

Books have been written about particular wartime accidents, and one similar title is *Accidents Happen: A Study of Non-Combat Related Fatal Accidents Involving United States Military Personnel 1979 through 1990* (Center for Study of Responsive Law, 1991). The scope of Mireles' work, however, appears to be unique. It would fit well in the reference collections of libraries with comprehensive World War II collections or in libraries that are used frequently for historical research.—Evan Davis, *Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana*

Gothic Literature: A Gale Critical Companion. Ed. by Jessica Bomarito. Gale Critical Companion Collection. Detroit, Mich.: Thomson Gale, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$385 (ISBN 0-7876-9470-3).

Beginning with the classic Gothic novels of the eighteenth century, Gothic literature continues to build in popularity. Edmund Burke is attributed with defining the essence of Gothic fiction as literature evoking a sense of “delightful horror.” Without question, the umbrella of Gothic studies covers a continuum of “the horrible,” “the terrible,” and at times, “the diabolical,” all of which can be found in the literatures of romanticism, naturalism, fantasy, and of course, the supernatural.

Fourth in the Gale Critical Companion Collection (GCCC) series, *Gothic Literature* is designed to complement Gale's Literary Criticism Series and to offer scholarly interpretation and criticism on major literary movements and topics for the introductory research needs of students (xix). Through a contextual approach that provides historical and cultural scholarship on Gothicism in its varying forms, *Gothic Literature* covers thirty-seven writers and provides critical treatment of their works. Ranging from writers of “original Gothic,” such as Ann Radcliffe and Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, to Gothic-revival literature and the bone-chilling tales of Stephen King, and the “new Gothic” of Angela Carter, the work gives each author concise biographical, bibliographical, and critical treatment in a well-organized and well-formatted manner.

In the first volume, Gothicism as depicted in the performing arts (including film, drama, television, and music) is given substantive treatment, including coverage of representative works, primary sources, further readings, and a selection of related themes. Volumes 2 and 3 contain alphabetically arranged author entries. For each author, the work describes selected major works and critical reception, lists principal works and primary sources, offers excerpts of essays and critical commentary, and finally, includes a list of further reading.

Library collections of Gothic studies materials should be expanded to include Gale's *Gothic Literature*. A good collection would also contain David Punter's seminal two-volume handbook, *The Literature of Terror* (Longman, 1980, 1996), which stations the scholarship of Gothicism into Gothic studies. Further, the 1990s growth in Gothic studies added many handbooks and guides—for instance, Neil Barron's *Horror Literature: A Reader's Guide* (Garland, 1990), which was ex-

panded to *Fantasy and Horror: A Critical and Historical Guide to Literature, Illustration, Film, TV, Radio, and the Internet* (Scarecrow, 1999). One of several reliable handbooks to Gothic authors and themes is Marie Mulvey-Robert's *The Handbook to Gothic Literature* (New York Univ., 1998). Clive Bloom's *Gothic Horror: A Reader's Guide from Poe to King and Beyond* (St. Martins, 1998) offers introductions, critical excerpts, and selected bibliographies for well-known Gothic tales. *Companion to the Gothic* (Blackwell, 2000), edited by David Punter, offers a historical and cultural approach to mostly American and British Gothic, while also covering theory and the role of psychoanalysis and gender.

More recently, *Gothic Writers: A Critical and Bibliographical Guide*, by Douglass H. Thomson, Jack G. Voller, and Frederick S. Frank (Greenwood, 2002) offers an excellent bibliographical compendium that widens definitional parameters of Gothic by including works and writers not traditionally associated with Gothic or horror literature. Lastly, Frederick S. Frank combines and updates his two previous guides to the Gothic in *Guide to the Gothic II, III* (Scarecrow, 2005). These indispensable guides offer annotated bibliographies of history and criticism on Gothic fiction of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and Gothics of other nations, including Canada.

Gothic Literature: A Gale Critical Companion offers a useful and reliable survey of scholarship on notable authors and works of Gothic literature. It is a handy resource that is highly recommended for undergraduate collections.—Katharine Webb, *Reference Librarian, The Ohio State University, Columbus*

History of World Trade Since 1450. Ed. By John J. McCusker. Detroit, Mich.: Thomson Gale, 2006. 2 vols. acid free \$295 (ISBN 0-02-865840-X).

Although not stated in the title or in the CIP subject tracings, *History of World Trade Since 1450* is an encyclopedia. More than four hundred alphabetically arranged articles fall under sixteen broad subjects, ranging from “Business Families” to “Shipping.”

The nine-hundred-page set begins with the preface, which attempts a one-page overview of post-medieval trade, offers an explanation of the decision to start with the year 1450, and finishes with thumbnail biographies of the editors (McCusker is editor-in-chief; there are four associate editors). The “Thematic Outline” is followed by the “List of Articles.” Rounding out the front section is “Contributors,” which lists more than three hundred authors, their affiliation (most academic), and the titles of their articles.

The signed entries vary from two hundred to three thousand words with the lengthiest being broad topics such as capitalism and industrialization. The latter typically have subdivisions to facilitate browsing. All entries conclude with see also references and a selected bibliography. Scattered throughout the work are sidebars that highlight a point from the adjacent article. There are a suitable number of photo-

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graphs, maps, and illustrations that ably illuminate the text. One amusing moment was noticing that the “du Pont de Nemours Family” entry was by the well-known historian Alfred D. Chandler Jr. His middle name? Du Pont.

