

collection on Native American history, this source is highly recommended. For those libraries that already have access to fairly recent reference works on Native Americans, there is little need to purchase this \$395 set. Ultimately, the convoluted organizational method may cause the more impatient researcher to abandon the work for one of the multitude of similar and equally scholarly reference titles on the subject.—Kristi L. Palmer, Assistant Librarian, Liaison to the Departments of History, Women's Studies and American Studies, IUPUI University Library, Indianapolis, Indiana

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**Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature.** By Jennifer McClinton-Temple and Alan Velie. Facts On File Library of American Literature. New York: Facts On File, 2007. \$75 (ISBN 978-0-8160-5656-9).

In 1772, *A Sermon Preached at the Execution of Moses Paul, an Indian* by Samson Occom became the first publication in English of a literary work by an American Indian. Starting with an article on Occom, *Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature* offers nearly four hundred essays, signed by academics. The editors, both of whom are professors of English, cover authors commonly read by high school and college students as well as by general readers. Their geography is the forty-eight contiguous states and Alaska, and their criterion for including authors is those “whose works have made a mark on the tradition of Native literature, whether that mark is positive or not” (xi).

Most of the entries in *Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature* are about individual works and writers. But there are also thematic entries covering pivotal events, ideas, and movements, such as “Ghost Dance,” “gender,” “government agencies,” “mixed-blood,” and “removal.” These articles contain brief discussions of major titles in which these themes emerge. The titles discussed are drawn from a variety of literary genres, including film. Helpful for exploring ways different authors see similar topics, this guided thematic approach gives to the encyclopedia a distinct feature that differentiates it from other dictionary-type reference titles, surveyed below, on native literature.

Kathy J. Whitson's *Native American Literatures: An Encyclopedia of Works, Characters, Authors, and Themes* (ABC-CLIO, 1999) is a single-authored volume, emphasizing plots, characters, and authors. Although the volume contains a detailed index and cross references, there are no entries about themes that compare titles. Kenneth M. Roemer's *Native American Writers of the United States* (Gale, 1997) offers illustrated essays on native authors selected as characteristic of this literature, while Janet Witalec's *Native North American Literature* (Gale, 1994) reprints criticism. Andrew Wiget's *Dictionary of Native American Literature* (Garland, 1994) emphasizes oral traditions, but its in-depth essays resemble chapters in a monograph, making it more of a handbook, much like Joy Porter's *The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature* (Cambridge, 2005). Beginning with the 1960s, Kay Juricek's *Contemporary Native American Authors:*

*A Biographical Dictionary* (Fulcrum, 1997) collects available facts gleaned from many sources. Finally, numerous bibliographies also assist thematic searching, such as Joan Beam's *The Native American in Long Fiction: An Annotated Bibliography* (Scarecrow, 1996) and its *Supplement, 1995–2002* (Scarecrow, 2003), but these bibliographies don't always offer the convenient arrangement of bibliographic essays for singling out and differentiating titles, as does the *Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature*.

As with almost any short encyclopedia, there are topics that would be easier to find if they were made main entries. For instance, to be assured of discovering the names of authors influenced by World War II or the rise of a Native American middle class, one needs to consult both the index and the introduction. Articles for all important topics and comprehensive indexing would help make *Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature* handier as a basic guide.

High school, undergraduate, and public libraries serving readers of this evolving literature will want to consider purchasing this work. The brief bibliographies of primary and secondary sources, including some Web sites, contain materials current to 2006. There are also a number of entries discussing authors by genres and regional tribal affiliations. Its currency and effort in providing comparative articles help make this volume useful.—Nevin J. Mayer, Coordinator of Instruction, John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio

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**Encyclopedia of American Jewish History.** Ed. by Stephen H. Norwood and Eunice G Pollack. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2007. 2 vols. acid-free \$195 (ISBN 978-1-85109-638-1).

The editors have done a masterful job in compiling this encyclopedia, chronicling the Jewish experience in America from the mid-seventeenth century, when the first Jews arrived in New Amsterdam, into the twenty-first century. Divided into twenty-six chapters, each containing up to twenty-four separate articles, the volumes present information on Jews as both a religious and ethnic group, and on the continuity and change that Judaism experienced in America. Articles deal with what is generally unique about American Jewish life in tandem with such specific areas as voting behavior, politics, and involvement in public affairs. Small settlements are covered alongside urban ones.

Articles are narrative and analytic and address, among other topics, how Jews helped shape and influence American culture, academics, labor movements, social movements on the left and right, the military, the life of women, and journalism. The editors note that the encyclopedia was written for a wide audience, including scholars, students in high school and college, and the general public. “The Encyclopedia brings together in one place multiple perspectives on the American Jewish experience, presented by eminent scholars in a wide range of fields, from the United States, Israel, England, and Canada” (vol. 1, xv).

Each section begins with a general essay on the named topic, “American Jews in Business and Philanthropy,” for