

## SOURCES

is meant to be. He comes to the conclusion that it should be understood in the light of friendship, comfort, and reassurance. The information in these volumes, therefore, is intended to be approachable, informative, and of interest to a varied audience. The term “exploration” also is difficult to define, and in this work is taken at its broadest, though somewhat subjective, connotation. Buisseret has made an effort to include many non-western explorers and topics and admits to a prejudice in favor of women because their role has “often been overlooked” (xxiv). This is possibly an allowable prejudice.

*Oxford Companion to World Exploration* is organized alphabetically, with people, places, and concepts intermingled. It has an impressive, extensive list of international contributors, and all the entries are signed. The length of each entry depends on the importance and breadth of the subject, and each has a brief bibliography, with some sources annotated. Reputable Web sites, such as MapHist and The Map History Discussion List ([www.maphist.nl](http://www.maphist.nl)), are occasionally included. See also references are included where appropriate.

Illustrations and maps accompanying the entries are black-and-white, with color plates of maps and illustrations grouped together and referred to in the body of the entries. Many of the illustrations are historic photographs, works of art, and illustrations from rare books and manuscripts, which certainly add to the interest of the topics. The *Companion* is published in association with the Newberry Library, and their extensive collection is well-represented in the illustrations and maps.

The topics and people included in the work are varied and eclectic. An example is “Medical aspects of exploration,” which was unexpected but very interesting and informative. Aspects of space exploration also are included in the work—coverage is sporadic, but adequate for a general resource such as this. Another concept that isn’t usually found in works such as this is “Literary Representations.” For example, the entry “Pacific: Literary Representations” focuses on the Pacific in literature rather than eyewitness discovery accounts.

Several other resources can be found that are similar to this one. The *Encyclopedia of Exploration* (Facts On File, 2004) is another two-volume work. It separates the entries between explorers (volume 1) and places, techniques, and cultural trends (volume 2). I prefer the alphabetical format of the *Oxford Companion to World Explorations* and find the entries in it more interesting and diverse than those in the Facts On File work. One of the best resources on world exploration is, sadly, out of print. *Times Atlas of World Exploration: 3,000 Years of Exploring, Explorers, and Mapmaking* (HarperCollins, 1991) is a beautiful work that cannot be matched in color illustrations and maps.

*Oxford Companion to World Explorations* is well-written and provides an interesting, diverse overview of world exploration. I recommend it, with reservation, to high school, large public, and university libraries. My reservation is that the most interesting reading in the volumes is found mostly by browsing, and most library users are not likely to be

browsing a reference work.—*Suzanne T. Larsen, Faculty Director, Jerry Crail Johnson Earth Sciences and Map Library and Oliver C. Lester Mathematics and Physics Library, University of Colorado, Boulder*

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**Renaissance and Reformation.** Ed. by James A. Patrick. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2007. 6 vols. acid free \$469.95 (ISBN 0-7614-7650-4).

Surveying European history from 1300 to 1700, this lavishly illustrated encyclopedia features 158 articles by thirty-nine scholars on the leading figures, places, and events of the Renaissance and the Reformation. The encyclopedia is divided into six volumes, with five containing articles and the sixth providing a variety of supplementary materials. Arranged alphabetically, the articles cover the breadth and scope of Europe during these periods of dramatic change, constant upheaval, artistic triumph, and technological development. Topics include biographies of artists, writers, rulers, popes, and families, such as Lucrezia Borgia, Giotto, Leo X, Machiavelli, Thomas More, and the Viscontis; articles on specific countries, such as England, the Italian city-states, Poland, and Switzerland; and entries that provide an overview of broad concepts, such as agriculture, astrology, banking, education, exploration, Islam, medicine, music, warfare, and women. Volume 1 provides a useful thematic index to the articles divided into the following categories: architecture, painting, and sculpture; daily life; literature and music; people; philosophy, religion, and scholarship; places; politics and economics; the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation; rulers and ruling families; science, technology, and exploration; and wars and battles.

The sixth volume in the set provides a variety of useful tools, including a detailed timeline; a helpful glossary of terms; resources for further studies, including both books and journals; “places to go,” which is primarily a listing of museums (the Galleria Borghese in Rome is inexplicably omitted even though it contains the best examples of Bernini’s work); Internet resources; and resources for young readers. There also are eight indexes, including an index to the maps, six thematic indexes, and a comprehensive index. Each volume also has an index limited to that particular volume. In reality, except for the index to the maps, the comprehensive index alone would suffice in place of the thematic and individual volume indexes because it contains the entries from all the other indexes.

In comparison to other encyclopedias of either the Renaissance or the Reformation, the articles in *Renaissance and Reformation* provide greater depth for the selected topics. The shortest article is four pages in length, while many exceed ten pages. Other encyclopedias, such as *Encyclopedia of Italian Renaissance and Mannerist Art* (Macmillan, 2000), *Encyclopedia of Renaissance Literature* (Facts On File, 2006), *Encyclopedia of the Renaissance and the Reformation* (Facts On File, 2004), or *The Hutchinson Encyclopedia of the Renaissance* (Westview, 1999), either focus on specific aspects, such as art

or literature, or provide very short, dictionary-style entries. The multivolume *Encyclopedia of the Renaissance* (Scribner, 1999), on the other hand, provides nearly twelve hundred signed entries. Although most of these articles are short, they do provide a greater variety of information than is found in *Renaissance and Reformation*. Together, *Renaissance and Reformation* and *Encyclopedia of the Renaissance* complement one another and form an excellent set of core resources for the study of the Renaissance and the Reformation.

