

content (for example, *Lobbying and Advocacy: Winning Strategies, Recommendations, Resources, Ethics and Ongoing Compliance for Lobbyists and Washington Advocates* [TheCapitol.Net, 2008]) or do not have the same depth (for example, *Lobbying in America: A Reference Handbook* [ABC-CLIO, 2009]), but each fills a necessary, and complementary, niche.

The price is not out of range for reference works of this quality, depth, and breadth. It is highly appropriate for college and university collections and larger public library systems.—*Christopher Lee Cochran, Business and Industry Librarian, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, Washington, D.C.*

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***Jewish Americans.*** Edited by Rafael Medoff. *Great Lives from History*. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2011. 4 vols. alkaline \$495 (ISBN: 978-1-5876-5741-2). Online access included with print.

*Jewish Americans* is both the latest entry in Salem's *Great Lives from History* series and the inaugural title in the publisher's *Great Lives from History* heritage series. The 529 men and 124 women included in *Jewish Americans* represent a wide and diverse group. Besides men and women of recognized stature such as Benjamin Cardozo, Hannah Arendt, and Albert Einstein, who would be expected in a *Great Lives from History* title, there are entrants such as Al Capp, Winona Ryder, and Herb Alpert whose contributions speak more to inclusion on the basis of heritage. Nor have the infamous (Bernie Madoff excepted) been overlooked. Nestled in alphabetical order between Paul Berg, winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, and Rabbi Henry Berkowitz, founder of the Jewish Chautauqua Society, interested readers will find the biography of David Berkowitz, the notorious "Son of Sam" serial killer.

As is the case with biographical dictionaries that strive for popular appeal editorial decisions may be puzzling. Why include conductor André Previn but not James Levine? Why a joint entry for the Warner Brothers, with biographical details for Henry, Albert, Sam, and Jack, but no joint entry for the Marx Brothers, just a separate essay for Groucho, the more famous sibling? In popular advice columnist Abigail Van Buren's entry, Dear Abby's twin sister and rival columnist Ann Landers receives more press, though not her own entry, than do either Harpo, Chico, or Zeppo.

Biographical essays in *Jewish Americans* conform to a standardized pattern. Sketches are arranged in alphabetical order according to the name by which each person is familiarly known (Jerry Lewis; Mike Nichols; Golda Meir) with a notation as to their field of endeavor (entertainer; theater and film director; politician) and a sentence, two at the most, summarizing the individual's career followed by when and where the individual was born, alternative versions of the individual's name, and primary area of achievement. The body of each signed biographical sketch is divided into clearly defined sections: the subject's early life, his or her life's work, the subject's significance, a short listing of further readings, and see also references to sketches for similarly engaged individuals. Black

and white photographs and sidebars with additional information are included in some but not all of the biographies. Each biographical essay offers specific information about the subject's Jewish connections and provides a guide to the pronunciation of the name by which the subject is known.

*Jewish Americans* is further enhanced by a series of indexes that list subjects according to their occupational categories, country of origin for those who were foreign-born, an A–Z listing of names with page references to other sketches in which that person is mentioned, and a subject index. Additional enhancements include a mediagraphy listing television shows and feature films portraying the Jewish experience; a listing of novels, plays, poetry collections, and short story collections written by Jewish Americans that speak to the Jewish experience; a listing of American Jewish libraries and research centers with contact information and specific collection focus; Jewish-American organizations and societies with their contact information; and a directory of Jewish American related websites.

*The American National Biography Online* (Oxford Univ. Pr. under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies, 2000–2008) remains unchallenged by *Jewish Americans* as the gold standard for authoritative, scholarly biographical essays though, unlike *Jewish Americans*, all subjects must be deceased to qualify for inclusion. Although the ANB includes many people of Jewish heritage or Jewish religion, some covered in *Jewish Americans* (Bugsy Siegel, Rebecca Gratz, Weegee) and some not (Maurice Bloomfield, Joey Adams, Joseph Choynski), these people are not singled out as Jewish Americans. The same is true of the Jewish American women whose biographies appear in the three-volume *Notable American Women, 1607–1950* (Belknap Pr. of Harvard Univ. Pr., 1971) and *Notable American Women: A Biographical Dictionary Completing the Twentieth Century* (Belknap Pr., 2004).

*Jewish Women in America: A Historical Encyclopedia* 2 vols. (Routledge, 1997) includes a great many more biographies of Jewish American women than the 124 covered in *Jewish Americans*. Whereas *Jewish Americans* is strictly a biographical dictionary, *Jewish Women in America* includes not only biographies but also articles. Like *Jewish Americans*, *Jewish Women in America* follows an alphabetical arrangement. All entries are signed, some are enhanced with black and white photographs, and each concludes with a bibliography of varying length.

A limited number of signed biographical essays are also to be found scattered throughout many of the topical chapters in the *Encyclopedia of American Jewish History* 2 vols. (ABC-CLIO, 2008), most fully in the chapter addressing American Jews and labor. References for further reading are included and black and white photographs accompany some of these sketches as well.

