April 2013

From the Reference Desk-Reviews of Reference Titles

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Recommended Citation

Gilson, Tom (2013) "From the Reference Desk-Reviews of Reference Titles," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 25: Iss. 2, Article 30.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.6489>

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From the Reference Desk

by **Tom Gilson** (Associate Editor, *Against the Grain*, and Head of Reference Emeritus, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29401) <gilson@cofc.edu>

The *Social History of Crime and Punishment in America: An Encyclopedia* (2012, 9781412988766, \$620) is a five-volume set that offers coverage of this important topic from Colonial times to the present. Edited by **Wilbur R. Miller** and published by **SAGE**, this reference aims to be comprehensive and includes articles that both define and analyze the social and cultural trends related to “crime, policing, courts and law, imprisonment, theoretical and philosophical issues.”

A look at the topical Reader’s Guide attests to this broad approach. Within the pages of this encyclopedia are articles on topics as diverse as antitrust law and victims’ rights; bootlegging and computer crime; the Salem Witch Trials and Homeland Security, and Crime Prevention and Vigilantism. Added to this topical coverage are entries that offer biographical sketches of the famous and the infamous, discussions of numerous state and federal court cases, crime among various ethnic groups and the history of crime in all of the states, as well as selected cities.

The length of articles varies from longer pieces offering historical surveys to shorter articles on specific crimes and events. But the approach is always academic and scholarly. The entries are full of relevant facts and observations and each article is signed and there is a corresponding list of the contributors with their affiliations. All entries have brief but useful bibliographies and along with the previously mentioned Reader’s Guide, “see also” references link related articles. In addition, there is a chronology and a well-structured index providing added value to the set.

But perhaps most impressively, almost an entire volume is dedicated to primary sources and this stands out as a unique contribution. Volume Five consists of 150 documents divided into ten chronological categories offering specific sources ranging from a Plymouth Colony Adultery Case to **Nat Turner’s** Jailhouse confession; a *NYT* article on the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire to the **Communist Control Act of 1954**; and excerpts from cases ranging from *U.S. vs. Exxon* to the *State of Utah vs. Warren Steed Jeffs*. These primary sources also include numerous FBI memorandums and reports, Executive orders and White House Reports, and other public documents. As noted above, the documents are organized chronologically. Each of the ten categories is in-

troduced by an essay that provides historical context for the documents thus furthering an appreciation of their relevance.

Social History of Crime and Punishment in America: An Encyclopedia is a high-quality reference that should find a warm welcome in academic libraries supporting criminal justice curriculums. It will serve to update and broaden the coverage offered by other standards in the field like the *Encyclopedia of Crime and Punishment* (2002, SAGE, 978-0761922582, starting at \$148.74 in Amazon) and the *Encyclopedia of Crime & Justice* (2001, Macmillan Reference, 978-0028653198, \$699). Larger public libraries where there is patron demand will also be wise to consider it. An online version of the encyclopedia is available via *SAGE Knowledge* at <http://www.sagepub.com/knowledge.sp>. The online set joins nearly 30 other titles as part of the **SAGE 2013 Reference Subject Collections** in Criminology.

Native Peoples of the World: An Encyclopedia of Groups, Cultures and Contemporary Issues (2013, 978-0765682222, \$349) is a three-volume set recently published by **M.E. Sharpe**. Employing a unique organizational approach, this three-volume set offers insights into the culture and current issues facing some 400 indigenous peoples.

Edited by **Steven Danver**, the set is divided into three main parts; the peoples themselves, the countries with which they are identified, and the contemporary issues they face. The first two volumes are devoted to the indigenous groups and are divided by continental regions including Africa, Central and South America, East Asia and Oceania, Europe, North America, and South Asia and the Middle East. The entries offer basic information like population figures, languages spoken, the territory they inhabit, relevant ethnic groups, historic background, cultural factors, and the specific issues that confront them. The second section consists of articles that give the reader a sense of the overall place indigenous peoples occupy in the social, cultural and political landscape of the countries where they live, from both a historical and current perspective. The issues section provides overview essays on the numerous issues faced by native peoples ranging from climate change to colonialism, literature to logging rights, and racism to revitalization. All of the entries have individual lists of further readings and there is a collected bibliography in the last volume as well as a brief section of primary documents. The entries are enhanced by black and white photos and a number of related sidebars. “See also” references link related articles from all three sections and a general index points to specific pages and volume numbers.

