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From the Reference Desk--Reviews of Reference Titles

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This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.
These opening two paragraphs of Chapter III — “The Flight of the Zany” from Miguel Ángel Asturias’ El Señor Presidente is a perfect illustration of why I study word craft, admire word craft, and particularly the word craft provided the English version of Latin American authors. Once again, the translator is inspiring. Frances Partridge provided the English version of Asturias’ Spanish word craft. This novel is centered around the influence of a dictator on the people of an unnamed Latin American country. Asturias was a native of Guatemala and though he never identified his country in the story, the character of “Presidente” exhibits similarities to Manuel Estrada Cabrera, who reigned from 1898-1920 in Guatemala.

Miguel Ángel Asturias was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala in 1899, and died in Madrid, Spain in 1974. In between he traveled extensively; studied abroad; worked as a journalist, novelist, playwright and poet; was elected to the Congress; served as the Guatemalan ambassador to France and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1967 “for his vivid literary achievement, deep-rooted in the national traits and traditions of Indian peoples of Latin America.” Asturias' biographical information includes discussions on the novel El Señor Presidente. The critically acclaimed work was finished in 1933 but it took until 1946 for it to be published and released privately in Mexico. He penned the work while living in exile in Paris. The influence of the Surrealist movement, his passion for his country, the influence of the Mayan culture, and his concerns about life under a dictator all provided the rich material for this novel.
also be of interest to libraries building minority and ethnic studies collections. In addition, it is one of those titles that could find a place in either reference or circulating collections depending on need. This work, as well as others in the series, is available electronically via Credo Reference at http://corp.credoreference.com/.

Extra Servings

SAGE has published some recent titles including:

- The SAGE Encyclopedia of Economics and Society — 4 volumes (Dec. 2015, ISBN: 978-1483350004, $585) is edited by Sarah E. Boslaugh and “explores the social and policy sides of the pharmaceutical industry and its pervasive influence in society.”
- The SAGE Encyclopedia of Pharmacology and Society (Dec. 2015, ISBN: 9781483350004, $585) is edited by Sarah E. Boslaugh and “explores the social and policy sides of the pharmaceutical industry and its pervasive influence in society.”

Oxford University Press has also published two new titles:

- The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and the Arts — 2 volumes (Nov. 2015, ISBN: 9780199846511, $395) edited by Timothy Beal is “an in-depth, comprehensive reference work that covers the cultural history of biblical texts, themes, characters, images, and the Bible itself in the literary, visual, and musical arts. Appearing in response to the shifting landscape of biblical studies over the last decade, OEBART embraces the broadest possible definition of ‘interpretation,’ one that includes a cultural-historical perspective…”
- The Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in Contemporary Politics, Law, and Social Movement — 2 volumes (Oct, 2015, ISBN: 9780199744619, $395) edited by Suzanne Oboler and Deena J. González and “provides a comprehensive source of information on the diverse historical and contemporary experiences of Latinos and Latinas in the United States … addresses the significant ways in which the Latino and Latina populations have shaped the political, legal, and social institutions of the United States, with new and updated scholarship on political movements and organizations, important legal cases, minority-rights laws, and immigration legislation…”

ABC-CLIO has a couple of new titles as well including:

- Asian American Religious Cultures (Sept. 2015, ISBN: 978-1-59884-330-9, $189; eISBN: 978-1-59884-331-6, call for pricing) edited by Jonathan H. X. Lee, et al. “examines the diversity of the Asian American and Pacific Islander spiritual experience… The coverage includes not only traditional eastern belief systems and traditions such as Buddhism, Confucianism, and Hinduism as well as Micronesian and Polynesian religious traditions in the United States, but also the culture and religious rituals of Asian American Christians…”
- American Indian Culture: From Counting Coup to Wampum (Sept. 2015, ISBN: 978-1-4408-2873-7, $189; eISBN: 978-1-4408-2874-4, call for pricing) edited by Bruce E. Johansen “provides a comprehensive historical and demographic overview of American Indians along with more than 100 cross-referenced entries on American Indian culture, exploring everything from arts, literature, music, and dance to food, family, housing, and spirituality… Examples of topics covered include icons of Native culture, such as pow wows, Indian dancing, and tipi dwellings; Native art forms such as pottery, rock art, sandpainting, silverwork, tattooing, and totem poles; foods such as corn, frybread, and wild rice; and Native Americans in popular culture…”

Rumors

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Just saw on liblicense that The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) has published a set of consensus principles for the library, content-provider and software-provider communities (http://bit.ly/niso_patron_privacy) to address privacy issues related to the use of library and library-related systems. This set of principles developed over the past eight months focuses on balancing the expectations libraries users have regarding their intellectual freedoms and their privacy with the operational needs of systems providers. The twelve principles covered in the document address the following topics:

- Shared Privacy Responsibilities; Transparency and Accountability; Organizations and individuals are encouraged to provide public comments on the NISO Privacy Principles, as well as to register their support for the principles, on the NISO Website. This project was generously supported by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. http://bit.ly/niso_patron_privacy
- Ann Okerson’s popular panel in Charleston 2015 — The Long Arm of the Law — focused on the topic of Privacy and consisted of Gary Price (topic: Ignorance is No Excuse), Bill Hannay (topic: Privacy: A Legal Overview), Lisa Macklin (Libraries within the Higher Education Privacy Framework). Once again a fascinating panel!