By far the largest biographical undertaking of its kind already on reference shelves is the two-volume *The Concise Dictionary of American Jewish Biography* (Carlson Publishing, 1994) with its notations for nearly 24,000 American Jews. Like the ANB but not *Jewish Americans*, subjects in *The Concise*

## SOURCES

*Dictionary* must be deceased to be included. Biographical entries are arranged in alphabetical order and are, indeed, concise. Birth place, date of birth, and date of death are followed by educational attainment, occupation, any notable activities, and source or sources of this information. To achieve conciseness, abbreviations such as "AJYB, 24:112" are used throughout. A listing of these abbreviations appears in the beginning of each volume.

*Jewish Americans* is an optional purchase for academic reference collections though institutions striving for completeness of biographical coverage or a comprehensive Judaica collection may decide otherwise. *Jewish Americans* will appeal to those religious libraries, public libraries, and school libraries where its heritage aspect is an important purchase consideration.—Sally Moffitt, *Reference Librarian and Bibliographer for Anthropology, History, Philosophy, Political Science; Africana, Asian, Judaic, Latin American, and Women's Gender and Sexuality studies; Cohen Enrichment Collection, Langsam Library, University of Cincinnati, Ohio.*

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***Movies in American History: An Encyclopedia.*** Edited by Philip C. DiMare. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clío, 2011. 3 vols. acid free \$280 (ISBN: 978-1-5988-4296-8). E-book available (978-1-5988-4297-5), call for pricing.

The blurb accompanying the review copy describes this resource as "focused on the relationship between American society and filmmaking in the United States from the late 19th century through the present." This is important to keep in mind since users may be puzzled by the inclusion of Godard's *Breathless*, Eisenstein's *Battleship Potemkin*, and Truffaut's *The 400 Blows*. That noted, the breadth and scope of this collection does primarily consist of representative American motion pictures, from the early silent films to the Harry Potter series.

The three-volume set includes 450 A–Z entries written primarily by university-affiliated scholars from diverse disciplines. There are entries for film titles, people (actors, directors, and notable screenwriters) and subjects. In particular, the subject entries are a useful distillation of topics such as "Drive-in Theatres" (remember those?) and "Representations of Disability in Film," for instance. Each entry provides a brief summary of the film along with an explanation of the film's cultural significance and influence, especially in relation to race, class, and gender issues. References at the end of each entry provide authoritative books and durable articles for further research. Each volume includes a complete index to the set and, happily, the index uses a bold font to indicate main entries in the encyclopedia. Editor Philip C. DiMare (lecturer in Humanities, Religious Studies and History at California State University, Sacramento) provides a substantive, 40-page introduction that serves as a good whirlwind tour of the history of cinema in the United States.

Surprisingly, there isn't currently a film reference source that duplicates the aim and scope of this set. The forthcoming *Wiley-Blackwell History of American Film* may possibly prove to be a competitor (albeit at a higher price point), but

since this four-volume set wasn't available at the time of this writing, this reviewer is unable to provide a comparison. For collections with an emphasis on Film/Media Studies.—Robin Imhof, *Humanities Librarian, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California.*

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***Multicultural America: An Encyclopedia of the Newest Americans.*** Edited by Ronald H. Bayor. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2011. 4 vols. acid free \$380 (ISBN: 978-0-3133-5786-2). E-book available (978-0-3133-5787-9), call for pricing.

Interest in immigrant groups in the United States has always been high, thus the publication of the mainstay single-volume *Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups* (Belknap Pr. of the Harvard Univ. Pr., 1980) to try to meet the need for historical and detailed information on major immigrant groups and causes of their migration to the United States. The *Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America*, 2nd ed. (Gale, 2000), at 152 entries, profiles both immigrant groups and Native American nations. In the title under review, Ronald Bayor, immigration scholar and founding editor of the *Journal of American Ethnic History*, wanted to add to the existing reference literature on immigrants to the United States by profiling the countries that have sent immigrants for the most part after the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act.

In this four-volume set, fifty countries arranged alphabetically, and their major emigrant groups are described in essays of between 10,000 and 20,000 words each, written by scholars who are often from the area being profiled. Readers will recognize sending countries such as Mexico and Cambodia while learning about less well-known countries and their emigrants such as Bangladesh and Trinidad and Tobago.

A very useful introduction to the history of U.S. immigration, from European settlers in the 1500s through Arizona's 2010 law on undocumented immigrants, kicks off the set, followed by a brief chronology. Topic sections for each immigrant-sending nation include a chronology related to issues leading to emigration from the country; background; causes and waves of migration; demographic profile; adjustment and adaptation to the United States, with descriptions of cultural and national practices such as foodways, rituals, and holidays; integration and impact on U.S. society and culture; relations between the country and the United States, with forecasts for the future; tables of hard-to-locate demographic statistics; and a list of references. Personalizing and enriching each country essay are brief biographical profiles of current generation youths who describe their immigrant experience, lists of notable Americans from the nationality, staples of immigrant culture (for example, the Cuban Calle Ocho Festival in Miami), and a glossary of common words from the culture used in the essay. A selected bibliography, contributor biographies, and an index complete the encyclopedia.

The index is a necessity when one is trying to locate a group and the country they're from if the country name is different (for example, the Hmong from Laos, who incidentally