Toward the end of the second volume are eighteen “Primary Sources,” grouped under three headings: “Historical Texts,” “Speeches,” and “Agreements, Treaties, and Legislation.” As these are contained within thirty pages, it is not surprising that they are extracts and not full-text. That being said, a frustrating inconsistency is that some sources have citations and some do not. A reference work, of all things, should be thorough in citing borrowings from other texts.

The only comparable work to *History of World Trade Since 1450* happened to be published less than a year before by M.E. Sharpe: *Encyclopedia of World Trade: From Ancient Times to the Present* (2005), edited by Cynthia Clark Northrup and reviewed in the winter 2005 issue of *RUSQ* by Stacey Marien. Prior to these two works, one had to ferret out particular aspects of trade history from either scholarly monographs or more general encyclopedias such as the recent *Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History* (2003). Now we have two specialist titles from which to choose.

Encyclopedia of World Trade: From Ancient Times to the Present is seemingly longer (more than fifteen hundred pages in four volumes), but difference in type size and paper thickness account for some of that difference. What about the contents? The most obvious difference is that *History of World Trade Since 1450* focuses on the era of European exploration and since, while *Encyclopedia of World Trade: From Ancient Times to the Present* reaches back to ancient times. Neither time frame is intrinsically better; both have worthy justifications, so patron need is the key rationale on this principal difference. *Encyclopedia of World Trade*’s “Topic Finder” has more subject groupings and more articles (450 versus 400), but then the *History of World Trade Since 1450* has more depth, considering its shorter timespan. One striking difference is that the “Documents” section of *Encyclopedia of World Trade* is vastly longer (more than 180 pages), with only five items prior to 1450. *Encyclopedia of World Trade* has a helpful “Chronology of World Trade” and a valuable “List of Maps”; in the work under review, maps show up as unannounced illustrations. Comparing article titles reveals a surprising lack of overlap between the two works, with *Encyclopedia of World Trade* having just more than one-fifth (96) in common and *History of World Trade Since 1450* having only a quarter (102). So, the vexing conclusion one reaches is that both have much that is desirable, despite their niggling idiosyncrasies. However, for large public and academic research libraries, *History of World Trade Since 1450* stands well enough on its own and is recommended.—Peter B. Ives, Collections Manager, William J. Parish Memorial Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque

Iberia and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History: A Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia. Ed. by J. Michael Francis. Transatlantic Relation Series. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clio, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$270 (ISBN 1-85109-421-0)

The purpose of this encyclopedia is “to explore the remarkable diverse, rich, and complex relationship that has characterized Spanish and Portuguese relations with the Americas” and to illustrate “the many political, economic, social, and cultural connections and interconnections between the two worlds” (xv). This encyclopedia is part of ABC-Clio’s Transatlantic Relations series, which studies the impact that the Old World and New World have had on each other. The work’s editor, J. Michael Francis, is associate professor of Latin American history, specializing in the colonial period, at the University of North Florida. Francis’s three-volume set portrays the historical and contemporary association between Iberia and the Americas.

Six informative opening essays introduce readers to the Iberian-American relationship. The essays effectively trace the relationship between Iberia and a variety of New World entities, including Latin America, the Caribbean, Brazil, the United States, and Canada. The essays are followed by more than four hundred clearly written entries, arranged alphabetically. Essays and articles, written by academics from around the world, are signed. Each includes a bibliography and cross references. The text is enhanced with useful supplementary features, including a topic finder, chronology of historical events, and an index. The set is complemented by a strong collection of black-and-white illustrations, including historical maps, photographs, and reproduced art work.

The encyclopedia illustrates the wide-ranging connections between Iberia and the Americas in a variety of ways, although it primarily highlights the colonial period of the Americas. The work covers eighteen diverse subject areas, including arts and culture, economy and economic development, government and law, science and technology, religion, and sports. It covers an extensive span of topics, although biographical articles are deliberately excluded. Specific entries range from the arrival of the Europeans and their contact with the indigenous peoples (for example, “Conquest I—Andes,” “Explorers,” “Native Americans I—Amazon”); to independence (“Independence I—Argentina,” “Independence II—Brazil,”); to more recent times (“North American Free Trade Agreement,” “North Atlantic Treaty Organization”). Articles comprehensively show that the Americas were not merely passive recipients of Iberian influence but profoundly affected the imperial nations as well. For example, the article entitled “Sugar” documents how sugar production in the New World resulted in the commodity shifting from “an exotic luxury” to “a mass-consumed food” in Europe (990).

Other works that examine the New World include Jacob Ernest Cooke’s *Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies* (Scribner, 1993) and James Ciment’s *Colonial America: An Encyclopedia of Social, Political, Cultural, and Economic History* (Sharpe, 2006) (see review on p. 84). *Iberia and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History: A Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia* differs significantly from the other encyclopedias because it examines a broader time period and geographical area. In addition, while the intention of *Iberia and the Americas* is to emphasize an ongoing relationship between Iberia and the Americas, *Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies*