

works that illustrate specific entries, an area where Earl's work is noticeably weaker. The inclusion of multiple examples is helpful for students needing to compare various depictions of an individual subject or theme. Instructors may find this useful as a quick reference for choosing images to display to classes.

For these reasons, public and secondary school libraries should consider this new choice more carefully for inclusion while academic libraries may opt for it as most appropriate for lower-division survey courses. Libraries with tight budgets should examine Gordon Campbell's *Renaissance Art and Architecture* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2004) as a cheaper alternative with its \$55 list price. Libraries possessing *The Grove Dictionary of Art* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 1996), edited by Jane Turner, in either print or electronic version, will not need this dictionary to supplement unless a one-volume option focused specifically on Renaissance art is desired. Recommended for all public library collections and for academic and special libraries where a one-volume option for lower level college and high school students is needed.—Jennifer B. Stidham, Public Services Librarian, Houston Community College—Northeast, Houston, Texas

Inventors and Inventions. Ed. by Evelyn Ngeow. Tarrytown, New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2008. 5 vols. \$399.95 (ISBN 978-0-7614-7761-7).

Targeted at high school and young adult audiences, this work serves as a valuable resource for researching major inventors throughout history. The biographical entries are thorough without being daunting and include timelines highlighting major milestones in the lives of each inventor. Although the primary focus of this 5-volume set is on the inventor, a nice selection of graphics, pictures, and related readings about the inventions is included. Overview articles on twenty-one topics such as buildings and materials, computers, and young inventors provide valuable supplementary information.

The volumes have attractive, sturdy covers and will look inviting on the reference shelf. Page layouts are appealing and the appropriate mix of text, full-color pictures, and graphics will keep reader interest. Primary source photographs are used effectively along with supporting material and depictions of some inventions. For example, a full-color diagram explains how helicopters work and a graphical table illustrates the spread of nuclear weapons since the end of World War II.

This set does not focus on inventors' race or gender as previous titles have done, such as Raymond B. Webster's *African American Firsts in Science & Technology* (Gale, 1999) or Ethlie Ann Vare and Greg Ptacek's *Mothers of Invention: From the Bra to the Bomb, Forgotten Women and Their Unforgettable Ideas* (Quill, 1989). Libraries already owning *The Grolier Library of Science Biographies* (1996) or *UXI's Scientists: The Lives and Works of 150 Scientists* (1996) will find *Inventors and Inventions* to be a more focused resource. The most comparable work found in public or school libraries is likely *Grolier's Inventions & Inventors* (2000) ten-volume set. The *Grolier's*

work focuses more on the invention and breaks each volume into a main subject area, while this new set is alphabetized by the inventor's last name.

A valuable tool for librarians, teachers, and students will be the indexes included in the set. Inventor names and inventions, as well as broader terms with subheadings to help readers narrow their focus, are included in each volume's index. The three indexes in volume 5 ("Name Index," "Inventions Index," and "Comprehensive Index") are extremely detailed and complete. In addition to using the indexes, readers may find the "Thematic Outline of Contents" in volume 1 useful as they work to narrow their research to an inventor in a topic area such as "Entertainment" or "Household Inventions."

As with any source covering a large theme, one can identify missing entries. Regardless, the overall work is detailed and informative and will meet the needs of most middle and high school students. Recommended for public libraries as well as middle and high school libraries.—Pam Sukalski, Distance Learning Librarian, Minnesota West Community & Technical College, Granite Falls, Minnesota

The Korean War: An Exhaustive Chronology. Bud Hannings. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2007. 3 vols. alkaline \$245 (ISBN 978-0-7864-2814-4).

Author Bud Hannings's objective with this work is "to provide a detailed account of the combat actions of the Korean war" and to show "an accurate and factual depiction of the everyday occurrences from the minor engagements to the major battles that were fought by ground, air and naval forces" (3). The author, who manages a U.S. military history publishing company, presents a meticulously constructed record of the fighting in the "Forgotten War."

Hannings's chronology commences in January 1950 and ends on September 6, 1953. The majority of the text is dedicated to the activities of American forces along with coverage of South Korean, North Korean, Chinese, and United Nations forces. The account for each date ranges from a few sentences (for example, a brief statement indicating the change of a military unit's location), to several pages describing a major battle ("The Invasion of South Korea"). The chronology is complemented with useful supplementary features including an essay outlining the lead up to the war, sixteen appendixes, a bibliography, two indexes, and almost five hundred black-and-white photographs and maps.

The major strength of Hannings's work is that it provides readers with a vivid and in-depth view of combat. For example, each day's log is typically subdivided by specific geographic locations in South Korea ("Southwest Pusan perimeter") or in other parts of the world ("In Japan"), or the position of a military unit ("In the X Corps area"). Furthermore, entries are packed with information such as the specific time of an event, precise names, and numbers of weapons used in military actions, and the number of resulting casualties. Finally, Hannings's language is highly effective in creating stark images of the various battles: "blackened skies are illuminated

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by crimson streaks of unrelenting fire” (26). This work is a valuable contribution to the study of the Korean War because it gives readers an intimate look at combat.

Hannings succeeds in showing a detailed portrayal of combat in Korea, but the work does tend to have an American bias. For example, many of the sources he consulted are military histories published by the U.S. government. He indicates in the preface that North Korean, Soviet, and Chinese records “were unavailable” and he had to rely on information from the U.S. military for the Communist countries’ military movements and casualty figures (5). Readers will therefore need to keep in mind that the events presented may not be completely balanced.

Other works that investigate the Korean war include James I. Matray’s *Historical Dictionary of the Korean War* (Greenwood, 1991) and Spencer C. Tucker’s *Encyclopedia of the Korean War: A Political, Social and Military History* (ABC-CLIO, 2000). Hannings’s work differs significantly from the other two titles. While Hannings’s work looks specifically at combat, Matray’s work focuses primarily on the political and diplomatic aspects of the war. Tucker also examines these aspects as well as social and military dimensions. Furthermore, the Tucker and Matray books present a broader perspective of the war. Both Tucker and Matray indicate that their books are from American and South Korean perspectives. Additionally, Tucker notes that articles in his encyclopedia were constructed with information available from Russian and Chinese archives. Finally, the Tucker and Matray works may also be considered more scholarly. For instance, both individuals are academics as are many of the contributors to their respective volumes. But Hannings presents a unique perspective on the Korean War and his work is recommended for academic libraries supporting American military history or foreign relations programs.—Michelle Hendley, *Reference Librarian, State University of New York, College at Oneonta*

Material Culture in America: Understanding Everyday Life. Ed. by Helen Sheumaker and Shirley T. Wajda. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 420p. alkaline \$95 (ISBN 978-1-57607-647-7).

From “attics” to “yard sales” and from “adolescence” to “shopping centers and shopping malls,” the 193 entries in *Material Culture in America: Understanding Everyday Life* offer a glimpse into material culture in the United States over the past four hundred years. An introductory overview defines material culture studies in the United States. As the editors state in the introduction, “it is not yet possible within the confines of one volume to account for, describe, and discuss the full wealth of material culture created, used, and altered by various groups in the American experience” (xvii). This volume instead sets out to cover three aspects of the field of material culture. First, it describes the scholarly disciplines that incorporate material culture into their study of American history and society. Covering theoretical issues, methodologies, and professional practice, entries in this category include “anthropology and archaeology,” “disability and disability studies,” and “social

history.” Second, there are entries that relate to the “stuff” and aspirations of material culture: “funerary (sepulchral) monuments,” “mobile homes and trailer parks,” and “religious dress.” Third are entries that address aspects of the human experience with respect to material culture, for example, “adulthood,” “poverty,” and “rite, ritual, and ceremony.”

The alphabetically arranged entries range from one to six pages in length, with the majority about two pages. Entries are signed and include cross references and a brief list of references and further readings. Contributors include faculty, graduate students, and museum professionals; however, a substantial number of entries were authored by one of the co-editors. Stock photos illustrate the text. The fifty-two page bibliography is arranged by topic and/or type of material, including categories such as “theory and methodology,” “journals,” and “social, cultural, and ethnographic approaches.” The work ends with a detailed index.

Entries are interesting to read and one can learn snippets of information about the freegan movement, the history of sex toys, the invention of the carpet sweeper, or the appearance of the mass-produced toilet paper roll. While the scholarship is fine, the selection criteria are unclear, and many entries emphasize material culture of the past hundred years, not the full spectrum of American history. There is no comparable encyclopedia of American *material* culture, but the brevity of many entries, and the selection of topics and the exclusion of others (why “plainness, Quaker” and not “Shakers”), leaves one holding a rather Spartan and eclectic “map of American material culture and its study” (xvii).

Reference works with more substantive essays on many of these topics include *Encyclopedia of American Social History* (Scribner, 1993), *Encyclopedia of the United States in the Nineteenth Century*, (Scribner, 2001), *Encyclopedia of American Studies* (Grolier, 2001), and the *Greenwood Guide to American Popular Culture* (Greenwood, 2002), as well as specialized encyclopedias such as the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2004). For example, the *Greenwood Guide to American Popular Culture* covers only fifty-eight topics, but the chapter-length essays on “games and toys” and “foodways” go into far greater historical detail than the two-page entries in *Material Culture in America*. An encyclopedia covering four hundred years of American “stuff” ought to have more volumes and include a much wider range of topics in greater historical depth. A *raison d’être* for this reference work never seems to materialize, making *Material Culture in America: Understanding Everyday Life* an optional purchase for academic libraries supporting programs in material culture or American Studies.—J. Christina Smith, *Anthropology/Sociology Bibliographer, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts*

New Encyclopedia of Africa. Ed. by John Middleton. New York: Thomson-Gale, 2008. 5 vols. alkaline \$575 (ISBN 978-0-684-31454-9).

New Encyclopedia of Africa is the successor to *The Encyclopedia of Africa South of the Sahara* (Scribner, 1997) also edited