

SOURCES

research with both an established canon and with vibrant newcomers—both current popular writers and those whose works may have been neglected or marginalized in the past by virtue of the authors' social class, race, gender, or other criteria. For example, the essay on "Latino Short Fiction" devotes nearly two pages to a discussion of the work of Américo Paredes (Mexican-American folklorist and novelist), but there is no separate entry on Paredes, although he is included in the "More Latino Writers" list. Luis Urrea, author of the best-selling novel *The Hummingbird's Daughter* (Little, Brown 2005) and also of the acclaimed nonfiction work, *The Devil's Highway* (Little, Brown, 2004), does not appear at all. The work is to be commended though, for including many writers (Rubén Darío, Elena Poniatowska, José Martí, Eduardo Galeano, to name only a few) known for journalism, history, and other works of nonfiction.

Libraries with access to the Thomson Gale Dictionary of Literary Biography series will find the material more complete and scholarly than Magill's. (For coverage of Latino and Latin-American authors, the critical volumes are: *Chicano Writers*, First Series, vol. 82 [1989]; *Chicano Writers*, Second Series, vol. 122 [1992]; *Chicano Writers*, Third Series, vol. 209 [1999]; *Latin-American Dramatists*, First Series, vol. 305 [2005]; *Modern Latin-American Fiction Writers*, First Series, vol. 113 [1992]; and *Modern Latin-American Fiction Writers*, Second Series, vol. 145 [1994].) Scholarly coverage of Latin American literature can be found in the *Encyclopedia of Latin-American and Caribbean Literature, 1900–2003*, (Routledge, 2004) and *Encyclopedia of Latin-American Literature* (Fitzroy Dearborn, 1997). *Latin-American Writers* (Scribner, 1989) and its *Supplement* (2002) is a standard reference in English for Latin America, while *Latino and Latina Writers* (Scribner, 2004) covers U.S. Latino/a authors.

Small academic libraries, as well as high school and public libraries serving Latino readers, would benefit from the well-organized, concise, and relatively inexpensive information provided by *Notable Latino Writers*. Larger college and university libraries may find that they already provide more comprehensive and scholarly information, both in the print resources listed above and in online reference databases such as Thomson Gale's *Literature Resource Center* or *Oxford Reference Online*.—Molly Molloy, *Border and Latin American Subject Specialist, Reference and Research Services, New Mexico State University Library, Las Cruces*

Science and Scientists. Ed. by Editors of Salem Press. Magill's Choice series. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$207 (ISBN 1-58765-302-8).

Science and Scientists focuses on breakthroughs in scientific theory and understanding. The three volumes not only follow the format Magill's Choice has used so successfully in its other reference books, it incorporates text from several other Magill's Choice titles. Some of these entries have been updated, some have been edited to accommodate the focus on the scientific advance, and others are virtually unchanged.

Entries are arranged alphabetically and include the date, people involved, and a list of suggested readings. This arrangement isolates entries in the same discipline from each other. In contrast, Stephen G. Brush's *The History of Modern Science: A Guide to the Second Scientific Revolution* (Iowa State Univ. Pr., 1988) gives each discipline a chapter that allows the reader to easily follow progress within each discipline.

The text in *Science and Scientists* provides the context for each breakthrough and its impact on science. The language is accessible and illustrations and sidebars enhance the text. Subject and name indexes provide additional entrance to the content. The third volume contains a list of Nobel Laureates in the sciences, a chronology of scientific advances from 585 B.C.E. to 2005, and a list of Web sites about science. Overall, this set is accurate and attractive. It will help nonhistorians and nonscientists learn more about the history of science.

Other sets that encompass some of the same information include Frank N. Magill's *Great Events From History II Science & Technology Series* (Salem, 1991) and Neil Schlager's *Science and Its Times* (Gale Group, 2000). These sets cover ancient to modern times, and each of them provides context for each discovery or advance. If your library owns one of these other titles and doesn't have much demand for science history, you may not want to purchase *Science and Scientists*. Public and school libraries will find *Science and Scientists* well suited for their nonspecialist clientele.—Robin N. Sinn, *Research Services Librarian, The Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland*

Sex from Plato to Paglia: A Philosophical Encyclopedia. Ed. by Alan Soble. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2006. 2 vols. acid free \$299.95 (ISBN 0-313-32686-X).

This resource is remarkable in that it straddles the lines between a reference work and a study companion, between scholarly and general-interest reading. The stated "general goal" is to "educate its readers in the fundamental questions, approaches, insights, and conclusions in the continuing and expanding field of the philosophical study of human sexuality and, in the process, to be not only instructive but also thought-provoking and occasionally entertaining" (preface, [xi]). Editor Alan Soble meets and surpasses this goal. This work does not offer easy fixes or categorizations to problems in the way popular culture often does. As Soble explains in the introduction, "what philosophical thought about sexuality tends to reveal, even flaunt, is that the Human Condition cannot be reduced to easy formulas and platitudes, that our sexual existence . . . is barely recognized by ourselves and much too complex to be neatly ordered . . ." (xxii).