Native Peoples of the World: An Encyclopedia of Groups, Cultures and Contemporary Issues is a well-designed and scholarly set that takes a serious and informed look at native

peoples worldwide and at the issues they face. It offers a multifaceted approach that affords the reader different perspectives while at the same time providing thorough global coverage. The entries in all three sections are fact filled and precisely written in a style making them equally accessible to high school students, lay researchers, and undergraduates. This is one of those highly useful reference sets that will have equal appeal to high school, public, and undergraduate libraries. In short, it is well worth the asking price. This title is also available on **Sharpe Online Reference** at <http://www.sharpe-online.com>.

Another title from **M.E. Sharpe** that bears consideration is *World Food: An Encyclopedia of History, Culture, and Social Influence from Hunter-Gatherers to the Age of Globalization* (2013, 978-0765682789, \$249). Written and compiled by prolific reference author **Mary Ellen Snodgrass**, these two volumes attempt to take readers on a brief culinary tour of human history in a collection of articles dealing with over 350 subjects.

Coverage is impressive as **Snodgrass** ranges from prepared foods and beverages to regional and period cuisines; from preservation and storage to trade, commerce, and distribution; and from cooking and preparation to food customs and impacts on lore and religion. Given the breadth of the topics to be covered, the articles are necessarily survey treatments but they are factual and reader friendly. Students especially will find this reference work inviting and easy to use as well as helpful in both developing ideas for papers and in getting solid background information. Value-added features include a chronology, an appendix of herbal foods and their uses, a glossary of relevant terms, a 17-page collected bibliography including primary and secondary sources as well as a comprehensive general index. The text is complemented by numerous black and white photos as well as sidebars that offer relevant and illustrative recipes.

World Food: An Encyclopedia of History, Culture, and Social Influence... provides readers with an attractive and accessible set that covers a topic that fascinates us all. Although not as comprehensive and academic as **Scribner’s Encyclopedia of Food and Culture** (2002, 9780684805689, \$629), it is a title that will find a place in high school, public, and undergraduate libraries. Given the popularity of the topic, a number of libraries may also be interested in adding a copy to their circulating collection. If you are interested in the online version it is also available from **Sharpe Online Reference** at <http://www.sharpe-online.com>.

(Libraries desiring a comprehensive collection will also want to consider **ABC-CLIO’s Food Cultures of the World Encyclopedia** (2011, 978-0313376269, \$380).

continued on page 46

IGI Global has just released the 2nd Edition of the *Dictionary of Information Science and Technology* (2013, 9781466626249, \$545). This two-volume set was compiled by **IGI Global's** founder **Mehdi Khosrow-Pour** and provides definitions of some 12,000 terms "vetted" from the publisher's InfoSci Dictionary Database of over 45,000 definitions.

Definitions are provided for selected terms and acronyms in disciplines ranging from accounting information systems to global IT management to virtual communities and from data warehousing to IT evaluation methods to unified modeling languages. The definitions have been culled from individual chapters of **IGI Global** works published from 2008 thru 2012 and represent the efforts of thousands of authors. The arrangement is strictly alphabetical and the entries consist of straightforward, no frills definitions along with the author and date of the original source. The author and date correspond to entries in the massive bibliography that takes up nearly half of the second volume. Researchers, students, and professionals in the field will find themselves turning to this timely reference repeatedly. Academic libraries supporting the various disciplines comprising information science and technology will find this title in demand.

