

SOURCES

the intersection of sports and culture. Finally, the work also includes a chronology, a list of governing bodies and institutions, 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 Luckman 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 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.*

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 culture. 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 comprehensive 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. Reidt, Technical Services Specialist, Marlboro College, Marlboro, Vermont*

World and Its Peoples: Sub-Saharan Africa, Australasia, and the Pacific. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2011. 11 vols. \$499.95 (ISBN: 978-0-7614-7912-3).

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 dimensions 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 *Countries and Their Cultures* (Macmillan, 2001) or the World Factbook (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 research 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*