

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*

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*

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