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From the Reference Desk-Reviews of Reference Titles

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electronic formats. Librarians are faced with challenging decisions as to which products they can afford and in what format will make the most sense and will gain the widest use. Our goal is to provide complete flexibility, helping the librarian make informed decisions as to which format will provide them with affordable and attractive content.

ATG: At your launch in Washington, DC, you mentioned M.E. Sharpe as a competitor. What other established publishing companies will you be competing with the Sage Reference imprint?

RJ: There are several players that publish in academic and/or public library markets. Macmillan, OUP, Fitzroy Dearborn, Academic Press, ABC-CLIO just to name a few.

ATG: What kind of staff will you have in your new imprint?

RJ: As a new venture, I am starting with a limited staff. I will still be able to use resources and staff from Sage's book program but I do envision hiring acquisition and marketing staff in the near future. I should mention that I am working with a very experienced consulting staff working on product acquisition, publicity and market research.

ATG: Tell us about yourself. What do you like to do for fun? Hobbies? Reading?

RJ: I have been in academic book publishing for over 20 years. Before Sage, I was the Vice President and Publisher for ABC-CLIO. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, listening to music and enjoy reading books on American History. Now living in Santa Barbara, CA, I can spend more time during the year out on the golf course but unfortunately more time doesn't equal better play.

From the Reference Desk
by Tom Gilson (College of Charleston) <gilson@cofc.edu>

The much anticipated 5-volume Encyclopedia of the American Civil War: A Political, Social, and Military History (2000, 1576070062, $425) has just been released by ABC-CLIO. In terms of content and scope, this encyclopedia generally lives up to the pre-publication hype. It offers the reader a comprehensive and informed view of the complicated events, issues and people that made the Civil War such a seminal part of American History.

There is a lot of information within the covers of these 5 volumes. Naturally the military side is given full treatment. There are entries on the great armies, the major and minor battles, the weapons and ordnances used to create the carnage, the successful strategies and costly blunders of both sides and the competent and inept generals. The political part is also given thorough coverage. There are individual articles on each presidential election leading to and during the war, as well as coverage of the leading politicians. In addition, there are articles on the political parties and movements, laws and policies, as well as formative issues like abolition and secession. The Encyclopedia also lives up to the "social" part of its subtitle. There are articles on the role of women, peace movements, class conflict within the armies, the influence of religion, and protest riots, both north and south. Specific entries also attest to the influence of popular songs like the Battle Hymn of the Republic and Dixie, books like Uncle Tom's Cabin and newspapers like the Richmond Examiner and the New York Tribune. In addition, each state, and its unique role, has a separate article. However, there is at least one surprising lack of clarity. Finding information on the issue of States' Rights is more difficult than it needs to be. There is no specific article about the topic and the index makes no cross-reference to the article on Secession that discussed the concept. But even there, one senses a reluctance to emphasize the term States' Rights.

Production quality is a definite plus. The print is clear and easy to read, and the set is strikingly illustrated with black and white drawings and photos, as well as numerous battle maps. There are also some added features that increase the value of this encyclopedia. Volume V includes 273 pages of original documents arranged by broad category, lists of officers and government officials, maps of battlefield sites by state, a chronology, bibliography and a fairly thorough index. However, the index can be a bit cumbersome. The set is continuously paged throughout the volumes and while the index refers to specific page numbers, it contains no key telling which pages are in each volume.

Despite these criticisms the Encyclopedia of the American Civil War: A Political, Social, and Military History is a quality production. It will delight scholars and civil war buffs alike. Comprehensive but accessible, this encyclopedia gives the reader a thorough and inclusive source of information that will answer specific questions, as well as serve as a foundation for further research. With this multi-volume set, the American Civil War has a worthy subject encyclopedia, and that is no small accomplishment. Academic, public and some high school libraries will want it in their collections.

Academic Press has just published another timely and important set. The Encyclopedia of Biodiversity (2001, 0122286852, $695) is evidence of the growing concern for conservation and the enhanced appreciation of ecological diversity. This is one of those areas of study where science has mixed with social science to the betterment of both, and the Encyclopedia of Biodiversity reflects, and benefits from the mix.