The historical scope exceeds that indicated by the title, including entries on pre-Platonic and post-Paglian philosophy. The 153 signed entries by thirty-three contributors (fifty entries discussing figures, sixty covering topics, and forty covering schools of thought) are well balanced. Writing styles reflect various philosophical methods, from analytic to continental, and diverse perspectives, from libertarian to conser-

vative. Most contributors are philosophers, although work was also commissioned from scholars in other fields. Soble describes the encyclopedia as “eclectic,” a term that perhaps does a disservice to the work. As any resource covering an interdisciplinary field should do, the encyclopedia reveals connections between theology, science, law, philosophy, psychology, medicine, and social science without losing focus of what could be an unwieldy subject.

All entries contain in-text citations to material listed in the references section that follows each entry. In-text citations to books include specific information, such as page, section, or paragraph numbers to aid readers in finding the relevant passages referred to. In addition to the references section, each entry is followed by additional reading lists compiled by the editor that include extensive citations to related materials. These bibliographies often contain duplication, an advantage to readers who browse the work selectively rather than reading the entire encyclopedia. Cross references to other entries are indicated by boldface type within the text. The “Guide to Related Topics” is a useful feature that groups entries together under twenty-two common headings, such as “Analytic Philosophy,” “Catholicism, Roman,” and “Medicine.” The second volume concludes with a selected general bibliography that, combined with a list of works in the abbreviations section, constitute a core list of literature in the field, convenient for librarians and faculty.

Soble notes in his introduction that the philosophy of sex as an academic pursuit can be said to have blossomed in 1969 with the publication of *Sexual Perversion* by Thomas Nagel, who applied analytic philosophy to sexual matters. Since then, several historical records of academic writing have been published. For example, Igor Primoratz’s *Human Sexuality* (Ashgate, 1997) reprints important journal articles published in the late twentieth century; Soble’s *Sex, Love, and Friendship* (Rodopi, 1997) collects essays prepared for the Society for the Philosophy of Sex and Love from 1977 to 1992. *Sex from Plato to Paglia: A Philosophical Encyclopedia* differs from these in that it integrates and presents the scholarship in such a way as to provide both a reference source and a unique compendium to the field that can easily be used as a primer, one that is destined to become a classic.—Lisa Roberts, *Cataloger, California State University, Sacramento*

Shaping of America, 1783–1815, Reference Library. By Richard C. Hanes, Sharon M. Hanes, and Kelly Rudd. Ed. by Lawrence W. Baker. Detroit, Mich.: Thomson Gale, 2006. 4 vols. acid free \$215 (ISBN 1-4144-0181-7).

If the goal of reference books for younger readers is to spark their interest, *Shaping of America: 1783–1815* should far exceed that goal. Juvenile works for this time period are generally either fairly brief (for example, Stephen Feinstein’s *Rise of a New Nation: The Chronicle of American History from 1787 to 1815* [Bluewood Bks., 2000] and Isaac Asimov’s *The Birth of the United States, 1763–1816* [Dennis Dobson, 1974]) or concentrate on a single person (for example, James Giblin’s

The Amazing Life of Benjamin Franklin [Scholastic Pr., 2000]). An exception is *America Speaks: The Birth of a Nation* (Grolier, 2005), which in ten slim volumes examines the time period through various trades and occupations, such as *Merchants* (vol. 1), *Transporters* (vol. 4) or *Lawmen* (vol. 8). *America Speaks* seems to be aimed at audiences that are a bit younger. *Shaping of America* combines well-written and in-depth coverage of the era with rather detailed biographies and a separate volume of primary sources, offering more than one thousand pages on the subject.

Shaping of America has four volumes: *Almanac*, *Biographies* (2 volumes), and *Primary Sources*. Each volume begins with a seven-page introduction that sets the stage for the early 1780s in American history. An explanation about the Articles of Confederation is provided, along with a description of frontier life and what the frontier was in this time period. This is a good starting point for students, who may not be entirely certain about the differences between the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution, for example. The individual volumes offer a reader’s guide, explaining what is covered in the particular volume, and then a timeline of events. The timeline is nearly identical for each volume, although that for *Biographies* is adjusted to highlight events concerning the lives covered in *Biographies*. For example, in both the *Almanac* and *Biographies*, May 10, 1775, is included in the timeline as the date for the convening of the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. The *Biographies* goes on to include March 31, 1776, as when “Future first lady Abigail Adams writes a letter to husband John Adams (the future second president), asking him to ‘remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than [were] your ancestors’” (xx). Names of people that are included in *Biographies* appear in bold type. Also included in each volume is the section “Words to Know,” which provides brief definitions of terms that may be unfamiliar to twenty-first century students. A detailed index rounds out each volume.

The fifteen chapters of the *Almanac* volume begin by providing background on the “Colonial Foundation” and then on the “Confederation.” Other chapters include “A New Government, 1789–1793,” “A Farming Society,” and “Slavery, Free Blacks, and Native Americans.” Sidebars with further information appear throughout. Interesting illustrations from primary sources are used to good advantage throughout the *Almanac* and the other volumes. “Where to Learn More” is a nine-page compilation of the additional readings and Web sites given at the end of each chapter, which conveniently puts all of these resources together and gives students, parents, and teachers a substantial list of additional materials. The *Almanac* also offers “Research and Activity Ideas,” a section for teachers and parents that encourages further exploration of the topics covered, such as “Comparison of Constitutions,” “Developing a Capital City,” and “Free Black Communities.”

Primary Sources introduces young scholars to the excitement of using primary documents in their research. Eighteen historical documents are excerpted, ranging from *The Alien and Sedition Acts* to the diary of Martha Ballard, a Maine