

has assembled here an admirable roster of academics and military historians to write the entries. Experienced librarians will immediately recognize the name of Spencer Tucker, for example. It will suffice to say that this prolific author and editor is among the biggest of big guns in his field of study.

The value of this work is enhanced by a number of special features, which include an introductory essay giving an overview of Japanese military history, a slender section of primary documents, a chronology, a bibliography and a glossary of unfamiliar terms. Access points include three separate lists of all entries: alphabetical, by historical era and by subject matter (in addition, of course, to the index).

Those seeking narrative works regarding Japanese military history will find a lush garden, as volumes number in the thousands. Print reference aficionados, unfortunately, are confronted with a desert. A literature search reveals the title under review to be the sole English language entrant under the subject heading of "Japan—History, Military—Encyclopedias."

Informative, engaging, well written, and thoroughly researched, this volume nonetheless has an obviously narrow focus. Institutions that would most benefit from purchase, in the opinion of this reviewer, would be academic libraries, especially those that support Asian studies or hold significant collections in Orientalia, military and/or museum libraries, and other such specialized facilities.—*Michael F. Bemis, Independent Reference Book Reviewer*

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**The Jerome Kern Encyclopedia.** By Thomas S. Hischak. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow, 2013. 327 p. Alkaline \$80 (ISBN: 978-0-8108-9167-8). E-book available (978-0-8108-9168-5), \$79.99.

An encyclopedia dedicated to the merits and contributions of one person can sometimes fall into one of two camps: overly detailed to the point of pedantry or not detailed enough. However, *The Jerome Kern Encyclopedia* strikes the balance between the two, and as a result is a well-defined and interesting reference volume dealing with the work of one of America's most influential theatre and film composers.

Besides entries on the full-scale musicals Kern composed for the stage and screen, the volume also contains entries on over a hundred of his songs, as well as entries on the major lyricists, performers, directors, and producers he worked with over the course of his career. It includes a biography of Kern and appendixes on his career and recordings, as well as a bibliography and an index. Perhaps the most intriguing element of all the various sections of the book is the preface, which details the sad end of Kern's life: after browsing some antiques stores, he collapsed in the street. Having no identification on him but an unsigned *American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers* (ASCAP) card, the hospital called the ASCAP office and Oscar Hammerstein arrived and identified Kern, his collaborator on *Show Boat* and other works. Kern died within the week.

Kern is best known for his popular songs "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" (made famous by the The Platters in 1958 but

recorded by at least 25 others, including Edith Piaf and Cher) and "The Way You Look Tonight" (included in the 1936 film *Swing Time*, the lyrics were written by Dorothy Fields, who became the first woman to win a songwriting Oscar). However, part of the fun of the volume is browsing and learning about previously unknown-to-this-reader songs, such as "Bongo on the Congo" or "How'd You Like to Spoon with Me?" (and then, with the help of YouTube, listening to these immediately).

While Kern is included in over 80 biographical compendiums and is the subject of several biographies, the *Jerome Kern Encyclopedia* meets the author's goal of by providing "the single most comprehensive work of Jerome Kern" (viii). Recommended for large general reference collections and specialized music collections.—*Tracy Carr, Library Services Bureau Director, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Mississippi*

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**The Margaret Mitchell Encyclopedia.** By Anita Price Davis. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2013. 233 p. Acid free \$75 (ISBN: 978-0-7864-6855-3). E-book available (978-0-7864-9245-9), call for pricing.

Anita Price Davis has produced a meticulously researched volume about Margaret Mitchell. While some of the entries are awkwardly written, no one can dispute the thoroughness of the material.

Major biographers of Margaret Mitchell have entries—Finis Farr (*Margaret Mitchell of Atlanta: the Author of Gone With the Wind* [Morrow, 1965]); Anne Edwards (*Road to Tara: the Life of Margaret Mitchell* [Ticknor & Fields, 1983]); Darden Asbury Pyron (*Southern Daughter: the Life of Margaret Mitchell* [Oxford University Press, 1991]); as do authors of books about the work—Ellen Firsching Brown (*Margaret Mitchell's Gone With the Wind: a Bestseller's Odyssey from Atlanta to Hollywood* [Taylor Trade, 2011]); and Richard Barksdale Harwell (*Margaret Mitchell's Gone With the Wind Letters, 1936–1949*) [Macmillan, 1976]. Those who played the characters on film (Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh, Olivia de Havilland, Hattie McDaniel) and those who made the film possible (David Selznik, the director; his brother Myron who introduced Vivien Leigh to Selznik as the perfect Scarlett; Susan Myrick, an advisor on the film; Russell Birdwell, a publicist for the film with whom Mitchell exchanged some angry telegrams and letters) are included, as are family members and personal friends. Even the man who ran Mitchell over in 1949 while driving drunk, causing her death some days later, has an entry.

Oddly, you won't find entries for major Civil War personages, even those who figure in *Gone With the Wind*. General Sherman, whose march through Georgia is a major event in the book, is not here, nor is Jefferson Davis, General Lee, or even Wade Hampton, the commanding officer of Scarlett O'Hara's first husband. Apparently Davis decided to confine the encyclopedia to fictional characters and to real people important to Mitchell herself.

Some of the entries might be seen as trivia. Davis

includes stunts that Mitchell did during her work as a reporter for the *Atlanta Journal*, such as the time she was lifted up by an elephant during her reporting on circus conditions; and episodes during her brief time as a debutante, like her performance in an “Apache Dance,” a somewhat torrid dance which shocked the older members of society. Who knew that Jonesboro, Georgia, a location prominently featured in the novel, organized a reenactment of Scarlett O’Hara’s perilous flight from Atlanta to take place during the premier of the film? Or that Ozzie Nelson (a well-known television actor in the 1950s but a band leader before that) had conducted his band at a reception that coincided with that premier? You’ll find these bits of information, and much more, in this encyclopedia.

The bibliography is extensive, including major works about both Mitchell and her famous book, and newspaper articles contemporaneous with both the book’s publication and the movie’s premier, articles about individuals associated with either book or movie, even government documents and tourist brochures about the area. In short, the bibliography is long and inclusive.

The question is how central is this encyclopedia to the study of American literature, southern literature, and specifically Margaret Mitchell. Without some knowledge of Ms. Mitchell, both her life and her work, it is difficult to see how one would approach this work. How would one know to look up an entry such as “The Dump” unless one already knew that Mitchell referred to her apartment by that name? Or the entry “Gumption” unless one had read enough biographical material on Mitchell to know she saw that term as a major characteristic of the southern people? To properly use this encyclopedia, one might want to read a biography first, or at least an entry in a major literary biography source such as *Twentieth Century Literary Criticism* (Gale Research, 1983) or its electronic version, *Literature Criticism Online*, to become acquainted with the author and know what biographical details one wants to pursue.

Margaret Mitchell has faded somewhat from the worldwide phenomenon that *GWTW* made her. Her one book remains popular and has inspired sequels, dramatic productions, and even a musical. Her literary reputation is somewhat dimmer, however, than it was when she won the Pulitzer Prize for a novel in 1937. Its romanticized view of the pre–Civil War South has rightly been criticized and reinterpreted in light of present day attitudes. She and her book are however, still useful as an early example of a popular culture phenomenon, a precursor to fads and fancies of today.

Despite these reservations, this encyclopedia, in its completeness and attention to detail, would appeal to Mitchell and *Gone with the Wind* devotees, and to a lesser degree, to people with an interest in southern literature. Libraries which aspire to a complete reference collection in southern studies might consider this title, and certainly the still goodly number of fans of either the book or the film will want to take a look.—Terry Ann Mood, Professor Emeritus, University of Colorado at Denver

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***Marriage Customs of the World: An Encyclopedia of Dating Customs and Wedding Traditions.*** Expanded Second Edition. Edited by George P. Monger. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2013. 2 vols. acid free \$189 (ISBN: 978-1-59884-663-8). E-book available (978-1-59884-664-5), call for pricing.

This two-volume set represents a substantial revision of the first edition, which was first published in 2004. It contains roughly 350 unsigned entries, of which nearly 150 are new to this edition. The remaining 200 appeared in the first edition, but have since undergone emendation. The new entries were added to increase the international scope of the work. Each entry concludes with a “See Also” list of other entries that may be of interest, along with bibliographical references.

The work is very well organized. Both volumes begin with a list of the entries, and with a Guide to Related Topics that collates entries on similar subjects. The second volume contains a bibliography and a thorough index. Finding information within the encyclopedia will be easy for the high school and undergraduate students and general public for whom this work is in part aimed.

There is a wealth of information to be found about wedding customs in all the major religions. Dating, betrothal, and wedding customs of various countries are also explored in-depth. Specific regional and national customs are covered for a wider understanding on how weddings occur in other cultures. Unfortunately, no explanation is given as to why some countries are considered worthy of individual entries, while others are not.

Some curious omissions exist within the work. There is no entry on maiden names, a topic on which there is great cultural divergence. Such a topic would seem to be a natural fit for the work’s stated global perspective. There is little exploration of nontraditional and same-sex partnerships of the past or present; there are no entries for topics like Boston marriage or gay and lesbian marriage. Language used throughout the text typically describes weddings taking place between a bride and a bridegroom.

Faults aside, this is a useful, albeit nonessential resource that is easy to use. Libraries that have a well-used copy of the first edition may want to purchase this revised edition. High school and public libraries that wish to expand reference resources on cultural topics may find this title useful.—Sharon E. Reidt, Technical Services Librarian, Marlboro College Library, Marlboro, Vermont

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***Mental Health Care Issues in America: An Encyclopedia.*** Edited by Michael Shally-Jensen. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2013. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-013-3). E-book available (978-1-61069-014-0), call for pricing.

Since the 1950s, deinstitutionalization has revolutionized how Americans receive mental health care. In the early twentieth century, acute or chronic patients were treated (and sometimes permanently confined) in residential facilities.