The articles offer in-depth treatment of the topics covered. Each is introduced by an outline and includes its own glossary of terms and a useful bibliography. Graphics in the form of tables, charts, maps continued on page 49
and diagrams enhance each entry and aid in clarifying the text. As you would expect, there are a number of articles that deal with the scientific aspects of biodiversity. Articles that cover complete ecosystems from the Amazon to the Antarctic are interwoven with those on herbicides, ultraviolet radiation and parasitism. There are also articles on the systematics of biological classification, techniques like remote sensing and those that discuss a variety of both vertebrates and invertebrates. However, the social sciences are also given their due with articles on public policy, like the concept of stewardship, and government law and regulation. Global issues like the loss of rainforests and the impacts of human energy use are also included as are articles dealing with economics, like land use issues and the role of tourism. In short, the breadth of coverage in this encyclopedia is truly impressive. A look through the "contents by subject area" section, in Volume 1, is revealing and will confirm this observation. It also serves to give the reader a sense of scope. Specific topic and subtopic access is provided by a useful index in Volume 5, which also contains a list of contributors and a full glossary.

The *Encyclopedia of Biodiversity* is another significant effort by Academic Press. Comprehensive and thorough, it offers a scholarly look at an essential topic. It will have broad appeal and should include scientists, policy makers and students in its audience. Academic libraries and larger public libraries are an obvious market, but some governmental agencies and special libraries will also want to consider it.

Another multi-volume set that librarians will welcome is the third edition of the *Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology and Behavioral Science* published by John Wiley (2001, 0471239496, $600). Edited by W. Edward Craighead and Charles B. Nemeroff, this set updates a reference that has become a standard tool in many academic libraries. More than 1200 articles by over 1000 contributors are squeezed within these 4 volumes. As authoritative, but more clinical in tone than Oxford University Press’ recent *Encyclopedia of Psychology* (see the review in the Sept. 2000 ATG, p 54), this edition increases the emphasis on advances in the behavioral sciences. Articles on topics like Bipolar Disorder, specific aspects of brain function, Alzheimer’s disease, the effects of growth hormone, halfway houses, hallucinogenic drugs and psychosurgery are new, or substantially updated. On the other hand, articles like the ones on psychopharmacology, group dynamics and infant socialization are nearly verbatim. Another thing to consider, one-third of the articles have been replaced with newer topics. Articles like those on group pressure, the Guttman scale and psychoneurology that appeared in the second edition are not in the new version. My point is, while the new information in this set is valuable, don’t throw out the older edition.

This new edition also has the biographical sketches and bibliographies that made up so much of volume 4 in the second edition, appropriately interspersed within the entire set. Being a part of the whole and not in a separate volume makes this information more readily accessible and is an improvement. Academic libraries, in particular, will want to seriously consider this new edition.

Routledge’s *Encyclopedia of Feminist Theories* (2000, 0415132746, $140) makes no pretenses. It is proudly pro-feminist. In addition, it does not

<http://www.against-the-grain.com> 49
From Copernicus to Newton (2000, 0815315031, $150) can be found elsewhere, this book ties the topic together, shedding light on relationships not as apparent in other more disparate works.

As you would expect, the Encyclopedia of the Scientific Revolution highlights the incredible scientific advances that led to this “turning point in the history of science.” The time period defined as the scientific revolution is the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Names like Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler, Harvey, Bacon, Descartes, Leibniz and Newton ring through these 200 years and give a sense of what is covered. Besides the contributions of these scientists there are also articles on changes within broad disciplines like mathematics, astronomy, physics, optics, medicine and technology. There is also an effort to set the stage for these advances with articles on prior “philosophies” and worldviews from the ancient Greeks through the Renaissance. But science does not occur in a vacuum. The Encyclopedia also treats the social and cultural contexts in which these discoveries were made. There are entries that deal with relationships between the sciences and social concerns like politics, religion, class, language and literature, as well as articles on the occult, and what are now perceived as pseudo-sciences, like astrology and alchemy. Designed for ease of use, this visually attractive volume is arranged alphabetically and contains both a topical outline and a helpful index. Related articles are linked by “see also” references and each entry has a brief bibliography.

The Encyclopedia of the Scientific Revolution from Copernicus to Newton provides focus to a time of sweeping change that firmly broke with past beliefs and ushered in the modern era. It is a compelling story, and one that this encyclopedia helps clearly define for both student as well as interested lay reader. It is deserving of serious consideration by reference librarians wanting to strengthen their history of science collection.

