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Betty Comden are listed under “Green.” There is no cross-reference from “Comden.” This drawback is ameliorated in the electronic version, since typing “Diddy” or “Comden” results in the display of the desired entry because of its full-text searching capability.

I was pleased to find essays for two composers that were at the end of their careers at the turn of the century, Claude Debussy (1862–1918) and Gustav Mahler (1860–1911); however, I was surprised to find no entry for Jonathan Larson (1960–96), the composer of the Broadway show and movie *Rent*, who died tragically just as his career was beginning.

Competing titles to this set are the single-volume *Contemporary Composers* edited by Brian Morton and Pamela Collins (St. James, 1992) and the six-volume *Baker’s Biographical Dictionary of Musicians* edited by Nicolas Slonimsky and Laura Kuhn (Schirmer, 2001). The Salem Press set is obviously more current, but it is best suited for high school and community college libraries due to its more superficial, yet wider-ranging, approach. At \$400, it is appealing to be able to acquire both print and online access, something *Baker’s* should have offered long ago.—Mark Palkovic, *Head Librarian, College-Conservatory of Music Library, University of Cincinnati, Ohio*.

Shakespeare’s Watch: A Guide to Time and Location in the Plays.

By Buzz Podewell. Plymouth, Mass.: Scarecrow, 2009. 2 vols. alkaline \$250 (ISBN 978-0-8108-6910-3).

A teacher of directing, theater history, and Shakespeare at Tulane University, Buzz Podewell wrote *Shakespeare’s Watch* primarily as a practical guide for “the working theatre artist” (vii). Shakespeare’s plays are known for their loose sense of time and location. This is not much of a problem for a reader focusing on Shakespeare’s larger themes, but for an actor interpreting the motivations of a character, a stage designer envisioning a scene, or a director whose primary role is to guide the action of the play, a clearer sense of time and location is essential for their craft. Podewell frequently encountered “basic questions about duration and the location of scenes in Shakespeare” (vii).

To save time at the rehearsal room table in working out these details, Podewell constructed “time and place schemes” for his cast, designers, and crew (vii). These schemes, covering each of the plays, became the contents of *Shakespeare’s Watch*. Podewell uses *The Riverside Shakespeare* (Houghton Mifflin, 1997) as his text, which, like other modern authoritative editions of Shakespeare, dispenses with detailed stage directions at the beginning of scenes (xvii).

Shakespeare’s Watch is divided into two volumes for the “Greek, Roman, and Italian Plays” and the “English and Northern European Plays.” Each chapter about a play begins with an introduction, which is followed by a scene-by-scene analysis providing the place, time, and interval between scenes. For literary students, the annotations that conclude each chapter will be especially helpful. In these, Podewell

carefully supports his conjectures about time and location with evidence from a wide variety of sources, such as the text of the play, documented observations of respected theater practitioners, famous productions, historical documents, and literary scholarship. Full citations to Podewell’s sources are given in a bibliography.

A number of reference books, some discussed below, cover topics similar to Podewell’s, but with different purposes. A staple for identifying locations in classic literature, *Cyclopedia of Literary Places* (Salem, 2003), provides only brief memory prompts about locations in the plays by Shakespeare. Shakespearean dictionaries discuss locations in significantly more detail and provide the places in Shakespeare’s work where they are mentioned, such as the classic *A Topographical Dictionary to the Works of Shakespeare and his Fellow Dramatists* (Longmans, Green, 1925) and *The Shakespeare Name Dictionary* (Garland, 1995). The more theoretical *Shakespeare’s Theatre: A Dictionary of His Stage Context* (Continuum, 2002) covers topics of place, time, and space. When compared to Podewell, *A Shakespeare Commentary* (Ungar, 1957) is similar in its individual chapters on plays. However, this commentary covers fewer plays and it lists notes about locations alphabetically within the chapters, rather than in the order a reader would encounter them. Restricted by time range, *Shakespeare Index: An Annotated Bibliography of Critical Articles on the Plays, 1959–1983* (Kraus, 1992) offers a detailed setting index, which is arranged by act and scene.

Other features that help make *Shakespeare’s Watch* a pragmatic guide are helpful user notes, an easy-to-handle two-volume arrangement, and maps embedded in the discussions of the plays, some of which were drawn by Podewell. More theoretical approaches to Shakespeare performance there discussed in monographs such as *A Companion to Shakespeare and Performance* (Blackwell, 2005). Engagingly written and well researched, academic libraries serving active programs in literature and theater will benefit most from *Shakespeare’s Watch*, especially considering its steep price.—Nevin J. Mayer, *Coordinator of Instruction, John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio*

Speakers of the House of Representatives. By Mark Grossman. Amenia, N.Y.: Grey House, 2009. acid-free \$135 (ISBN 13: 978-1-59237-404-5).

Speakers of the House Of Representatives is a comprehensive look at the personalities that have held the office throughout U.S. history, their legislative leadership, and a discussion of changes in the office over time. This is the first edition of the book, which is also available as an e-book (www.greyhouse.com/ebooks.htm). Author Mark Grossman is the author of several reference books on a variety of topics including political corruption, capital punishment, and Native American rights.

