

SOURCES

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*

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*

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