Archaeology of Ancient Mexico and Central America: An Encyclopedia (2001, 0815308876, $95) is another Garland single volume reference that will stir interest. This book capitalizes on the increasing attention given the pre-Columbian civilizations of Mesoamerica and responds with over 500 articles informed by current research.

Coverage stretches from the earliest evidence of human occupation during the Paleo-Indian period up through the Col...
and useful work, at a reasonable price. It is a natural for academic libraries. Where there is heavy interest, larger public libraries will also want to consider it.

Academic librarians, in particular, will welcome the second edition of George L. Campbell's *Compendium of the World's Languages* (2000, 0415202981, $400). Published by Routledge, this two-volume set has been expanded to include 24 more languages and most of the remaining articles have been updated. There is coverage of nearly 400 languages or language families. All the articles follow the same structure starting with an introduction that provides historic and social background and then continues with sections on script, phonology, and morphology and syntax. In addition, each entry includes an illustrative text providing a visual of the language in print. Entries are arranged alphabetically and there is a list of all entries with appropriate "see" references for those languages not covered individually. Because of the no-frills arrangement, using this reference is fairly straightforward. However, it is not meant for the novice. There is no glossary explaining the terminology employed and to make best use of it, some knowledge of language and linguistics is necessary.

The *Compendium of the World's Languages* is authoritative and scholarly, but it gives the reader more than specificities about individual languages. While browsing through this set you are also struck by the multiplicity and richness of human language. Nonetheless, its main value is as a handy, but substantial, collection of information related to a diversity of languages. My only reservation is the price. Admittedly, this title is specialized and may have a limited audience. However, $400 for a 2-volume set is a bit steep and libraries that own the first edition may question the high cost. Still, academic libraries that seriously support courses in linguistics and the study of comparative language will want to add this second edition to their collections.

(Those libraries needing something for their circulating collections may want to consider the paperback edition of Bernard Comrie's *The World's Major Languages* (1990, 0195065115, $39.95) published by Oxford University Press. Although lacking coverage of Native American languages, at this price it is a real value.)

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**Book Reviews — Monographic Musings and YA Literary Commentary**

Column Editor: Deborah Vaughn (College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>

When I think of the month of February, images of red construction paper hearts lined with white rickrack and pink Cupid cutouts come to mind. Sometimes, I can even smell the heart-shaped, iced sugar cookies that my wonderful mother still makes for Valentine's Day. Certainly, the fourteenth day of the second month, the day that the legendary priest Valentine was martyred, is the most celebrated February holiday. But for those of you who may have tired of this mostly-romantic observance, or for those of you who are looking for an additional holiday to keep, the *Friends and Foundations of California Libraries* offer Library Lover's Month. The Library Lover's Month Web page (http://www.callibraries.org/librarylowers/) presents, among other things, tips on how to love your library (contribute, be a friend, volunteer, and promote) and a sample proclamation to officially declare Library Lover's Month in your library. What a wonderful way for bibliophiles to express their passion and ardor!

Of course, the heart of any library is information and books, and this month's reviewers celebrate their love of the printed word. The great Ellen Finnie Duranceau shares her thoughts on Bill Bryson's *In a Sunburned Country*: the tried-and-true Philip Powell explores Dorothea von Schwanenflugel Lawson’s *Laughter Hasn’t Rationed*; and newcomer Angela Megaw dives into Norman Desmarais’ *The ABCs of XML* and Reaz Hoque’s *XML for Real Programmers*. A reference librarian and instructor at Gainesville College in Gainesville, Georgia, Angela received her BA in Psychology from the University of Georgia and her MLIS from the University of South Carolina. Currently, she is back at UGA working towards a Masters in Instructional Technology. Welcome, Angela!

This Library Lover's Month, pour your heart and mind into volumes of information, and prepare yourself for the April celebration of National Library Week. Hugs and kisses, and happy reading! — DV

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**Monographic Musings**


Reviewed by Ellen Finnie Duranceau (Assistant Acquisitions Librarian for Digital Resources, MIT Libraries) <efinnie@mit.edu>

Bill Bryson is one of the funniest writers I know of. His latest book, *In a Sunburned Country*, is simply hilarious, and the most impressive thing about it is that you'll learn a tremendous amount about Australia while you are laughing yourself silly.

You may know Bryson as the best-selling author of *A Walk in the Woods*, about his abortive attempt to hike the entire Appalachian...