

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-