

SOURCES

“Handicrafts” (volume three), and “Physical Environment” (volume four). In addition to these color photos there are also more than four hundred black-and-white illustrations.

Readers will also find volume four helpful with its glossary, general bibliography, index, and an added bonus of selections from various primary sources, such as the autobiography of Mahatma M. K. Gandhi, Hindu texts, and the Upanishads.

I have yet to come across any other reference work that explores India with such scope and depth. Patrons in all types of libraries will find *Encyclopedia of India* most resourceful. Highly recommended for public and college libraries.—*Megan Coder, Reference Librarian, State University of New York, New Paltz*

Encyclopedia of Prostitution and Sex Work. Ed. by Melissa Hope Ditmore. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2006. 2 vols. acid free \$225 (ISBN 0-313-32968-0).

If prostitution is indeed the world's oldest profession, a comprehensive reference source covering sex work has been a long time coming. *Encyclopedia of Prostitution and Sex Work* is well worth the wait. It proves to be an excellent starting point for learning about this universally fascinating and controversial topic.

This work is very clear in defining its scope and purpose. Because it represents one of the first real forays into collecting and condensing the body of research on sex work, it is meant to present an overview that can be built upon by future works. That being said, its coverage is expansive. Entries run the gamut chronologically (from antiquity to the present) and geographically (from all corners of the globe), though the stated focus of the work is “on the West and the past 250 years” (xxi). The contributors to this encyclopedia bring expertise from a wide variety of disciplines (for example, sociology, history, law, and gender studies) to their entries. This variety of perspectives reflects the multidisciplinary nature of sex-work studies and encompasses the myriad issues.

In addition to the thorough coverage, this work offers several features that add to its desirability as a reference source. Two such features are the “Topical List of Entries” and the “Timeline,” which help readers build a holistic understanding of sex work. Another feature is the use of boldface type within entries to indicate terms that are themselves entries, making it easy for researchers to follow their interests from topic to topic.

Encyclopedia of Prostitution and Sex Work also contains a wealth of useful supplementary material. Sex-work research is rich in primary sources. This encyclopedia respects that aspect of the field by including an impressive 145 pages of these sources grouped under the headings, “Historical Accounts,” “Poems and Lyrics,” “Documents by Sex Workers,” and “Legal Documents and Commentary.”

Overall, this work is highly recommended for most any public or academic library. In addition to filling a void in the literature, it also strikes a balance between rigorous research

and readability.—*Emily Dill, Assistant Librarian, Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus*

The Facts On File Companion to the American Novel. Ed. by Abby H. Werlock and James P. Werlock. Companion to Literature Set. New York: Facts On File, 2006. 3 vols. alkaline \$195 (ISBN 0-8160-4528-3).

What makes *The Facts on File Companion to the American Novel* stand out among other reference works in literature is its focus on the American novel. Entries are either a bibliographic essay on an author or a synopsis of a particular work. Included are early authors like Charles Brockden Brown, considered to be America's first professional novelist, and Susanna Haswell Rowson, who wrote *Charlotte: A Tale of Truth*, the first best-selling novel in America. Here, too, are contemporary names such as Annie Proulx, Terry McMillan, and John Grisham. The selection of authors is made more inclusive by the editors' decision to include not only writers who have achieved literary praise, but also those who are important through their role in the historical development of American literature. Not every novel written by an included author merits its own entry; the selection is limited to those that have won a literary prize or that are commonly read in high school and college courses. Thus, Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*, *Cannery Row*, and *East of Eden* all have their own entries, while his *Sweet Thursday* does not. Numerous cross references within each entry lead the reader from an author entry to those that discuss the author's major works.

The selection of material is at the same time the strength and the weakness of this work. Other sources in literature are numerous, but none have the same focus as this one. General reference works on American literature, such as *The Oxford Companion to American Literature* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 1995) or *American Writers* and its supplements (Scribner, 1974–), cover all genres. More narrow works exist as well, covering a specific time period, a specific genre or ethnic literature, or a single author. Examples include *American Prose Writers of World War II* (vol. 316 of *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, Gale, 2005), *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of African-American Literature* (Greenwood, 2005), and *Langston Hughes* (vol. 315 of *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, Gale, 2005).

Students using a more general reference source risk finding a limited amount of information on any one author, while those faced with the myriad of specific sources may well miss a crucial one in the confusion. This *Companion* assembles a variety of information on an author and allows a student to concentrate solely on the single genre and national literature. However, gathering all relevant information on a particular author can be a bit awkward. Although the cross references do allow the student to locate all germane entries, doing so is a time-consuming process. In addition, because not all works of an author have dedicated entries, a student will have to look for commentary on those works in other entries, and will have to check the general index to verify whether a particular novel does indeed have a specific entry. It would have been

helpful to indicate somewhere in an author entry just which works do not have a separate entry. Perhaps the bibliography of an author's works that follows each author essay could have been coded in some way.

