

SOURCES

early lesbian activist group Daughters of Bilitis in San Francisco and the arrest of Rosa Parks in Montgomery, Alabama. Suggested reading lists are incorporated at the end of each chapter, a critical feature in a work that seeks to condense so much historical scholarship into a small space. There is also a master bibliography, a short list of abbreviations, and a selective list of American films (not annotated). An interesting feature is the inclusion of debate topics—set off from the main text—that summarize key issues. The “Queers in Cold War America” chapter, for example, contains a debate about the validity and methods of the Kinsey studies. Photos and artwork are included throughout but unfortunately these are black and white and limited in number. The image-rich *Becoming Visible: An Illustrated History of Lesbian and Gay Life in America* by Molly McGarry and Fred Wasserman (Penguin Studio, 1998), would be an excellent companion to *Queer America*. The scope of coverage and narrative approach make *Queer America* a unique work that sits somewhere in between a reference source and a historical survey. There are many works that address specific movements, periods, and aspects of queer history, but few that cover the ground Eaklor does here. Among these are two nonreference titles, Barry Adam's *The Rise of a Gay and Lesbian Movement* (Twayne, rev. ed., 1995) and Leila J. Rupp's *A Desired Past: A Short History of Same-Sex Love in America* (Univ. of Chicago Pr., 1999). Chuck Stewart's *Gay and Lesbian Issues: A Reference Handbook* (ABC-CLIO, 2003) includes brief essays, annotations, and source lists that address much of the content in *Queer America*. A true ready-reference source, Stewart's work is easier to navigate. *Queer America* fills a gap in the literature by balancing components of all three works in a well-written and updated form. That said, given the currency of this work and its coverage of media-related topics, it's surprising how little attention is paid to the emergence of the Web, which has reshaped queer experiences. *Queer America* is recommended for academic libraries and public libraries with well-developed GLBT reference holdings, as it's probably put to better use in the circulating collection. *Queer America* is also available as an e-book.—Korey Brunetti, *Reference & Instruction Librarian, California State University East Bay, Hayward*

Rich and Poor in America: A Reference Handbook. By Geoffrey Gilbert. Contemporary World Issues. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 275p. alkaline \$55 (ISBN 978-1-59884-056-8).

ABC-CLIO upholds the reputation of its Contemporary World Issues series with this latest addition. Taking a panoramic view of the evidence, causes, and effects of the broadening gap between America's rich and poor, the volume will serve as an excellent jumping-off point for students writing about wealth disparity from virtually any angle. This has also been a popular topic for social issues point-counterpoint series such as *Opposing Viewpoints* (Greenhaven, 1970–present) and *At Issue* (Greenhaven, 1976–present).

Those familiar with the Contemporary World Issues series will recognize the book's organization: Several content

chapters; a chronology with detailed descriptions of cited events; short biographies; miscellaneous data and documents; a directory of organizations; and an annotated section of additional print and media resources. Race, health, education, immigration, technological change, unionization, and taxation are each presented as mediating factors affecting the distribution of American wealth.

Gilbert has authored two other books in this series, on world population and world poverty. He clearly wants to develop a relationship with his reader around this newest topic, wealth disparity. His intimate writing style periodically challenges the reader directly to consider his points. Measured compassion describes the tone. Gilbert's deftness in moving from one concept to the next will leave the reader with many thought-provoking questions about poverty—and this is a good thing.

Each chapters' topics are discussed in one-and-a-half to three page sections that are separately headed, making the topics covered immediately obvious when leafing through the chapters. Gilbert rightfully highlights taxation as a major pivot point of the national poverty discussion, and his thoughts on this intimidating topic are very readable. There is also a chapter addressing poverty from a global perspective, adding context to the discussion. One could proceed to Mehmet Odekon's 3-volume *Encyclopedia of World Poverty* (Sage, 2006) to explore this further. The twenty-seven biographies presented are a socioeconomic smorgasbord, ranging from Horatio Alger Jr. to former Vice Presidential candidate John Edwards. The variety of the “Data and Documents” section is impressive (included are census and survey data, the text of a speech by Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke, an essay by Andrew Carnegie, two opposing editorials on CEO pay, and the powerful poem “Being Poor,” widely circulated after Hurricane Katrina).

For more numbers, *American Incomes: Demographics of Who Has Money* (New Strategist Publications, 2007) is an excellent source of detailed statistical information on income, wealth, and poverty. *Rich and Poor in America* is unique in its presentation of the lifestyles of both the poor and the rich, as many other sources focus on one or the other. With regard to breadth of formats presented, its information is beyond comparison. Recommended for academic and large public libraries.—Eric Petersen, *Reference/Public Services Librarian, Dana College, Blair, Nebraska*

Rock Band Name Origins: The Stories of 240 Groups and Performers. By Greg Metzger. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland, 2008. paper 256p. alkaline \$45 (ISBN 978-0-7864-3818-1).

