

of the *Penguins*, these omissions only underscore that a work such as this is long overdue.

As documentary filmmaking has emerged from nearly every country in the world, it is essential that coverage be international in scope. More than thirty countries and regions are represented in entries written primarily by university-affiliated scholars from across the globe. More than seven hundred entries ranging in length from five hundred to several thousand words are enhanced by approximately two hundred photographs. Perhaps one minor complaint is that because this is a work dealing with a visual medium, the corresponding illustrations are fewer than might be expected.

In addition to entries on individual films, directors, and producers, other entries include countries and regions, styles and techniques, themes and issues, and general topics and concepts. Entries for individuals are followed by a short biography, selective filmography, and recommended titles for further reading. Each of the three volumes contains an alphabetical and a thematic list of entries, editor's introduction, and comprehensive index.

Winner of the ALA/RUSA Dartmouth medal for one of this year's most outstanding reference works, this much-anticipated resource will be welcome in academic libraries, film-studies collections, and larger public libraries.—*Robin Imhof, Reference Librarian, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California*

Encyclopedia of the New American Nation: The Emergence of the United States, 1754–1829. Ed. by Paul Finkelman. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$395 (ISBN 0-684-31346-4).

Editor Paul Finkelman, professor at the College of Law at the University of Tulsa, and the four-hundred-plus individuals who contributed to this three-volume work have produced a wonderful reference resource. Consisting of 667 articles of various lengths, *Encyclopedia of the New American Nation* provides a wealth of information about America, dating from 1754, when Americans felt a sense of their potential for self-governance following the French and Indian Wars, to 1829, when a new generation, symbolized by Andrew Jackson, was taking over from the founding fathers.

The *Encyclopedia* completes a larger project. It is the last of a series of four encyclopedias from publisher Thomson Gale that present a detailed understanding of American history from the time of European exploration of the New World to the start of the twenty-first century.

These volumes are organized like many of their kind: table of contents, introductory matter, entries, a list of contributors, and an index. Also present are a chronology of the period covered, which spotlights significant events from each year, and a synoptic outline, or list of twenty-two topics that shed light on the organizing principles behind the encyclopedia: "Foreign Relations," "Arts and Letters," "Daily Life," "Gender and Sexuality," and "War and the Military" are but a few. In addition to expected entries, such as those for the American Revolution, Benjamin Franklin, the Monroe Doctrine, and the Battle of Bunker Hill, there are entries on

"Furniture," "Material Culture," "Weights and Measures," and "Holidays and Public Celebrations." By including them, the editor places his encyclopedia in a category apart from others that merely cover politics, economics, biographies, and other traditional topics of the same time period.

Though the encyclopedia is excellent, there are a few things about which to quibble. A general bibliography would have been useful. This is not to say that the volumes are devoid of bibliographic sources since many are listed following every entry; however, a listing of books and articles or a bibliographical essay on the general time period would have been useful. In compiling any encyclopedia, editorial decisions are made that lead to omitting some topics in favor of others. Why, for example, is there an entry for Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, but not Morristown, New Jersey, where General Washington's troops were also headquartered? Why is there an entry for the Hudson River, but not the Delaware River? Why are the writings of Edward Deming Andrews, the pioneer scholar of the Shaker religious sect, omitted from the bibliography on the Shakers? In the table of contents in volume one, a heading reading "Volume 1" leads users to believe that everything that follows is in that volume. Such is not the case. Whoever designed the table of contents did not include "Volume 2" and "Volume 3" as headings.

These shortcomings aside, in deciding whether or not to acquire the encyclopedia, collection-development librarians will check their holdings to see what they already have under the headings United States—History—Colonial period, ca. 1600–1775—Encyclopedias; United States—History—Revolution, 1775–1783—Encyclopedias; and United States—History—1783–1865—Encyclopedias. Large university libraries undoubtedly have quite a bit, while smaller libraries probably have fewer titles. Even if materials are present, it would be advisable to acquire these volumes because many of their entries are not included among the books already on the shelf.—*E. Richard McKinstry, Andrew W. Mellon Senior Librarian, Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware*

Encyclopedia of War and American Society. Ed. by Peter Karsten. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$395 (ISBN 0-7619-3097-3).

The introduction to the *Encyclopedia of War and American Society* outlines a theoretical approach to its subject. The theory is that each event, person, or trend that reflects a relationship between war and American society can be defined as a "direct effect of war, having an interactive relationship with war, or [as] an unintended result of war" (2). As a result of this framework, the individual entries in the set are cohesive, rather than being simply a collection of pieces. As stated by the editor, the articles range from general to specific, meaning one can find an article discussing the concept of memory as it pertains to all American wars as well as a detailed description of the film *Saving Private Ryan*. Every official war in which Americans participated, from the Revolutionary War to the war on terrorism, is addressed.