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From the Reference Desk--Reviews of Reference Titles

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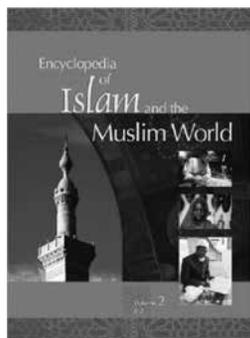
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From the Reference Desk

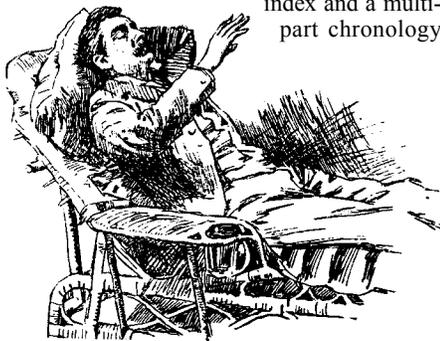
by **Tom Gilson** (Associate Editor, *Against the Grain*, and Head of Reference Emeritus, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29401) <gilson@cofc.edu>

The second edition of the *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World* (2016, 9780028662725, \$489) published by **Macmillan**, part of **Gale Cengage Learning** has just been released. Updating the 2004 version, the set is again edited by **Richard C. Martin** and contains 540 articles by more than 350 scholars arranged alphabetically in two volumes. According to **Mr. Martin** the second edition has some 260 entries that are new or have been revised as well as “more than 350 photographs drawings, maps and charts... nearly twice as many as the first edition.”



Like its predecessor, the scope here is broad and expansive, employing a multidisciplinary approach. Articles deal with individual aspects of a number of larger themes like art and architecture, language and literature, law, the economy, education, and the sciences. In addition, there are essays that delve into the specifics of family, ethics, and society, as well as those covering important organizations and political movements, and of course, various Islamic religious sects, sites and practices. Entries have also been included that focus on those countries and peoples who identify themselves with Islam as well as major Muslim cities.

The individual entries are factual, descriptive and provide relevant analysis while at the same time offering useful historic context. There is an obvious attention to scholarship throughout the set with each entry being signed, including the academic credentials and affiliation of the author. Entries can run from brief explanations and definitions to long involved essays. The articles are cross referenced and each has a bibliography appropriate to the length of the entry. Unfamiliar concepts and terms are usually explained in the article but there is also a useful glossary. Other value added features include a very useful thematic outline, a thorough and comprehensive index and a multi-part chronology



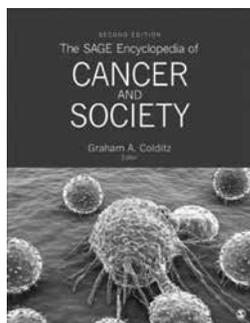
divided by world regions. Perhaps one of the most impressive features of these two volumes is the attention to quality illustration and layout contributing to a truly handsome presentation. The use of numerous color plates, maps, and attractive side bars makes this reference stand out.

The *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World* is a truly impressed effort. It provides students and serious lay readers with an academic reference that is scholarly and well researched but reader friendly. Expertise is drawn from a number of disciplines and editor **Richard C. Martin** is at pains to note that the contributors come from a highly diverse collection of international scholars. The coverage is broad and inclusive with top-notch production values that visually enhance both volumes.

The *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World* should find a place on the shelf next to other standards in the field like *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World* (2009, 9780195305135, \$795) and the *Encyclopedia of Islam* (Brill, 2007-. ISSN 1873-9830, \$139 per volume).

(The set is also available via GVRL – Gale Virtual Reference Library.)

The *SAGE Encyclopedia of Cancer and Society* (2016, 9781483345734, \$495) is a second edition of a title that was first published in 2007 and received a 2008 Editors' Choice Award from *Booklist*. Once again the editor is **Graham A. Colditz** who has assembled some 280 contributors to write the more than 600 articles contained in the set half of which have been revised along with 30 articles that are new to this edition.