In *Rock Band Name Origins*, Greg Metzger has compiled an entertaining reference book detailing the history of the naming of 240 popular rock and pop artists from the 1960s to the present. Although most entries focus on groups, *Rock Band Name Origins* does include entries for selected individual artists. Each entry includes the original lineup, date the band was formed, or individual artist born, any later members of note, best known

song, and the history of the band's name. Of particular note is the inclusion of earlier names and rejected names.

Source information is provided for each entry, and it does appear as though Metzger has been thorough in his research; however, the dubious character of some of the book's featured artists undoubtedly complicated his work. For example, the entry for the band Phish highlights one of several stories that have circulated over the years. Metzger includes drummer Jon Fishman's explanation that Phish came from the sound of a plane taking off: "phssssh." In another interview, Fishman claimed to have simply given his nickname when asked the band's name at an early gig. In one interview, guitarist Trey Anastasio claimed that the band was named for their drummer and in another that it was the collapsing of the name Phil Lesh, Grateful Dead bassist and band inspiration (see www.phish.net/faq/name.html). The information provided in *Rock Band Name Origins* can only be as good as its sources, which are often the forgetful or playful artists themselves.

The artists also keep the book from being as insightful or entertaining as one would hope. After reading through many of the entries, one can become disappointed in the history of many band names. In too many cases, the name just came to a member of the group in an epiphany, was part of an inside joke, or was simply the first thing that came to mind in a moment of need.

Although much of the information included in this book can be culled from freely available and frequently updated online sources such as Wikipedia and ClassicBands.com, *Rock Band Name Origins* is a preferable source for the artists that are included. It pulls out the naming history information that may be found in lengthy general articles for each artist on Wikipedia and offers more of a narrative than a source like ClassicBands.com. In addition to the entries themselves, the book offers appendixes that list previous names used for each artist as well as names that were rejected. It is also well indexed and offers entries a wide range of artists over the last four decades.

Rock Band Name Origins is recommended for public libraries serving young adult populations or collecting heavily in popular culture as well as general academic libraries supporting a curriculum that includes coursework on popular culture.—Joseph A. Salem, Jr., *Head, Reference and Government Information Services, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio*

South Asia: An Environmental History. By Christopher V. Hill. Nature and Human Societies. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 329p. alkaline \$85 (ISBN 978-1-85109-925-2).

South Asia: An Environmental History is the eleventh volume in ABC-CLIO's Nature and Human Societies series, which addresses the environmental histories of various regions around the globe. Author Christopher Hill's focus is South Asia, which includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The Indian subcontinent is a geographically diverse area and throughout time its people have had to adapt to their land with changes brought on by colonization,

industrialization, and independence. This comprehensive and chronological book explains the reciprocal relationship between the inhabitants of South Asia and their surroundings from the Indus Civilization through modern times.

The volume consists of 10 chapters each containing black-and-white photographs. Two special features worth highlighting are the "Case Studies" and the "Bibliographic Essay" sections, both of which illustrate Hill's expertise in this subject matter. Users may also find the "Important People, Events, and Concepts" and "Chronology" additions useful for fact checking and quick references.

One common theme throughout this work is commodification, or as Hill explains, when "nature is seen only for its value as a commodity" (xxi). South Asia has largely been shaped by foreign dependence on these commodities, such as opium, spices, and timber, which are discussed in "The Rise and Fall of the Mughal Empire" and "Company Rule" chapters.

Historically, this area of the world has had a significant number of natural disasters, with the most recent events being the Kashmir earthquake in 2005 and the tsunami in 2004. Hill refers to these in the final chapter, "South Asia Since 1947."

Although Stanley Wolpert's *Encyclopedia of India* (Scribner, 2006) does include information on deforestation, environmental consciousness, environmental protection, and the green revolution, there does not appear to be another resource like *South Asia: An Environmental History* that explores this region's environmental history with such detail. Hill is a talented writer who can take complex information and make it comprehensible and interesting for those who are not experts in the field. *South Asia: An Environmental History* would be an excellent addition to all academic libraries, especially those with strong Asian Studies or environmental collections. Those libraries that already own the other titles within ABC-CLIO's Nature and Human Societies series should also consider adding this reference book to their holdings.—Megan Coder, *Senior Assistant Librarian, State University of New York, New Paltz*

The Thanksgiving Book. By Laurie C. Hillstrom. Detroit, Mich.: Omnigraphics, 2008. 328p. alkaline \$65 (ISBN 978-0-7808-0403-6).

Designed with the general audience in mind, this accessible, readable work by Laurie C. Hillstrom is divided into three sections: essays (without footnotes), recipes, and primary sources. The first section contains two lengthy essays. The first essay helps users understand the history of Thanksgiving celebrations and how they have changed over the years. Interestingly, although in the first paragraph the author states, "Thanksgiving means many things to many people," (1) she doesn't mention the fact that some Native Americans object to the celebration until almost forty pages later. The second essay conveys information about the food associated with Thanksgiving from the seventeenth to the twenty-first centuries and how tastes have changed.