Those libraries with strong graduate programs may want to think about the **IGI Global** InfoSci-Dictionary Database from which the definitions in *Dictionary of Information Science and Technology* are taken. It is a comprehensive list that provides more than 45,000 definitions and is available for annual subscription.

Extra Servings

There are number of new and recent titles that you may want to keep on your radar screen.

In May, **Cambridge University Press** will release two new titles.

- The *Cambridge Dictionary of Linguistics* (9780521766753, \$99) is a single-volume reference that "provides concise and clear definitions of all the terms any undergraduate or graduate student is likely to encounter in the study of linguistics and English language or in other degrees involving linguistics, such as modern languages, media studies, and translation."
- **Cambridge** has also scheduled for a May release the *Cambridge Dictionary of English Grammar* (9780521863193, \$90) which offers "concise, practical definitions and explanations of hundreds of terms. Each term includes examples and cross references to related concepts. All the currently accepted terms of grammar are included, as well as older, traditional names, controversial new coinages, and items from the study of other languages."

against the grain people profile

Richard Brown

Director, Georgetown University Press
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BORN AND LIVED: Born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware (aka The First State). Lived in Atlanta, Charlottesville, Cleveland, Louisville, and now living in Vienna, Virginia, just outside Washington, DC.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES:

Director, **Georgetown University Press**, 2001-present.
Director, **Westminster John Knox Press**, 1996-2001.
Editor, **Pilgrim Press**, 1992-1996.
Editor, The Miller Center of Public Affairs, **University of Virginia**, 1988-1992.
PhD in Religion, **University of Virginia**.
Masters in Theological Studies, **Emory University**.
MBA, **University of Louisville**.
AB, **University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill**.

FAMILY: Married with four children, ages 24, 23, 20, 17.

HOW/WHERE I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS:

More aggregation, more chunking, more social reading, and greater access to digital content in a variety of formats — both paid and OA. I would like to see publishers and librarians and IT departments and scholars collaborating to better serve communities of practice — those groups, in various fields of study, who are creating tools for learning and trying to solve problems. 🌱

SAGE is planning some new June releases.

- *Sociology of Education: An A-to-Z Guide* (9781452205052, \$315, pre-publication) "introduces students to the social constructions of our educational systems and their many players, including students and their peers, teachers, parents, the broader community, politicians, and policy makers. The roles of schools, the social processes governing schooling, and impacts on society are all critically explored."
- *Religious Leadership: A Reference Handbook* (9781412999083, \$315, pre-publication) is a new addition to *The SAGE Reference Series on Leadership* that "explores such themes as the contexts in which religious leaders move, leadership in communities of faith, leadership as taught in theological education and training, religious leadership impacting social change and social justice, and more. Topics are examined from multiple perspectives, traditions, and faiths."

Salem Press has released the first two titles in a new series entitled *Defining Documents in American History*.

- *Exploration and Colonial America 1492-1755* (Dec. 2012, 978-1-4298-3701-9, \$295; eBook Single User: 978-1-4298-3704-0, \$295) "begins

with a collection of exploration and colonial documents, including important journals of exploration, reports of New World settlements, early political tracts on self-governance. Also included are narratives on colonial life and slavery and indentured servitude."

- *The American Revolution 1754-1805* (Dec. 2012, 978-1-4298-3705-7, \$295; eBook Single User: 978-1-4298-3708-8, \$295) "chronicles key documents during the revolutionary era. Included are founding documents, speeches and political tracts, political sermons, and letters. Also included are Native American and African slave narratives."

(Plans call for an additional eight titles to be part of this series.)

Euromonitor has released new editions of two of its standard publications.

- *International Marketing Data and Statistics 2013* (978-1842645888, \$575) is now in its 37th edition providing "demographic, economic, and marketing statistics for 160 non-European countries. A broad range of data is researched including home ownership, health, and population statistics" and spans 30 years.
- And the 20th edition of the *World*

continued on page 47

From the Reference Desk from page 46

Economic Factbook 2013 (978-1-84264-582-6, \$450) has also made its appearance bringing together "key data on the economy and politics of countries around the world. The book has 208 complete country profiles. Data is given for four years (2008-2011)."

