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## From the Reference Desk--Reviews of Reference Titles

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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 Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Design* (2015, 978-1472521576, \$599) is a new three-volume set that looks at the world of design from a broad multidisciplinary perspective. As such, it is more than a collection of entries covering key designers and styles. As defined for the purposes of this reference, design is more than “objects and appearances.” It also takes into consideration a variety of other complex issues.

Given this expanded notion of design, editor **Clive Edwards** places a spotlight on the relationship of design to broader cultural, economical, political, environmental and psychological concerns. He also includes entries covering different movements in design history, as well as those dealing with various design theories and practice. Added to this coverage are additional entries that discuss national and regional influences as well as relevant cultural, educational, and professional institutions.

Overall, the *Encyclopedia* consists of nearly 1800 articles written by some 200 scholars. The primary focus is on developments in design over the last 150 years. Except for a few exceptions like entries on design movements like **Bauhaus** and those on specific national design, the majority of articles are concise and to the point, offering biographical sketches, definitions, descriptions, and explanations. Each entry has “see also” references and brief bibliographies, many of which offer just one or two citations. In addition, there is a comprehensive general index and a bibliography of added sources. As you would expect the set is illustrated, primarily with black and white photos. While the photos are adequate, given the subject matter, one wishes that some color plates had been included.

In spite of these minor reservations, *The Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Design* does the reader a real service. It uses a broad definition of design that allows for an enriched vision of design and its various influences. It provides students, scholars, professionals, and interested lay readers a handy ready reference source that should address the vast majority of their questions while expanding their perspectives. It should be a welcome addition to a number of academic library collections as well as to larger public libraries where there is strong interest.



*And Were the Glory of their Times: Artillery* (2014, 978-1568374345, \$75) is the first volume of a projected three-volume series by **Herbert O. Chambers, III**. Published by **Broadfoot Publishing** these reference works aspire to offer a fully updated and comprehensive list of South Carolina Confederate War dead along with as much individual biographical information as is available. If volume one is any indication, **Mr. Chambers** is well on the way to accomplishing that goal.

With its focus on the artillery, this volume lists a total of 1,312 soldiers with some 622 names being newly discovered of which 562 are confirmed to have died in service while the other 60 are listed as inconclusive. The book is organized by regiment and then divided by company with the names then listed alphabetically. In introducing these regimental and company sections, **Mr. Chambers** also provides a background discussion of the various campaigns and battles in which they participated.

The entries themselves include the soldier's rank, company, date and place of enlistment, as well as cause, date, and place of death and burial when available. Age and marital status are also provided when known and as much additional family information as possible is included. Naturally, the entries vary in this regard but a surprising number are very thorough and will be of great help to genealogists and others interested in their personal family history. Value-added features include an impressive bibliography and an alphabetical index of names along with the relevant page references.

*And Were the Glory of their Times...* is a project that is far more than an impressive work of research; it is a labor of love. **Mr. Chambers** has tried to be as comprehensive and thorough as possible, not only searching in online sources like *Ancestry.com* but scrutinizing roll after roll of microfilm to flesh out the record. He has combed through the official *Compiled Service Records* of the war as well as wills, probate records, estate appraisals, deed, equity, and tax records, not to mention marriage and death records, family letters, and of course, archive and library collections.

Once completed, *And Were the Glory of their Times...* will be a welcome addition to the current research about South Carolina's Confederate War dead. It should complement, update, and correct the current standard source *Broken Fortunes: South Carolina Soldiers, Sailors, and Citizens Who Died in the Service of Their Country and State...* by **Randolph W. Kirkland Jr.** (reprinted 2012, University of South Carolina Press, 978-1611171433, \$39.95).

Academic and public libraries as well as archival collections that collect in this area will want to add it to their reference shelves — and where there is heavy interest, to their circulat-

ing collections. In fact, a number of historians, both amateur and professional, as well as serious genealogists will want personal copies.

(The second volume *And Were the Glory of Their Times: Cavalry* (ISBN: 978-1-56387-437-6 \$75) is also currently available and the third volume, *And Were the Glory of Their Times: Infantry* will be published by November 2016.)