Ideally suited for general readers and also for students in high school or college, this encyclopedia will be a wonderful addition to the reference collections of those academic libraries that support programs in European history, art history, or religious studies. It does not replace other reference works on the Renaissance or the Reformation, but for research on topics related to this period of history, it will be a great starting point that will not overwhelm students.—Gregory A. Crawford, *Director, Penn State Harrisburg, Middletown, Pennsylvania*

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**Schirmer Encyclopedia of Film.** By Barry Keith Grant. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2007. 4 vols. acid free \$425 (ISBN 0-02-865791-8).

*Schirmer Encyclopedia of Film* is an attractive, four-volume set with two hundred entries on many different areas of film studies, including genres, history, the industry, interpretation, technology, and theory. What it is not is a who's who in film or a movie guide.

The alphabetically arranged entries range in length from 1,500 to 9,000 words. Written by scholars from around the world, each is well-researched and detailed. Although the language is certainly accessible to the layperson, not all topics covered may be of interest to a general audience. Some examples of entries are "Dialogue," "Gangster Films," "Melodrama," "Silent Cinema," and "Surrealism," just to name a few. It also should be noted that there are a number of entries on cinema in foreign countries, including Australia, Israel, Poland, and Turkey. A list of citations for further reading concludes each entry, and see also references are provided when applicable.

There are more than two hundred color-coded sidebars that profile the careers of important people in film as they relate to a specific topic. For example, Katharine Hepburn appears in the Academy Awards entry because she has won more than any other actor. Each sidebar concludes with lists of recommended viewing and further reading.

Visually, this work is exquisite. The paper is high-quality, which makes reading the text and viewing the five hundred photographs (150 of them in color) a most pleasant experience. Fittingly, perhaps the most stunning photograph is a still from *The Wizard of Oz*, which is featured in the entry on "Color."

The set concludes with a glossary, information about the work's advisors and contributors, and a comprehensive index in which the volume and page range for the main entries are helpfully indicated in bold.

In comparison, Ephraim Katz's hefty softcover book, *The Film Encyclopedia: The Most Comprehensive Encyclopedia*

*of World Cinema in a Single Volume*, 5th ed. (HarperCollins, 2005), is considerably cheaper (\$30 versus \$425) and covers more ground (nearly 8,000 entries), but it is much less in-depth.

*Schirmer Encyclopedia of Film* may be a bit pricy, depending on your library's budget. However, in addition to the other positive things already noted about this set, it is also the most up-to-date work of its kind currently on the market. It would be an excellent addition to any general academic library's reference collection and would also be appropriate for larger public libraries.—Samantha J. Gust, *Reference Librarian, Niagara University Library, Niagara University, New York*

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**Science, Religion, and Society: An Encyclopedia of History, Culture, and Controversy.** Ed. by Arri Eisen and Gary Laderman. Armonk, New York: M. E. Sharpe, Inc., 2007. 2 vols. acid free \$279 (ISBN 0-7656-8064-5).

The timing of this publication could hardly be better. In light of high-stakes clashes between and among religious and scientific viewpoints, there is a growing call to raise the level of public and academic discourse in this area. *Science, Religion, and Society* goes a long way toward doing just that. The book originated in a Emory University faculty reading group that attracted colleagues from a wide variety of disciplines and grew into many related projects. True to the spirit of that collaborative discourse, Arri Eisen (a professor of biology and ethics) and Gary Laderman (professor of American religious history) have gathered essays from a remarkably diverse set of contributors from many disciplines in the sciences and humanities and from many traditions, including "Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Taoist, as well as agnostic and atheist, and from African and Native American traditions" (xvi).

*Science, Religion, and Society* examines its subject as broadly as possible in terms of time, place, culture, and even the concepts of "science" and "religion" themselves. Although articles on the major religions and the Western scientific tradition are included in every section, other articles present perspectives from other cultures and other times. The overall effect is to foster a more nuanced, universal understanding of the themes involved in debates over such issues as evolution and medical ethics. In keeping with this approach, a consistent editorial tone has not been enforced. Though this is beneficial on the whole, some articles suffer from a didactic tone, and a couple are admittedly "idiosyncratic" (6). There are also a few confusing inconsistencies in style.

The great scope and diversity of articles is managed by grouping them topically. There are two introductory sections of general overviews and historical perspectives, followed by six sections on creation, ecology, and evolution; consciousness; healers; death; and genetics. The editors' introductory articles to the sections are valuable and engaging. Each article has a bibliography, and there is a comprehensive bibliography for each of the eight sections at the end of the second volume, along with the general index and information on the