

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

SOURCES

"Thematic List of Entries" provides access to entries based on profession and gender. *Key Figures* also includes an "Entries by Region" index and four black-and-white maps.

Many libraries may already own Joseph R. Strayer's (ed.) *Dictionary of the Middle Ages* (Scribner, 1982–1989), which does provide entries for many of the individuals included in *Key Figures*. However, the latter source has made an admirable attempt to include entries on people for whom there is little biographical information, but who contributed significantly to medieval culture. As a result, *Key Figures* includes entries on many women not included in Scribner's *Dictionary*—for example, the eleventh-century poets Qasmūna Bint Ismā'īl, "the first known Jewish woman writer on the Iberian Peninsula" (549), and Wallādah Bint Al-Mustafki, famous for her panegyric, satirical, and love poems. In addition, *Key Figures* sometimes provides lengthier, more in-depth articles on better known female historical figures—for example, the English mystic writer Julian of Norwich and the Carolingian Renaissance poet Marie de France.

Key Figures provides a single-volume, handy source for students, general readers, and scholars and is highly recommended for public and academic libraries, especially those who do not own all volumes of the Routledge Encyclopedias of the Middle Ages series or Scribner's *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*.—Eileen Oliver, Assistant Professor, San Antonio College Library, Texas

Medicine, Health, and Bioethics: Essential Primary Sources. Ed. by K. Lee Lener and Brenda Wilmoth Lerner. Social Issues Primary Sources Collection. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Thomson Gale, 2006. 513p. alkaline \$110 (ISBN 1-4144-0623-1).

Part of the Social Issues Primary Sources Collection series, this valuable and well-organized reference provides ready access to primary documents and first-hand accounts focusing on important milestones, ethical issues, and controversies in medicine and health from the nineteenth, twentieth, and current centuries. Using these materials, the editors show the progression of science and advances in medicine and their corresponding impact on society from the industrial age to modern times.

The 161 entries in this compilation include a variety of primary resources, such as report extracts, book excerpts, journal, magazine, and newspaper articles, legal decisions, speeches, photographs, press releases, artworks, and e-mail messages. Each entry is about a different primary resource. Even though the coverage is multifaceted, this well-designed book is easy-to-use because the entries follow a consistent and uniform format.

Each entry identifies the type, byline, date, and source of the primary source, along with brief biographical information about the author or photographer, and important contextual and background information. The primary source itself is wholly or partly reproduced, together with a conclusion that further explains the significance of the source in the history of medicine. There is a "Further Resources" section, many of

which are Web sites accessed as recently as 2005 and 2006. All entries make effective use of shading, bold type, and headings.

The work is organized into eight broad topics: "Bio-medical Science," "Clinical Medicine," "War and Medicine," "Industry and Medicine," "Public Health," "Wellness and Health," "Alternative Medicine," and "Bioethics." The primary sources contained in each section progress in sequence from the 1800s to more current dates, including entries focusing on events from 2004 and 2005. In addition to a formal introduction examining the relationship between social issues and medical science, the work offers a guide to using an entry and an explanation of the proper use and purpose of primary resources. Additional features are a chronology of important events in medical history, a list of the advisors and contributors along with their academic credentials and affiliations, and a multi-page list of acknowledgements. The work ends with an extensive listing of "Sources Consulted" and an index.

Interesting and eye-opening current entries include a journal article about telemedicine using wireless communication systems, a newspaper article outlining long-term disaster response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and an e-mail describing the Tulane Hospital evacuation during Hurricane Katrina. An impressive older source is a 1981 journal article excerpt about a mysterious disease now called AIDS, which is accompanied by another primary source, a photograph of a weakened Ugandan HIV patient.

The editors clearly state that the work is not comprehensive, but it was disappointing that not a single blog or wiki was used as an example of a primary source. It is well documented that blogs and wikis often provide real-time, first-hand accounts, especially during natural disasters, when other communication methods are unavailable.

The editors' goal with this work was to generate interest and bolster further investigation into the subjects. This well-written work fulfills this goal and is a good choice for biomedical and medical history academic reference collections.—Caroline Geck, Librarian, Kean University, Union, New Jersey

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Children's Literature. Ed. by Jack Zipes. New York: Oxford Univ. Pr., 2006. 4 vols. acid free \$495 (ISBN 0-19-514656-5).

Jack Zipes, editor for this impressive work, notes in his introduction that "children's literature has come of age" (xxix). This encyclopedia tries to include information on the most significant and sometimes even the not-so-significant works that have played a role in the history of children's literature around the world. (Some entries stray into the arcane, such as the short entry on George Armstrong Custer because of his influence on the dime novel.) There are articles on history and the state of children's literature in such countries as Australia, Austria, Brazil, Germany, Korea, and Russia. There are hundreds of articles on authors and illustrators from the fifteenth century to the twenty-first; editors such as Ursula