

SOURCES

Congress, December 2009) of the *Official Congressional Directory (U.S. G.P.O., 1887–)*, also online at the U.S. Government Printing Office's Federal Digital System site.—Sally Moffitt, *Reference Librarian and Bibliographer for Anthropology, History, Philosophy, Political Science; Africana Studies, Asian Studies, Judaic Studies, Latin American Studies, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Cohen Enrichment Collection Langsam Library, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio*

Martial Arts of the World: An Encyclopedia of History and Innovation. Ed. by Thomas A. Green and Joseph R. Svinth. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clío, 2010. 2 vols. acid free \$180 (ISBN 978-1-59884-243-2).

Coming less than a decade after the publication of the first edition, this second edition of *Martial Arts of the World* may initially seem extraneous. Because of the increase in interest and continued research on the topic, however, this well-written set should prove a valuable source for libraries despite some organizational decisions that may lessen their appeal.

The editors of this second edition have created this set not only to provide avenues in which to convey the results of new research on the topic, but also to update many of the entries that had become outdated. It may seem unlikely to non-experts that a great deal could change regarding many topics like taekwondo, or pugilism in the UK, but it is obvious from the references included at the end of many entries that a great deal of new martial arts research has been conducted over the past decade.

Organized in two volumes, "Regions and Individual Arts," and "Themes," the volumes featured about 125 entries, almost all of which are extensive. Some may be only a few pages long, but many are in the 10–15 page range and there are no half-page entries to be found. While the entries may be introductory, they definitely provide a great deal of information. Further, they are written in a very straightforward manner that will be appreciated by both students and the public. Some entries may seem rather long initially, but this makes more sense when one considers that topics such as "Woman's boxing" or "Japan: Sumo," do not lend themselves to brief entries.

Because of the non-alphabetical arrangement of the volumes, the index is a critical tool in using this title. The editors have done an outstanding job in this regard by creating a very comprehensive index that is included in both volumes. The references affixed to the entries are excellent, including not only old and new titles but a good mix of books and periodicals. It is notable that a large number of sources from the past decade have been used in updating many entries from the original.

One drawback for the casual user of this set is that the arrangement may cause some confusion. If someone picks up either volume and flips through to find a popular martial arts topic like *karate*, they are going to be unsuccessful. The topic may be found easily in the index, but some students or other users may not make the leap to flipping to the back of the book. The editors consciously made the decision to move away from the alphabetical format of the first volumes to what

they feel is a more logical one, but there is definitely a risk of confusion for those expecting alphabetical order.

This two-volume set may not be necessary for all libraries holding the first edition, but the number of updated entries and the relatively low price for a reference title lend credence to the argument for its purchase. This would be a good selection for academic libraries, as well as school and public libraries serving populations interested in the topic. Given the growing popularity of MMA and by extension various individual martial arts, the potential audience has grown.—Craig Shufelt, *Fort McMurray Public Library, Alberta, Canada*

Milestone Documents of World Religions: Exploring Traditions of Faith Through Primary Sources. Ed. by David M. Fahey. Schlager, 2011. 3 vols. acid free \$325 ISBN 978-0-9797758-8-8. Online access included with purchase of print.

The latest in Schlager's *Milestones* series, this title presents primary sacred documents from the world's faith traditions. Editor David M. Fahey has interpreted "religion" in the broad sense, so along with the expected writings from Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and other major world religions are contributions from African religions, Neopaganism, Humanism, and Freemasonry, for example, as well as texts from ancient Egypt, the Near East, Greece, and Rome. Each article includes an overview section that gives the historical and religious context of the document, a time line; information about the "author" or the authorship of the text, explanation and analysis of the text, a discussion of the intended audience, the historical and religious impact of the document, key quotes, and questions for further study, to help guide readers and their teachers in discussion and analysis. The document itself is presented, in English translation when needed, either in full or in large excerpts, and a bibliography and glossary accompany each signed article. Black and white photos throughout enhance each document and a list of documents and index help navigate the three volume set.

The idea for these volumes is a great one—to collect primary documents in world religions and present them in a context that helps students and general readers understand their purpose and meaning. However, the execution is problematic. Although Fahey, the editor, is a professor emeritus from Miami University specializing in world religious history, many of the contributors to this volume, touted as "esteemed scholars" in the introduction, are listed as either high school teachers or "independent scholars." One wonders why, for example, an Assyriologist was not asked to write the entries on ancient Mesopotamia, or a Biblical scholar the entry on Exodus. The articles are competent enough but many are not specialists in that particular area. Fahey addresses this in the introduction, mentioning "the difficulty of locating authentic versions of ancient texts and the scholars to write about them and acquiring permission to reprint copyrighted items" (xvi). However, a minimal amount of research would uncover many specialist scholars in the relevant areas.

More troubling, however, is the presentation of the texts