the intersection of sports and culture. Finally, the work also
includes a chronology, a list of governing bodies and institu-
tions, an overall bibliography, and an index.

The value in an encyclopedia like this one is primarily in
its more unique material. The series of historical essays that
open this work are very well done and useful. In a similar
light, the A–Z entries on more obscure sports such as Hot
Rodding, Air Racing, Pedestrianism, and Disability Sports are
more likely to be consulted than overviews of major sports
like baseball or football that are too abbreviated to be of much
value. Likewise, odd topics like Saloons, Taverns and Bars or
Central Park or Blue Laws or the National Police Gazette fill
a distinctive informational need in a sports resource.

More problematic are some curious selectivity decisions.
Why are there biographies on Sammy Baugh and Sid Luck-
man but not Johnny Unitas and Joe Montana? All were the
best quarterbacks of their times. Why Marion Motley but not
Bill Willis? Both were hall-of-famers who broke the football
color line together in Cleveland. Why Oscar Robertson but
not Jerry West? Why Bear Bryant but not Joe Paterno? Why
Wayne Gretzky but not Gordie Howe, Bobby Hull, or Bobby
Orr? Why Howard Cosell but not John Madden who was not
only a landmark broadcaster but also a hall-of-fame coach
and the namesake of the most popular sports video game of
all time?

Moreover, entries are given for the 16 original major
league baseball teams and the original six NHL teams, but
for only six of the nine NFL teams that predate World War
II. There’s an entry on the Toronto Blue Jays but not the New
York Mets, on the Calgary Flames but not the Philadelphia
Flyers. Perhaps most inexplicably, there is an entry on the
Super Bowl but not the World Series.

While these sorts of inclusion questions are always an is-
issue in a reference work, it appears that there are an inordinate
number of unclear choices in this set. To its credit, what is
included is thoroughly researched and professionally written.
As a reference source, this set will be most useful for its more
atypical entries. Despite the unexplained exclusions, this set
is recommended for most sports collections.—John Maxymuk,
Reference Librarian, Rutgers University, Camden, New Jersey.

Sources

The Thirties in America. Edited by Thomas Tandy Lewis.
Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2011. 3 vols. alkaline $395 (ISBN:
978-1-5876-5725-2). Online access included with print.

The latest in Salem’s “Decades” series, this illustrated
3-volume set describes the key people and events of the
1930s in the United States and Canada. The approximately
675 entries are arranged in alphabetical order and cover a
host of different topics that range from politics to pop cul-
ture. Each entry lists the name of its author; a complete list
of authors and the institutions they are affiliated with (where
applicable) can be found at the start of the first volume. The
entries conclude with a list of further reading along with a
“see also” list of other entries of potential interest. The close of
the third volume contains appendixes that list notable plays,
films, radio programs, songs, books, and sports events of
the decade. A timeline of key events is provided, along with
a bibliography arranged by subject matter. A list of entries
arranged by category, along with a photo index, personages
index, and subject index enable users to retrieve information
on specific topics.

As one might expect from a text devoted to the 1930s,
much attention is given to the Great Depression. The volume
contains a number of informative entries on the financial and
political events that took place during this decade. The depth
of coverage given to Canadian events is welcome. The “see
also” references at the close of each entry and the comprehen-
sive indexes, will allow readers to quickly find other entries
of use. In entries that mention people or subjects that merit
separate entries, it would have been useful to use bolded or
italicized type to call readers’ attention to the other entries.
The coverage of entertainment figures from the decade is
somewhat curious, and one wonders why neither film star
(and elected Queen of Hollywood) Myrna Loy nor popular
singer Rudy Vallee receives an entry. At least one entry (“Hair-
styles”) was not carefully proofread.

Libraries that have purchased other volumes in the series
and libraries interested in adding resources relating to the
Great Depression should find this a welcome addition to their
collections. The Thirties in America will be of assistance to high
school and undergraduate students beginning research on
topics that took place in this decade.—Sharon E. Reidi, Tech-
nical Services Specialist, Marlboro College, Marlboro, Vermont

World and Its Peoples: Sub-Saharan Africa, Australasia,

World and Its Peoples: Sub-Saharan Africa, Australasia, and
the Pacific bills itself as a “new kind of geography encyclopedia
. . . it describes not only the land—with its geology, climate,
flora, and fauna—but also the historical and ethnic dimen-
sions underlying the modern nations that exist today” (5).
This 11-volume set is part of a larger series of encyclopedias,
comprising a total of 57 volumes that aspire to provide a
comprehensive picture of our global landscape. An ambitious
goal, but in this set at least, one that falls short.

The primary problem facing this encyclopedia is that it
is too complex to serve as a basic introduction to either the
geography or the peoples of the regions covered. For that,
users would do better consulting Ember and Ember’s Coun-
tries and Their Cultures (Macmillan, 2001) or the World Fact-
book (CIA, 2008). Yet it is simultaneously too simplistic in
its discussion of complex issues to serve as a comprehensive
overview of the subject: users in search of more in-depth re-
search should consult encyclopedias such as John Middleton’s
seminal Encyclopedia of Africa South of the Sahara (Scribners,
1997) or Susan Bambrick’s Cambridge Encyclopedia of Australia
(Cambridge, 1994).

Each volume of World and Its Peoples: Sub-Saharan Africa,
Australasia, and the Pacific covers a specific region; examples
include “Congo Basin and Angola,” “New Zealand and Polynesia,” and “West African Coast.” Coverage in each volume begins with a discussion of the geographical, historical, and cultural facets of a region, and is followed by an entry for each country whose borders fall within that region. Each country overview is further divided by sections such as “Government,” “Modern History,” “Cultural Expression,” “Daily Life,” and “Economy.” The volumes are paginated sequentially, and each volume contains its own index and brief list of resources for further reading, organized thematically. The final volume, “Indexes,” features a comprehensive index and reading list, along with several thematic indexes and a glossary. Perhaps most helpful in this volume are the comparative tables, which feature normalized measures and highlight topics such as trade, transportation, and communication.

Entries, while informative and detailed, suffer from fragmentation and do not leave the reader with a holistic picture of the topic discussed. For example, the “Geography and Climate” entry in volume 10, “Eastern Africa,” discusses geographical landmarks such as the “Somali Tablelands” and the “Ethiopian Rift” (438–40), yet does not specifically identify these features on corresponding maps. Similarly, an entry for the “History and Movement of Peoples” in volume 1, “Nigeria and the Gulf of Guinea,” covers the Kanem-Bornu Empire, the Yoruba States, the Kingdom of Benin, and the Hausa States (28–37) individually, where additional context and an overarching discussion of the relationships between ruling groups would have been welcome. Region discussions in particular would benefit from historical maps and additional visual aids, such as a timeline or chronology, to tie thematic elements together.

Recommended for libraries that have both the funding to purchase such a resource and a correlating gap in their collections.—Kristin J. Henrich, Reference Coordinator, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho