

Reference Books

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Editor

American Women of Science Since 1900. By Tiffany K. Wayne. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2010. 2 vols. acid-free \$180 (ISBN 978-1-59884-158-9). E-book available (978-1-59884-159-6), call for pricing.

American Women of Science Since 1900 provides five hundred biographical entries for women who have worked or are working in the United States in the natural, physical, and social sciences. Billed as a substantive revision and expansion of Martha Bailey's *American Women in Science: Volume I* (1994) and *American Women in Science: 1950 to the present* (1998), the two-volume set includes just over seventy entries absent from Bailey's texts. Author and independent scholar Tiffany Wayne has focused on scientists who earned a doctorate (omitting many non-credentialed researchers found in peer resources) and contributed research or leadership firsts to their fields. Though they lack sufficient depth to aid in college-level research, the practical entries and extensive supplementary chapters would be appropriate for a high school or public library. For those waiting for an update to Marilyn Ogilvie and Joy Harvey's more scholarly *Biographical Dictionary of Women in Science: Pioneering Lives from Ancient Times to the Mid-20th Century* (2000), this is not the resource for you.

The text of the work is structured with the novice researcher in mind, leading with over 150 pages of short essays, divided into sections devoted to "Issues" and "Disciplines." The "Issues" section addresses early and ongoing challenges for women pursuing careers in the sciences, technology, engineering, and math (referred to collectively as STEM). Entries such as "The Impact of Feminism on Scientific Research," and "Science and Technology Education for Girls," include helpful chronology and references, primarily web-based sources for statistics and secondary print materials. Wayne's analysis of the historical record is useful, and at times a detour is made to unpack the conflation of sex and gender or define post-modern subjectivity and its impact on the sciences.

The "Disciplines" section provides chronological sketches for over twenty-five fields. Wayne examines landmark hires, number of doctorates earned in the field over time, and leadership contributions made by women. She also looks at the obstacles women scientists have faced, as well as specific methodologies, research questions, and projects individual scientists have contributed to their fields.

The biographical entries include the standard education and professional experience chronologies and a brief description of career highlights, significant findings, and awards. Noteworthy subjects include cell biologist and cancer researcher Elizabeth Blackburn, physician and author Christine Northrup, and pre-Columbian archaeologist Joyce Marcus. Most personal biographical information has been

omitted or moved to the supplementary chapters, leaving the entries somewhat choppy and lacking in narrative flow. While the further resources sections are sparsely populated with secondary sources and institutional websites, Wayne often includes references to the subject's own publications and scholarly works *in-text*, a frustrating division for the user.

In closing, it's worth returning to the issue of scope, as the science community has become increasingly international in communication, collaboration, and influence over the last hundred years. Limiting coverage to U.S. scientists has allowed Wayne to better hone her supplementary analysis of the cultural factors facing women in this particular milieu, but the reader is left wondering if this task could have been better achieved with a well-researched monograph than a reference work. Indeed, the price tag would be easier to swallow for the public and school libraries this book is geared towards.—*Madeline Veitch, Graduate Assistant, Sloane Art Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Boy Culture: An Encyclopedia. Ed. by Shirley R. Steinberg, Michael Kehler, and Lindsay Cornish. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2010. 2 vols. \$165. (ISBN: 978-0-313-35080-1).

Given that ABC-CLIO has produced three sets of encyclopedias on childhood (*Boyhood in America: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Priscilla Ferguson Clement and Jacqueline S. Reinier, 2001; *Girlhood in America: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Miriam Forman-Brunell, 2001; and *Girl Culture: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Claudia A. Mitchell, 2007), it is not surprising that *Boy Culture: An Encyclopedia* has arrived. Two of the editors (Steinberg and Kehler) study masculinity and power in sociocultural contexts. From reading the preface, the editors clearly expected that users would have little idea what might be included in a work on boy culture. They do a good job introducing the field's theoreticians and trends. In fact, the preface is content-rich enough to be considered one of the work's most important articles. The extent to which Steinberg et al. convey that the content is not intended to include all aspects of this dynamic field is a bit annoying, though, and comes off as somewhat defensive. This encyclopedia is organized more like a scholarly monograph. The articles are not arranged in straight alphabetical order; rather, they are grouped alphabetically within twelve sections. The 167 signed entries are written by 116 contributors, each of whom receive a brief biography following the main text. The twelve categories include "Becoming a Boy, Becoming a Man"; "Differences and Boys"; "Boys in Mind, Boys in Relationships"; "Bad Boys"; and sections on boys and fashion trends, music, technology, movies, and literature. Almost all entries, which are one to seven pages in length, include recommendations for further reading. Following the encyclopedia is a bibliography, an index, and the aforementioned contributor profiles. Like other works on somewhat abstract topics, its scope is best appreciated by listing a few entries: "Real Men"; "Sissies"; "Goth"; "Grunge"; "*Bob the Builder*"; "African Americans, Spider-Man, and Superman"; "the Hardy Boys"; "Bow