Rounding out the material in this three-volume work are a series of longer essays, about eight pages in length, each on various ethnic literatures ("The African-American Novel," "The Asian-American Novel," "The Latino Novel," and "The Native-American Novel"), as well as an essay on "The Detective Novel." Although these essays are a useful way to pull together information on the topics, one wonders why some others were not included. If there is an essay on the detective novel, why not one on the Western, or on the science fiction novel? Authors and works in those genres are certainly included; both Zane Grey and Louis L'Amour are here representing Western fiction, and both Ray Bradbury and Robert A. Heinlein are listed for science fiction, along with other authors in both genres.

Supplementary material includes two appendixes: the first, a list of major prizewinners in literature, and the second, a bibliography of sources as well as a list of contributors and a general index. One surprise is an error in the table of contents: the "List of Contributors" is indicated as beginning on page 1553; the "Index" on page 1555. In actuality, those two sections begin on pages 1453 and 1455 respectively. Although this is a small mistake it does make one doubt the care that was taken. It would also have been helpful to have a bit more information about each contributor, beyond the name and academic affiliation which is provided.

Despite these considerations, *The Facts On File Companion to the American Novel* fills an important niche. Having a compendium devoted only to the American novel will be useful for many high school and college libraries.—*Terry Ann Mood, Professor Emerita, University of Colorado at Denver*

Forensic Science: An Encyclopedia of History, Methods, and Techniques. By William J. Tilstone, Kathleen A. Savage, and Leigh A. Clark. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clio, 2006. 307p. alkaline \$95 (ISBN 1-57607-194-4).

Public interest in forensic science has grown tremendously in the past few years, fueled largely by authors Patricia Cornwell and Kathy Reichs and the popular television series, *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*. It's this general audience, along with high school and college students, that Tilstone, Savage, and Clark hope to reach with their new encyclopedia on forensic science.

Like Jay A. Siegel's *Encyclopedia of Forensic Sciences* (Academic, 2000)—a three-volume set geared towards the academic community and practitioners—this new scholarly work defines forensic science and its role in criminal and legal investigations; however, many students and patrons will find this new work more readable. The authors, all affiliated with the National Forensic Science Technology Center in Florida, preface the entries with an especially strong sixty-five-page introduction that delves into the history of forensic science—

from inventions of the eighteenth century to established experts in the nineteenth century—and current developments in the field, including computer forensics, digital evidence, and sophisticated database sharing. In their introduction, the authors offer an evenhanded portrayal of this often disputed science, and discuss both the field's successes (Marsh tests for arsenic poisoning, automated fingerprint identification systems, DNA analysis) and failings (incompetent laboratory workers, tainted testimonies, too-small budgets for much-needed resources).

The entries themselves are alphabetically arranged and can be searched via the contents section or extensive index at the end. Entry headings bolded within the text as well as on top of the page, make for easy use. Many entries contain accompanying black-and-white photographs, and all end with cross references and further reading suggestions that include current print and electronic citations. Topics include the more familiar methods of forensics (hair and fingerprint analysis), the less familiar (glass fractures, document examination), different types of deaths investigated (electric shock, drowning, mass disasters), and legal cases that are particularly significant in regard to forensic science (bite mark evidence in the Ted Bundy case, voice analysis in the Howard Hughes biographer hoax). In many entries, case histories are offered within the text to better illustrate the topic discussed.

Ultimately, this new encyclopedia is not only a good research tool, but also a fascinating read. Highly recommended for high school, college, and public libraries.—*Jennifer Johnston, Reference Librarian, San Bernardino, California*

Key Figures in Medieval Europe: An Encyclopedia. Ed. by Richard K. Emmerson. New York: Routledge, 2006. 784p. acid free \$150 (ISBN 0-415-97385-6).

Key Figures in Medieval Europe: An Encyclopedia provides 587 biographical entries drawn from twelve previously published volumes in the Routledge Encyclopedias of the Middle Ages series (formerly the Garland Encyclopedias of the Middle Ages). This series began publication in 1993 and includes individual volumes on Scandinavia, France, England, Germany, Iberia, Italy, Ireland, Jewish civilization, Islamic civilization, trade and travel, and science and technology. All entries reprinted in *Key Figures*, the thirteenth volume of the series, are exactly as they appeared in the original volumes in which they were published.

Individuals whose biographies are included in *Key Figures* lived between 500 and 1500 in Europe and include people from all walks of life. While information for people who held powerful positions in medieval society is more readily available, the editor has attempted to include a wide range of individuals, "from emperors and queens to businessmen and traveling performers, from popes and university scholars to visionary women and heretics" (vii). Entries in *Key Figures*, arranged alphabetically by name, are written in a scholarly, yet accessible style, and include "see also" references and a list of further readings. In addition to a general index, a helpful