*Defining Documents in American History: Postwar 1940s (1945-1950)* (2015, 978-1-61925-739-9; e-ISBN: 978-1-61925-740-5, \$175) is new title in this fairly extensive series from **Salem Press**. As with past volumes, the intent is to offer students excerpts of key historical documents along with context and analysis adequately reflecting their importance and relevance.

This volume discusses 40 primary sources that mirror significant events and prevalent issues that arose during the years directly following the Second World War. As such, documents like the *Nuremberg Code*, the *NATO Treaty*, and testimony regarding the Communist investigations are considered along with the *Report of the President's Commission on Civil Rights*, **Truman's** statement on Immigration into Palestine, and the *Taft-Hartley Act*.

Each entry is structured and written in a way that enables students to understand the background and grasp the context of the document, as well as its importance and relevance to the postwar era. Each offers a document excerpt, a summary overview, a defining moment, an author biography, a document analysis, the essential themes and a bibliography of further reading. The essays are fact filled and offer a clear explanation of the importance of each document while at the same time providing a solid jumping off point for further exploration.

*Defining Documents in American History: Postwar 1940s* will be welcome by students and should find a home in high school, public and undergraduate libraries. And like the other books in this series, it may find its most value in circulating collection, especially given **Salem's** offer to provide online access to those libraries purchasing print copies of their references.

The *SAGE Encyclopedia of African Cultural Heritage in North America* (2015, 978-1452258218, \$340) is concerned with exploring the cultural links between Africa and the Americas with a focus on the retention and continuity of African cultural heritage. According to editors **Mwalimu J. Shujaa** of **Southern University** in New Orleans and independent scholar, **Kenya J. Shijaa**, this two-volume set is informed by a different perspective than traditional Western formulations. The focus in this encyclopedia is on “the historical and cultural significance of Africa as source and

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origin,” not on the history, sociology, economics, and politics of North Americans of African descent.

Therefore, it is not surprising that among the 350 articles in this set, there are numerous entries that reflect broad cultural topics including adornment and decoration, food ways, arts and aesthetics, ceremonies and rituals, spirituality and religion, and family and kinship. There are also entries that discuss specific communities and populations ranging from Africiville, Nova Scotia to Soul City, North Carolina and from the Gullah/Geechee traditions of South Carolina to the Freedom Colonies in Texas. A number of articles also reflect the professional and scholarly nature of this emerging field by covering various concepts, theories, and models and discussing various institutions, organizations and publishers.

The articles are scholarly and grounded in academic research while being straightforward, factual and easy to access. Each entry ends with useful “see also” references and a list of academic resources for further reading. While the set is text rich with few illustrations, the layout is clear and easily navigated with articles being divided by useful subheadings.

The *SAGE Encyclopedia of African Cultural Heritage in North America* embodies a unique academic perspective. It will help undergraduates and graduate students gain new and useful insights into the direct influences of African culture. As such, it should find a place in a number of academic library collections supporting African Studies and Black Studies curriculums. It is also available electronically via the SAGE Knowledge platform.

### Extra Servings

Cambridge University Press recently published these literary references:

- The *Cambridge Guide to the Worlds of Shakespeare* (2016, ISBN: 9781107057258, \$650) is a two-volume set edited by **Bruce R. Smith** that “aims to replicate the expansive reach of **Shakespeare’s** global reputation. In pursuit of that vision, this work is transhistorical, international, and interdisciplinary. *Shakespeare’s World, 1500-1660*, volume one, includes a comprehensive survey of the world in which **Shakespeare** and his contemporaries lived, while *The World’s Shakespeare, 1660-Present*, volume two, examines what the world has made of **Shakespeare** as a cultural icon over the past four centuries...”
- The *Cambridge History of Jewish American Literature* (2015, ISBN: 9781107048201, \$180) offers an “examination of all aspects of Jewish American literature. Jewish writing has played a central role in the for-

mation of the national literature of the United States, from the Hebraic sources of the Puritan imagination to narratives of immigration and acculturation. This body of writing has also enriched global Jewish literature in its engagement with Jewish history and Jewish multilingual culture...”