According to the author, this book represents more than ten years of research at libraries in the United States and Great

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Britain. The eighteen-page bibliography backs this up, and includes books, published and unpublished master's theses and dissertations, government documents, and material from several manuscript collections.

This reference stands apart from other examinations of the Speakership on the strength of its biographical entries. Every Speaker, from the first (Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenburg, who served two separate terms beginning in 1789 and 1793) to incumbent Nancy Pelosi, receives the same treatment. Each biographical entry includes a personal history, a narrative describing the subject's early political career, details on their election to the office of Speaker of the House, excerpts from their acceptance speeches, a summary of political leadership and other activities while holding the office, and a summary of their political activities (if any) and life after leaving the Speakership. Most entries are seven pages long. Each biographical entry includes a black-and-white portrait of the subject, and many entries conclude with additional portraits or images of official papers of the individual.

In this reviewer's research, only one other book on the subject, Donald Kennon's *The Speakers of the House of Representatives: A Bibliography* (Johns Hopkins, 1986) included biographies of all Speakers. Davidson, Hammock, and Smock's *Masters of the House: Congressional Leadership Over Two Centuries* (Westview, 1998) and Richard and Lynne Cheney's *Kings of the Hill: Power and Personality in the House of Representatives* (Continuum, 1983) examined the careers of a few key Speakers. Other books on the topic, like Ronald Peters' *The Speaker: Leadership in the House of Representatives* (CQ, 1994), focus on the political duties of the office.

In addition to the strength of its biographical entries, *Speakers of the House Of Representatives* offers a wealth of historical material and political analysis that place it beyond any previous books on the subject. Nine historical essays describe the transformation of the Speaker of the House from a largely symbolic position to one that plays a lead role in shaping legislation with or against the sitting president. A substantial primary document collection is cross-referenced to biographical entries, providing additional context to key events in congressional and national history. A timeline of the Speakership from 1789 to the present links major events to individual speakers and the office itself. Nine appendixes with descriptions provide a statistical portrait of the office, including the number of Speakers from each state and congressional distributions by party.

Speakers of the House of Representatives is a unique resource, a combination of political biographies and substantial scholarship on the transformation of a political office. It is unlikely that a reference this comprehensive will be published in the near future. It is recommended for undergraduate and graduate academic and public libraries with a pronounced interest in political topics.—Michael A. Rose, *Public Services Librarian, Rockingham Community College, Wentworth, North Carolina*

The Solar System. Ed. by David G. Fisher and Richard R. Erickson. Pasadena, Calif.; Salem, 2009. 3 vols. alkaline \$364 (ISBN 978-1-85765-530-2).

In 1998, Salem Press published a three-volume set of reference books titled *Magill's Choice: The Solar System*, edited by Roger Smith. Much of that work was a compilation of original essays that had appeared in *Magill's Survey of Science: Space Exploration Series* (1989), *Magill's Survey of Science: Earth Science Series* (1990), and *Magill's Survey of Science: Physical Science Series* (1992), all edited by Frank N. Magill, the founder of Salem Press. *The Solar System*, a completely revised and updated version of that earlier work, is edited by David Fisher and Richard Erickson, both of Lycoming College's Department of Astronomy. The Magill name has been eliminated from the title, but the set continues the Salem tradition of concise, easy-to-use reference materials targeted toward the general reader as well as students of Earth science, astronomy, planetology, and cosmology.

Expanded essays range in length from three to seven pages. The 180 topics covered include 58 that are new to this edition. The number of illustrations and charts has been greatly increased. Each essay, following the familiar Magill format, consists of title, category, a short summary, overview, followed by applications or methods of study or knowledge gained (as appropriate), context, byline, annotated list of further reading, and "see also" references to other essays in the work on related topics. A contributor's list of more than eighty scientists along with their academic affiliations appears in the front of the first volume.

Other helpful features that appear in every volume include a chronological list of the volume's content as well as an alphabetical list of contents of all three volumes. A six-page table of units of measure is followed by a category list of contents in which essays are arranged by area of the solar system studied. These categories consist of scientific subdisciplines relevant to standard undergraduate curricula. Unlike the first edition, this helpful category list appears in the front of every volume. At the end of volume 3 there is an extensive glossary, a general bibliography, a list of 110 authoritative websites, and a subject index. The revision from the older edition is visible from the outside as well, with a modernized cover and a format that has increased from 6 x 9" to 8 x 10".

There are few publications that compare to *The Solar System* that have appeared since 2000. *Encyclopedia of the Solar System* (Elsevier/Academic, 2007) edited by McFadden, Weissman, and Johnson, is a very heavy volume consisting of more than a thousand pages. This authoritative source for information about the solar system is to be expected from Elsevier, a leader in science publishing. However, its topics and its language make it suitable for the more advanced user. For undergraduates and general readers, the three volumes from Salem Press would be more user-friendly. Kenneth Lang's *The Cambridge Guide to the Solar System* (Cambridge, 2003) is written at an introductory level appropriate for high school and undergraduate students and is thus a more logical comparison.