

the present, including entries about the most dangerous cities in the U.S. with historical background.—Nancy Frazier, *Instructional Services librarian, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania*

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***Encyclopedia of the Environment in American Literature.***

Edited by Geoff Hamilton and Brian Jones. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2013. 350 p. Acid free \$75 (ISBN: 978-0-7864-6541-5). E-book available (978-1-4766-0053-6), call for pricing.

Environmental and ecocritical theory, once small specializations in literary criticism, have enjoyed increased popularity over the past few years. The increasingly multidisciplinary nature of environmental literary studies encompasses science, history, politics, and art as well as literature, and has sparked new approaches to environmental literary research.

This encyclopedia, while it includes seminal environmental writings that readers might find in standard texts such as *The Norton Book of Nature Writing* (Norton, 2002), attempts to address the increasingly far-reaching scope of literary ecocriticism. Its focus is not American nature writing *per se*, but on those authors whose works have had a historical influence on perspectives about the American environment and landscape. As the editors state, “This is an encyclopedia of the environment, imagined and revealed in literature, not of literature on or about the environment” (1). Thus, the reader will find profiles of canonical writers such as Rachel Carson, John Muir, and Henry David Thoreau alongside that of contemporaries including Michael Crichton, Barbara Kingsolver and Al Gore. However, the book also offers unexpected authors. For instance, the eighteenth-century theologian Jonathan Edwards, best known for his sermon, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” also posited that observation of nature could lead to greater understanding of God’s purpose for the world.

Individual author entries, arranged alphabetically, are followed by short discussions of the authors’ most influential and representative works, and span five centuries of fiction, nonfiction, oral accounts and poetry, from early Native American creation myths to nineteenth-century Transcendentalism to science fiction. Scientific works are not included. Interspersed with the author entries are essays on general themes and topics such as “American Naturalism and Environment,” “The Conservation Movement,” “American Pastoral,” and “Ideologies: Manifest Destiny, the American Dream, and the Land of Opportunity.” All author and themed entries offer concise and useful bibliographies.

Although individual authors are easy to find, more cross-referencing of themes either in the index or the entries themselves would be useful. For example, a reader might expect an entry on “Native Americans” or “Indians” in the index, given the influence of early Native American creation stories and belief systems on American nature writing (not to mention contemporary Native American writers such as N. Scott Momaday and Leslie Marmon Silko). Instead, a reader needs a bit of luck and persistence to find entries including the

“Iroquois Creation Story” from *Sketches of the Ancient History of the Six Nations* and Bernd Peyer’s *The Elders Wrote*. In addition to a more complete index, the volume’s usefulness as a reference work would be improved by a table of contents and a chronology. The reader might also wish for a list of the encyclopedia’s contributors and their affiliations.

Despite these technical shortcomings, the book is well-written and thoroughly researched. Casual readers and serious researchers alike will certainly find interesting authors, works, and topics to pursue. Although many general environmental encyclopedias include entries on American authors and works, this encyclopedia’s targeted focus is a needed addition to the genre. It is a useful supplement to current introductory ecocritical guides such as *Teaching North American Environmental Literature* (Modern Language Association, 2008), Timothy Clark’s *The Cambridge Introduction to Literature and the Environment* (Cambridge University Press, 2011) and Glotfelty and Fromm’s *The Ecocriticism Reader* (University of Georgia Press, 1996), and is recommended for public and academic libraries.—Jennifer A. Bartlett, *Head of Reference Services, University of Kentucky Libraries, Lexington, Kentucky*

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***Japan at War: An Encyclopedia.*** Edited by Louis G. Perez. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2013. 615 p. Acid free. \$100 (ISBN: 978-1-59884-741-3). E-book available (978-1-59884-742-0), call for pricing.

From the ancient *samurai* warrior to the fearsome *kamikaze* suicide pilot of World War II, the island nation of Japan has a long and storied history of military prowess. With the publication of this volume, the researcher now has a one-stop-shop, if you will, that provides access to some 2,000 years of armed conflict, both within and without this Oriental archipelago. In almost 300 alphabetically arranged signed entries, such disparate topics as leaders (“Yamamoto, Isoroku,” the party responsible for planning the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii); events (“Washington Naval Conference [1921–1922],” the resultant treaty of which placed limits on the size of Japan’s navy); attitudes (“*bushido*,” literally, “the way of the warrior”); and international agreements (“Portsmouth Treaty,” which brought to an end the Russo-Japanese War of 1904–05) are discussed; along with the expected appearance of various battles, revolts and other military adventures. Interestingly enough, there is almost no mention of Japanese weapons. Those searching for information on, say, the “Zero” fighter plane will have to look elsewhere. To be fair, however, there is one entry for “Firearms in Premodern Japan” and a short discussion of chemical and biological warfare under the entry for “World War II, Japanese Atrocities.”

Editor Perez is well suited to helm such a project. Holding a doctoral degree from the University of Michigan, he currently is professor of Japanese history at Illinois State University at Normal. Widely published in his field, Perez has previously written *The History of Japan* (first and second editions), and *Daily Life in Early Modern Japan*, all by Greenwood Press. He

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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