

Editors Gaetan Brulotte, distinguished professor of French and Francophone Literature at the University of South Florida, and John Philips, professor of French Literature and Culture at London Metropolitan University, have produced a scholarly reference source that examines the variety and scope of erotic literature and its importance as a legitimate topic for study. This resource is timely in its subject matter, and international and historical in scope. Four hundred contributors from the world's most prestigious universities acted as advisors and authors of the 546 entries that comprise the two volumes.

In the introduction, Brulotte and Philips discuss the importance of erotic literature as an emerging field that explores and expresses the varieties and history of human sexual experience. They include entries on all forms of erotic literature, including fictional genres, essays, memoirs, sex manuals, and treatises. The framework of the set consists of historical overviews that are categorized by culture and language, topics and themes, literature surveys covering genres and publications, and writers and works consisting of individual author entries that address the authors' contributions to erotic writing.

Brulotte and Philips's coverage does not leave out any era of literature, from the ancient Greeks to the present. An essay on the eighteenth-century French literary phenomenon, libertinism, is an example of one of the topical articles. The essay explains the popularity of libertine works during the reign of Louis XV and its demise at the beginning of the French Revolution. *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* by Choderlos de Laclos is the most popular libertine work, but the most notorious author was Bastille resident the Marquis de Sade, whose works were still banned in the 1950s. The entry on contemporary Algerian fiction writer Assia Djebar and her writings exemplifies the international scope of the work. Her books are able to express women's desires and experiences within the context of Islam.

The significance of libraries is explored in an entry that explains that the preservation of erotic works depends largely upon collectors, scholars, and booksellers. The most significant collections are held by the Library of Congress, the British Library, the private library of J. P. Morgan, and the Kinsey Institute, to name a few. Even in the twenty-first century, access to these collections must be controlled due to theft and mutilation of texts.

Each of the signed essays includes lists of selected works and further reading. Following the introduction is a list of contributors, an alphabetical list of entries, and a thematic table of contents. The editors have thoughtfully added a complete index in both volumes. There are no illustrations, which might disappoint some readers.

The first work claiming to be an encyclopedia on erotica was Henry Spencer Ashbee's bibliography of his collection of erotic literature, *Centuria Librorum Absconditorum: Being Notes Bio-Biblio-Icono-Graphical and Critical on Curious and Uncommon Books*. Ashbee published this work under the scatological pseudonym of Pisanus Fraxi and had it privately printed in London in 1879. In 1962, Documentary Books of New York

produced a facsimile under the title, *The Encyclopedia of Erotic Literature*. Both editions are classified as rare books. Ashbee is best known as the alleged author of the infamous eleven-volume erotic work, *My Secret Life*, which was privately printed in Amsterdam in 1888. (Incidentally, upon his death in 1900, Ashbee donated his collection of erotic texts to the British Library.) In 1996, Clifford J. Scheiner of the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality and an advisor for Brulotte and Philips's book published a two-volume set called *Essential Guide to Erotic Literature* in the United Kingdom (Wordsworth Bks.) and *The Encyclopedia of Erotic Literature* in the United States (Barracade Bks.).

Brulotte and Philips's *Encyclopedia of Erotic Literature* is another high-quality resource from Routledge. Its intended audience is college and university students and faculty. It is recommended for academic libraries and special collections that focus on human sexuality.—Lisa N. Johnston, Associate Director, Sweet Briar College Library, Virginia

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***Encyclopedia of Fictional and Fantastical Languages.*** By Tim Conley and Stephen Cain. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2006. 272p. alkaline \$75 (ISBN 0-313-33188-x).

One might think it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find a reference source on a single subject that included entries on *Gulliver's Travels*, "Star Trek," *Through the Looking-Glass*, *Lord of the Rings*, and the '70s TV series, "The Land of the Lost." However, these disparate works all employ fictional languages—from Brobdingnagian to Klingon to Paku—and are all included in *Encyclopedia of Fictional and Fantastic Languages*.

The foreword by science fiction author Ursula K. Le Guin makes a compelling argument for the entire concept of fictional languages within texts. She explains not only why it is sometimes necessary for authors to create such languages, but that creating a language for a far-away place (or planet or dimension) is the natural progression from simply naming that place: "To make up the name of a person or a place is to open the way to the world of the language the name belongs to. It's a gate to Elsewhere. How do they talk in Elsewhere? How do we find out how they talk?" (xvii–xviii).

The book's aim is to present critical summaries on imaginary languages created in novels, stories, movies, and television shows. Not included are actual languages, constructed languages (such as those inspired by comic books and role-playing games), and various forms of dialect. The editors state in the preface that, "*Encyclopedia of Fictional and Fantastic Languages* represents an attempt to document the ingenuity brought to the problem of artificial languages by fabulists of many different nations and eras" (xxii).