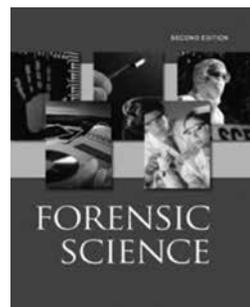
As one would expect, these three volumes contain numerous articles on the specific forms of cancer. But equal emphasis is placed on the behavioral and social factors that both cause, prevent, and relieve cancer. Given that, there are articles that discuss carcinogens and prevention as well as treatments and therapies, not to mention related societal issues like poverty, the environment, and life style choices. In addition, there are entries that describe cancer in over 120 countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe as well as those covering major hospitals and treatment centers, numerous cancer related associations and pharmaceutical companies.

As befits a topic of such importance, the articles are fact filled, detailed, and objective. The approach is scholarly and informed by current research, while at the same time, the results are intelligible to the interested lay readers as well as to undergraduates and graduate students. Of necessity, medical terms are used, but they are described and explained within the entry, and in addition there is a useful glossary. “See also” references and further reading lists are included for all articles. The arrangement is alphabetical and for finding aids there is a Reader's Guide that gathers articles into broad categories as well as a helpful general index. There is also a resource guide in volume three that lists a variety of relevant books, journal titles, and websites. In addition, there is an appendix that contains the Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Result (SEER) statistics from 1975-2011.

The *SAGE Encyclopedia of Cancer and Society* offers researchers a comprehensive, well designed, and accessible resource. With these three volumes, editor **Graham A. Colditz** and his contributors provide a valuable service in describing and defining the problems cancer poses worldwide, along with the forces and various methods being used to combat it. They offer a significant amount of useful and relevant information as well as a starting point for more extensive exploration. Most academic libraries would do well to give it serious consideration. It might also find space on the shelves of larger public libraries where there is interest.

(*SAGE Encyclopedia of Cancer and Society* is also available full text on the SAGE Knowledge online platform.)

Another second edition that should be up for consideration is **Salem Press' Forensic Science** (2015, 978-1-61925-729-0, \$364; e-ISBN: 978-1-61925-730-6, \$364) edited by **Ayn Embar-Seddon** and **Allan D. Pass**. This is a three-volume set that explores the use of science in criminal investigation to accumulate evidence in solving crimes. However, it also discusses the broader role that forensics plays in civil cases and in identifying victims of accidents and natural disasters. In short, the editors and their contributors try to offer an academic but real world approach to what admittedly has become a popular topic of discussion due to TV crime shows and the media.



As such, while *Forensic Science* covers topics like poisons and antidotes, gunshot wounds, and blunt force trauma, there is also coverage of the role of forensics in art forgery, product liability, and accident investigation and reconstruction. In addition, specific types of

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evidence are discussed in individual entries as are various branches of forensics ranging from forensic accounting to forensic psychology. There are also articles that discuss professional aspects of forensics ranging from specific tools and methods to relevant associations and institutes and from key publications to the importance of professional ethics.

The articles vary in length from 500-3,000 words and are written in a straightforward and descriptive style. Each entry starts with a brief definition of the topic and an indication of its significance. The remainder of the essay offers a clear explanation of the topic that provides relevant and useful information as well as offering a firm foundation for further research. Sidebars are used to emphasize certain elements within a topic and as you would expect, “see also” references guide readers to related articles. In addition, there is a category guide in the last volume that is helpful in grouping articles into broad subject areas. All entries have brief bibliographies. The set is not heavily illustrated but includes black and white photos as well as some tables and charts interspersed throughout each volume. Overall the entries are well organized and the layout is inviting and readable.

The second edition of *Forensic Science* is a scholarly, fact-based treatment of a topic that has grown substantially in interest and popularity. The essays are succinct and accessible and provide a resource that will be appreciated by high school students, undergraduates and the informed lay reader. Libraries interested in a handy, less involved treatment may also want to consider *A Dictionary of Forensic Science* by **Suzanne Bell** (2013, 9780199594009, \$21.95; eISBN: 9780191757648) published by Oxford University Press.

