

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.*

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.*

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

are only mentioned briefly). Useful added index entries would have been state names in some cases, so the reader can track where various groups may have settled for the most part. The e-book version of the encyclopedia (priced separately) would assist with finding terms in the text not included in the printed index. *Multicultural America: An Encyclopedia of the Newest Americans* could be used in conjunction with another recent title, the *Encyclopedia of American Immigration*, edited by Carl L. Bankston III (Salem Pr., 2010), which, along with profiling 70 ethnic and immigrant groups, has other theme-based essays, including entries on every U.S. state.

School, public, and academic libraries and readers across many disciplines will all benefit from this encyclopedia, a fascinating and welcome addition to the immigration literature for reference collections.—Christina E. Carter, Associate Professor, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage.

The Settlement of America: Encyclopedia of Westward Expansion from Jamestown to the Closing of the Frontier.

Edited by James A. Crutchfield, Candy Moulton, and Terry A. Del Bene. Armonk, N.Y.: Sharpe Reference, 2011. 2 vols. acid free \$249 (ISBN: 978-0-7656-1984-6). E-book available, call for pricing.

This is a non-traditional reference work in a familiar package. The slim two volumes (totaling just over 600 pages) contain the expected alphabetical arrangement of essays on major topics and individuals. What is different is the composition of the contributors. Instead of a lineup of academics, the majority of the essays are written by independent scholars and professional writers affiliated with the Western Writers of America, an organization devoted to “the preservation and propagation of Western history and literature” (xv). Since the introduction does not state the purpose or intended audience, this must be inferred from the content, which seems aimed at informing a general readership and promoting popular interest in Western history. The chronological coverage is more explicitly defined, extending from the Jamestown settlement in 1607 to the massacre at Wounded Knee and the “closing” of the frontier in 1890. Despite this broad conception of the West, the majority of the content concerns expansion west of the Mississippi river.

The contributors’ passion for history comes through in their dramatic accounts of colorful characters and historical conflicts. When in doubt the authors opt for the interesting anecdote over dry historical summations. Many readers will likely find this style more engaging than the cautious, measured tones typically employed in academic reference works. Occasionally the author’s enthusiasm crosses the line into triumphalism. While noting the negative connotations that the phrase “Manifest Destiny” holds today, the author still concludes that “its basic tenets of the greatness of freedom and democracy remain paramount in the American social and political system” (318). Another essay documents the rampant prejudice and economic segregation endured by Chinese immigrants, then optimistically asserts that “most

Chinese lived the American dream—they were independent business owners” (129).

Traditional political and military topics dominate, along with biographies of explorers, politicians and businessmen (almost exclusively male). This is not the reference work to consult for a discussion of everyday life in the American West or for multicultural perspectives. While Native American experiences are well documented, the voices of others who settled the west are largely absent. There are no entries in the index for “Immigrants,” “Japanese,” “Germans,” “Latino,” or “Hispanic.” There is no overview discussion of women’s contributions to American westward expansion and only a handful of women appear among the biographical entries. By contrast, there are over eighty entries for individual forts in the index. Libraries receiving questions on the diversity of westward expansion are advised to consult the *Encyclopedia of Women in the American West* (Sage, 2003), or the *Encyclopedia of Immigration and Migration in the American West* (Sage, 2006). Everyday life and popular culture are covered by Sara Quay’s *Westward Expansion* (Greenwood, 2002).

This work will be most suitable for libraries serving a general readership, although it will have limited value for readers interested in social and cultural topics. It does provide a readable complement to the more scholarly *Encyclopedia of the American West* (Simon and Schuster/Macmillan, 1996), which treats many of the same topics but is now somewhat dated.—Eric Novotny, Humanities Library, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania.

Sports in America from Colonial Times to the Twenty-First Century: An Encyclopedia.

Edited by Steven A. Reiss. Armonk, N.Y.: Sharpe Reference, 2011. 3 vols. acid free \$349 (ISBN: 978-0-7656-1706-4). E-book available, call for pricing.

Sports has been part of the fabric of American life since the colonization of the continent and the amount of financial support given to sporting endeavors seems to increase without letup in both good times and bad in our consumer culture. This three-volume encyclopedia covers both spectator sports and participatory sports in American culture and society from the 1600s to current day. The work’s aim is not only to provide the history of American sport but also its context within American society, with emphasis placed on integration, sexual policy, class, and gender perspectives in the entries. The closest equivalent source is Levinson and Christensen’s *Berkshire Encyclopedia of World Sport* (Berkshire, 2005). However, that four-volume work had a much broader focus than this one devoted solely to the United States.

The encyclopedia is organized into three sections. The first is a series of essays that provide a chronological history of sports in America. The second section is the bulk of the set and consists of the A–Z entries of significant people, teams, sports, and related topics. The entries themselves were written by an army of researchers and academics, edited by Steven A. Reiss who has published several works over the years on