Entries are listed in alphabetical order by title of the work that contains a fictional language—one would turn to the entry on *A Clockwork Orange* to read about nadsat—although an "Index of Named Languages" (as well as a general index and bibliography) is included at the back of the book. A guide to related topics in the front of the book groups like entries together. Topics include dinosaur languages, Martian languages,

## SOURCES

and musical languages. Entries include brief information on each work, linguistic and syntactical notes on the fictional language therein, and references. Detailed vocabulary is not included, although examples (and diagrams, if necessary) are given, especially for works with complex languages or more than one language, such as *Lord of the Rings* and *Gulliver's Travels*.

Perhaps because *Encyclopedia of Fictional and Fantastic Languages* has a narrow focus and is not exclusive to science fiction, there are no other comparable reference works available on the topic. (It should be noted that this book is thus far the only one with the Library of Congress subject heading "Imaginary languages—Encyclopedias.") This volume is recommended for academic libraries.—*Tracy Carr, Specialized Reference Manager, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson*

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***Encyclopedia of Holidays and Celebrations: A Country-by-Country Guide.*** Ed. by Matthew Dennis. New York: Facts On File, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$275 (ISBN 0-8160-6235-8).

Matthew Dennis, author of *Red, White, and Blue Letter Days: An American Calendar* (Cornell Univ. Pr., 2002), has created a three-volume guide that explores holidays and festivals in 206 countries. Volumes I and II are organized alphabetically by country, and volume III contains overviews of major internationally observed holidays and religions. Each country entry includes introductory material about the country's origin, history, political system, economy, geography, lifestyle and culture, and cuisine. The centerpiece of each entry is the description of the country's foremost holidays—public and legal, religious, and regional—with at-a-glance dates of observance and, if applicable, the religion of observance. In addition, significant rites of passage such as birth, coming-of-age, marriage, and death customs are described. Public and legal holidays are those officially recognized by the country's government with schools, businesses, and public offices generally closed on those days. Religious holidays are those that are religious in nature and officially recognized by the government or are observed by the country's majority religions.

Volume III contains entries on major religions such as Buddhism, Christianity, and Taoism, and festivals and holidays observed worldwide such as Carnival, Lent, Purim, and Ramadan. The volume also contains regional maps of the world, an overview of world calendar systems—including Gregorian, Islamic, and Hindu—solar and lunar calendar systems, a handy summary of holidays for all 206 countries, an index to the holidays, and a comprehensive index to the entire encyclopedia.

Entries have fun-fact sidebars, recipes, cross references, and a bibliography with many attractive black-and-white photographs, such as children in traditional dress, village dancers, weddings, and musical instruments.

There are other sources that cover holidays and festivals that complement this work, including Christian Roy's *Traditional Festivals: A Multicultural Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO, 2005), which is a survey of 150 festivals. Sue Ellen Thompson's

*Holiday Symbols and Customs* (Omnigraphics, 2003) gives the background of 274 holidays and one thousand symbols and customs associated with them. Robert H. Griffin's *The Folklore of World Holidays* (Gale, 1999) is arranged by the Gregorian Calendar (January 1–December 31) and includes 340 holidays and festivals from 150 countries. Helene Hands's *Holidays, Festivals, and Celebrations of the World Dictionary* (Omnigraphics, 2005) has short entries that cover 2,500 holidays from 100 countries and includes every state of the United States.

While all the previous sources are arranged by holiday or festival name, this resource is conveniently arranged by country, with combined information on culture, customs, traditions, and history. This welcome addition to multicultural studies is attractively laid out, easy to use, great for browsing as well as fact finding, and is highly recommended for high school, public, and college libraries.—*Eva Lautemann, Director of Learning Resources, Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston*

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***Encyclopedia of Human Geography.*** Ed. by Barney Warf. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2006. 616p. alkaline \$150 (ISBN 0-7619-8858-0).

The definition of human geography is elusive at best. It might well be described as the culmination of all disciplines within the social sciences and even some humanities. As the bibliographer for geography at the University of Colorado, Boulder, I find that to fulfill the teaching and research needs of the human geographers, I must delve into disciplines as diverse as economics, political science, environmental studies, sociology, minority studies, history, area studies, and urban planning, among others.

*Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, edited by Barney Warf, is a compendium of concepts that covers the breadth of this far-reaching discipline. The introduction to the volume is important reading for understanding the depth and growth of the field, especially over the last decade or so. To help the researcher understand the subject conceptually, the editor has provided a "Reader's Guide," which is an interesting reorganization of the entries under broad categories such as "economic geography," "geographic theory and history," and "social/cultural geography." A master bibliography of all the suggested reading material from the individual articles is included at the end of the volume in addition to an extensive, well-done index. Each entry has "see also" references that are very helpful in tying like concepts together.

This work is very similar to *Encyclopedia of Human Geography* by Gerald R. Pitzl (Greenwood, 2004). However, the entries in the Sage title are more extensive and are written by a large group of contributors.

A reference resource in this area that is superior to both the Sage and the Greenwood encyclopedias is *Dictionary of Human Geography*, edited by R. J. Johnson et al. (4th ed., Blackwell, 2000). This work has an impressive group of international contributors, is almost one thousand pages long, and covers the wide-ranging field of human geography more exhaustively. The references for the articles and suggested