The Future of Ideas*

"The Lear Center has done a terrible thing. It has induced the pain of thought. It takes the reader to the edge of a precipice, where we gaze at the digital frontier & the many unanswered questions that dangle there. This is no legal or technological tome. The writing is clear and vivid. We are reminded that technology can either be friend or foe; that the interests of creators sometimes clash with those of consumers or corporations. There are no glib answers, just important questions for the 21st century." **Ken Auletta**, *The New Yorker*; Author, *World War 3.0: Microsoft and its Enemies*

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Of course, a lot of this information is on the Web if you know where to look, but that is the problem, where do you look? And even when you find the information, you will be hard pressed to find it all in one convenient location. The *Directory's* value is that it compiles related homeland security information in a single, easy to use print package. In addition, it points the way to related electronic information in terms of agency, company and association Web addresses. On the downside, it has the limitations inherent in print directories. The timeliness of the information is an obvious concern and flexibility in massaging the

information is restricted. In short, you cannot download, and manipulate the information from a print directory. Added to this is the fact that the directory is fairly pricey. Still, it will be of value for libraries where there is a real demand for this type information.

(For those libraries where this information is essential, the *Homeland Security Directory*, like other **Grey House** directories, is available as a customized database that along with a "free" copy of the print directory is priced at \$385 for an annual subscription.)