RUSA has announced the **Outstanding Reference Sources Award** winners for 2013. They include:

Biotechnology: In Context (2012, 9781414490854, \$270), edited by **Brenda Wilmoth Lerner** and **K. Lee Lerner**, Gale Cengage
Dictionary of African Biography (2011, 978-0195382075, \$1200), edited by **Emmanuel K Akyeampong** and **Henry Louis Gates Jr.**, Oxford University Press

Encyclopedia of Housing, Second Edition (2012, 978-1412989572, \$375), edited by **Andrew T. Carswell**, Sage Publications

Encyclopedia of Peace Psychology (2011 978-1405196444, \$595), edited by **Daniel J. Christie**, Wiley-Blackwell

Encyclopedia of Trauma: An Interdisciplinary Guide (2012, 978-1412978798, \$375), edited by **Charles R. Figley**, Sage Publications

Enslaved Women In America: An Encyclopedia (2012, 978-0313349089, \$89), edited by **Daina Ramey Berry** and **Deleso A. Alford**, Greenwood

Japanese Philosophy: A Source Book (2011, 978-0824836184, \$35), edited by **James W. Heisig**, et al, University of Hawaii Press

Literature of War (2012, 978-1558628427, \$400), edited by **Thomas Riggs**, St. James Press/Gale Cengage

Presidents and Black America: A Documentary History (2011, 978-1608710089, \$145), by **Stephen A. Jones** and **Eric Freedman**, Sage/CQ Press

Typography Referenced: A Comprehensive Visual Guide to the Language, History, and Practice of Typography (2012, 978-1592537020, \$50), edited by **Allan Haley** et al, Rockport Publishers

Women in American Politics: History and Milestones (2012, 978-1608710072, \$225) by **Doris Weatherford**, Sage/CQ Press

And the **American Publishers PROSE Awards** winners were announced February 7, 2013. The winners in the reference categories were:

Multivolume Reference/Humanities & Social Sciences:

- **Cambridge University Press.** *The Cambridge History of Religions in America* (2012, 978-1107013346, \$450) Edited by **Stephen J. Stein**; Honorable Mention: **Wiley-Blackwell** *The Encyclopedia of War* (2012, 978-1405190374, \$990). By **Gordon Martel**.

Multivolume Reference/Science:

- **Elsevier Science & Technology.** *Comprehensive Renewable Energy*. (2012, 978-0080878720, \$2750) Edited by **Ali Sayigh**; Honorable Mention: **Elsevier**, *The Geologic Time Scale 2012* (2012, 978-0444594259, \$115). By **Felix M. Gradstein**, **James G. Ogg**, **Mark D. Schmitz**, and **Gabi M. Ogg**.

Single Volume Reference/Humanities & Social Sciences:

- **Oxford University Press.** *The Oxford Handbook of African American Citizenship, 1865-Present*. (2012, 978-0195188059, \$175) Edited by **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**, **Claude Steele**, **Lawrence D. Bobo**, **Gerald Jaynes**, **Lisa Crooms-Robinson**, **Michael Dawson**, and **Linda Darling-Hammond**; Honorable Mention: **Wiley-Blackwell**, *A Companion to Women in the Ancient World*. (2012, 978-1405192842, \$207.95). By **Sharon L. James** and **Sheila Dillon**.

Single Volume Reference/Science:

- **Elsevier Science Technology/Academic Press.** *The Laboratory Rabbit, Guinea Pig, Hamster, and Other Rodents* (2012, 978-0123809209, \$199.95) Edited by **Mark Suckow**, **Karla A. Stevens**, and **Ronald P. Wilson**; Honorable Mention: **University of Toronto Press**, *The Natural History of Canadian Mammals*. (2012, 9781442644830, \$69.95) By **Donna Naughton**.

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