Extra Servings

According to their Websites a number of reference publishers are releasing some new and upcoming titles including:

- The *SAGE Encyclopedia of Theory in Psychology* (May 2016, 9781452256719, \$375) is a two-volume set edited by **Harold L. Miller, Jr.** of **Brigham Young University** that “drawing together a team of international scholars... examines the contemporary landscape of all the key theories and theorists, presenting them in the context needed to understand their strengths and weaknesses...”
- The *SAGE Encyclopedia of LGBTQ Studies* (May 2016, 9781483371306, \$595) is a three-volume set edited by **Abbie E. Goldberg** of **Clark University** that “examines and explores the lives and experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) individuals, focusing on the contexts and forces

that shape their lives. The work focuses on LGBTQ issues and identity primarily through the lenses of psychology, human development and sociology, emphasizing queer, feminist and ecological perspectives on the topic...”

- The *SAGE Encyclopedia of Corporate Reputation* (July 2016, 9781483376516, \$375) is a two-volume reference edited by **Craig E. Carroll**, visiting scholar at **New York University** that for the first time, explores “the vast and important field of corporate reputation ... in the format of an encyclopedic reference. The *SAGE Encyclopedia of Corporate Reputation* comprehensively overviews concepts and techniques for identifying, building, measuring, monitoring, evaluating, maintaining, valuing, living up to and/or changing corporate reputations...”

ABC-CLIO/Greenwood has also added a couple of new titles:

- *Folktales and Fairy Tales: Traditions and Texts from around the World*, 2nd Edition (Feb. 2016, 978-1-61069-253-3, \$415; eBook, 978-1-61069-254-0, call for pricing) is a four volume work edited by **Anne E. Duggan** and **Donald Haase**, with **Helen J. Callow** that “is the only multivolume reference in English to offer encyclopedic coverage of this subject matter. The four-volume collection covers national, cultural, regional, and linguistic traditions from around the world as well as motifs, themes, characters, and tale types. Writers and illustrators are included as are filmmakers and composers — and, of course, the tales themselves...”
- *Asian American Culture: From Anime to Tiger Moms* (March 2016, 978-1-4408-2920-8, \$189; eBook, 978-1-4408-2921-5, call for pricing) edited by **Lan Dong** “provides comprehensive coverage of a variety of Asian American cultural forms that enables readers to understand the history, complexity, and contemporary practices in Asian American culture. The contributed entries address the diversity of a group comprising people with geographically discrete origins in the Far East, Southeast Asia, and the Indian subcontinent, identifying the rich variations across the category of Asian American culture that are key to understanding specific cultural expressions while also pointing out some commonalities...”

Salem Press also has two new titles:

- *Defining Documents in American History: The 1960s (1960-1969)* (April 2016, 978-1-61925-888-4, \$175; e-ISBN: 978-1-61925-889-1,

\$175) is a single-volume resource that “provides students and researchers new insights into the 1960s in the U.S., through an in-depth analysis of forty important primary source documents and their lasting effect on American history...”

- *Fashion Innovators* (April 2016, 978-1-61925-898-3, \$145; e-ISBN: 978-1-61925-899-0, \$145) is a two-volume set that provides “biographies of nearly 200 individuals who had an innovative and influential impact on the development and evolution of the modern fashion industry...”

And last but not least, **Oxford University Press** is planning some new releases:

- *The Oxford Handbook of Music Therapy* (March 2016, 9780199639755, \$185) edited by **Jane Edwards** is intended for “the entry level trainee — meaning students of music therapy can easily locate information they need for assignments and learning about clinical populations in preparation for placement; each model of practice is presented by the founder or international leader in the approach, resulting in an authoritative text...”
- *The Oxford Handbook of the Prophets* (Sept. 2016, 9780199859559, \$150) edited by **Carolyn Sharp** offers a “wide-ranging discussion of ancient Near Eastern social and cultic contexts; an exploration of focused topics such as the persona of the prophet and the problem of violence in prophetic rhetoric; and sophisticated historical and literary analysis of key prophetic texts...”

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period when the profession could most benefit from applying “big data” techniques to solve complex library and information science problems, generate economies of time and promote monetary savings for their own institutions.

Despite the seemingly negative tone towards our profession, this text remains a highly useful reference. By taking emerging and complex issues and breaking them into bite-size morsels, the benefit extends to those who want to serve more effectively in their current role and educates prospective information professionals. With the book’s aerial view highlighting the frequent intersections where “big data” creates problems and information science provides answers, some readers may even be on their way to exploring new career paths by reading this book. 🌱