

more than four hundred biographical essays on Christian writers. Each genre essay attempts to summarize a major facet of Christian literature and contains notes and a bibliography. Those working in libraries in theological schools or seminaries may not need a glossary to navigate the entries, but a general reference librarian assisting a patron may have to consult an outside source, such as *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (Oxford, 1997) for further edification on some of the concepts.

The biographies fare better for the general reader, and each includes a biography with emphasis on its subject's religious history and education, along with a bibliography of works by and about the subject. Volume 2 comprises the rest of the biographies (H–Z).

Separating the genres and the biographies proves to be a bit awkward for the user, and as previously mentioned, a glossary—not unusual for this type of reference work—would further assist the user. Despite issues with organization, this title is recommended for academic libraries, especially those that support religious studies curricula.—*Tracy Carr Seabold, Reference Services Director, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Mississippi*

Encyclopedia of Comic Books and Graphic Novels. Edited by M. Keith Booker. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2010. 2 vols. Acid-free \$180 (ISBN: 978-0-313-35746-6). E-book available (ISBN: 978-0-313-35747-3), call for pricing.

Encyclopedia of Comic Books and Graphic Novels is an extremely valuable resource filled with informative and engaging articles dealing with virtually every aspect of the art and industry of comic books and graphic novels. Here the reader will find information on individual characters, titles, creators, genres, and publishers. This resource, of course, includes histories of well-known superheroes such as Superman, Batman, and Spiderman, but also delves into the lesser-known worlds of underground comics and contemporary “alternative” comics such as *Ghost World* and *Blankets*. Entries discussing the lives and works of comic book creators range from notable superhero artists such as George Pérez and John Byrne to pioneers of the underground scene such as Robert Crumb and luminaries of modern literary comics such as Chris Ware and Daniel Clowes. This encyclopedia covers comics and graphic novels from the golden age (which began with the debut of Superman in 1938) to the present day. Though the emphasis is on American comics, European comics and Manga are also discussed.

This reviewer was impressed by not only the broad scope of this encyclopedia, but also by the thorough and insightful nature of the entries. In entries dealing with individual books, the authors go beyond plot summaries to offer concise critical analysis and reflections on the book's influence. Entries are arranged alphabetically. An index and a section of selected general resources are included. A selected bibliography is included for some entries.

The Superhero Book, edited by Gina Misiroglu (Visible Ink,

2004) offers comparable information on superhero characters, but is much narrower in scope than *Encyclopedia of Comic Books and Graphic Novels*, which does not limit itself to the superhero genre. Libraries seeking resources devoted more to detailed discussions of creators and their works may also wish to purchase *Graphic Novelists*, by Tom Pendergrast and Sara Pendergrast (Thomson Gale, 2007).

Encyclopedia of Comic Books and Graphic Novels is a welcome addition to the growing body of comics scholarship. It is recommended for both academic and public libraries.—*Edward Whatley, Instruction and Reference Librarian, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, Georgia*

Encyclopedia of Depression. By Linda Wasmer Andrews. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2010. 2 vols. Acid-free \$165 (ISBN: 978-0-313-35366-6). E-book available (978-0-313-35367-3), call for pricing.

Wasmer Andrew's *Encyclopedia of Depression* has set out to provide a comprehensive overview to the multifaceted condition that is depression. The encyclopedia's objective has clearly been met and surpassed. This two-volume work, which is also available as an e-book, has the traditional components of an encyclopedia, including an alphabetical list of entries and a detailed index; however, it offers a great deal more. Unlike similar works such as Roberta Roesch's *Encyclopedia of Depression* (Facts on File, 2001), Andrew's work offers the reader a wealth of additional features that provide other paths to a better understanding of depression. The quick reference guide at the beginning of each volume provides a detailed outline of the various topics related to depression. This tool allows the reader to see how the various topics are interconnected and acts as a guide to further research. The topical guide highlights some of the additional issues related to depression, such as diet and nutrition, experimental treatments, and famous people diagnosed with depression. The depression timeline is a historical break down of depression: from when it was first identified as a health issue through various discoveries and cultural events related to depression. These additional features are complemented by a further reading list and a list of various organizations, which range from support groups to treatment resources.

The *Encyclopedia of Depression* is comprehensive. Three hundred entries cover a variety of topics related to depression. Topics range from available treatment options, to biographical sketches of physician pioneers in the field, to details of the various types of mental disorders related to depression. The entry topics cover the lifespan: from “Anaclitic Depression” found in infants to the “Geriatric Depression Scale” used to assess depression levels in senior citizens. Cultural, ethnic, and social factors are also discussed. The entries vary in length and all include a bibliography. Cross-references, “see also” references, and charts are provided when available. The charts are invaluable when coupled with entries that cover complex topics. Examples include “What's a Mental Disorder,” which covers the similarities and differences of various mental health