Salem Press has releasing a couple of new biographical reference sets:

- The *Classical World: Ancient Lives & Extraordinary Places* (2015, 978-1-68217-189-9, e-ISBN: 978-1-68217-190-5; \$295) “covers world cultures from prehistory through the year 700 C.E. with in-depth analysis of civilizations, key figures, cities, cultures and daily life. Its three volumes stretch beyond the boundaries of the ancient world of Greece, Rome and Egypt, to include Egypt, China, the Near East, Europe, Africa, the Americas and more, to provide true world coverage ... The set begins with 26 overview essays, from Agriculture to Writing Systems, followed by 1,100 alphabetically arranged essays on persons, cultures, wars, battles, documents or works, traditions or cultural phenomena, structures or artifacts, places or sites, terms, and groups or civilizations...”
- *American Presidents, Fourth Edition* (2015, ISBN: 978-1-61925-940-9; e-ISBN: 978-1-61925-941-6; \$195) is a “brand-new, two-volume edition presenting 44 essays on the life and politics of the U.S. presidents, all arranged chronologically by administration. Each essay begins with ready reference information, including name, administration number, years served, birth and death dates, political part, vice president, and cabinet members by department. A comprehensive portrait of each president is then presented, from birth to political rise to election, term(s) in office, defeat or retirement, and death. Every essay ends with an annotated bibliography...”

Bloomsbury Academic has released a new art title:

- The *Encyclopedia of Embroidery from the Arab World* (2015, ISBN: 9780857853974, \$240) by **Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood** is “the first reference work to chart the history of embroidery from Ancient Egypt to the present day and to offer an authoritative guide to all the major embroidery traditions of the region. It maps the diversity of embroidery from the Maghreb to the Gulf States, from Turkey to Sudan, traces the impact of trade, commerce, politics and religion on materials, colors, styles and fashions...”

ABC-CLIO has also released some new titles including:

- *Clothing and Fashion: American Fashion from Head to Toe*. (2015, ISBN 9781610693097, \$415; eBook: ISBN 978-1-61069-310-3, call for pricing) is a four-volume set that offers an “overview of fashion and apparel and covers several centuries of American history as seen through the lens of the clothes we wear — from the Native American moccasin to **Manolo Blahnik’s** contribution to stiletto heels. Through four detailed volumes, this work delves into what people wore in various periods in our country’s past and why — from hand-crafted family garments in the 1600s, to the rough clothing of slaves, to the sophisticated textile designs of the 21st century...”
- *Imperialism and Expansionism in American History: A Social, Political, and Cultural Encyclopedia and Document Collection*. (2015, ISBN: 978-1-61069-429-2, \$415; eBook ISBN: 978-1-61069-430-8, call for pricing) is a four-volume reference that provides “coverage of a subject central to American history and of urgent importance today as the nation wrestles with a global imperial posture and the long-term viability of the largest military establishment in human history. The work features more than 650 entries encompassing the full scope of American expansionism and imperialism from the colonial era through the 21st-century “War on Terror...”

In addition, Palgrave Macmillan has a couple of interesting new titles:

- The *Palgrave Encyclopedia of Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism* (2015, ISBN 9780230392779; \$480) by **Immanuel Ness** and **Zak Cope** “objectively presents the prominent themes, epochal events, theoretical explanations, and historical accounts of imperialism from 1776 to the present...”
- The *Palgrave Handbook of the History of Mass Dictatorship* (2015, ISBN 9781137437624, \$210; eBook ISBN 9781137437648 \$210) is edited by **Paul Corner** and **Jie-Hyun Lim** and “offers a fresh and original approach to the study of one of the dominant features of the twentieth century. Adopting a truly global approach to the realities of modern dictatorship, this handbook examines the multiple ways in which dictatorship functions — both for the rulers and for the ruled — and draws on the expertise of more than twenty five distinguished contributors coming from European, American, and Asian universities...”