

Philavery is an invention that he defines as “an idiosyncratic collection of uncommon and pleasing words” (iii–v). The *Philavery* is very much Mr. Foyle’s dictionary. It grew out of a list of unfamiliar words or usages Foyle encountered in his own reading, supplemented by “new gems—pleasing, interesting, and unusual words, both ancient and modern which attracted my attention in some way and demanded to be remembered” (iii). Happily, Foyle has a broad range of reading interests and catholic tastes when it comes to words he finds pleasing. The dictionary holds approximately 1,170 words with a good variety of etymological origins. He includes words that are common but pleasing (“blurt”), nonsensical (“friscajoly”), archaic (“leman”), scientific (“dasyphyullous”), poetical (“synecdoche”), religious (“Muggletonian”), rhetorical (“paradiastole”), philosophical (“ontology”), and a little naughty (“priapic”). Foyle’s Englishness comes through in definitions of Americanisms and even more in his occasional notes, which include anecdotes about the author’s home in a converted abbey (see “decollate”) and the seventeenth-century thatched stone cottage he used to own in Wiltshire (see “rhabdomancy”). English spellings occur in only a few of the definitions and should not be distracting to American readers. The English tone of Foyle’s commentary is well matched by the book’s attractive design, with its William Morris end papers and cover decorations, its gold lettered spine bound in red cloth, and its sewn-in ribbon to mark the reader’s place.

The definitions seem well researched. Scanning the familiar words I discovered only a few odd definitions and only one that I would judge a mistake; the description of a “monstrance” as “a large open or transparent cup” is at odds with all the other dictionaries I consulted. Comparing a random sampling of forty-five obscure words to the *Oxford English Dictionary* showed that Foyle’s definitions are in good accord with this authority. The most common discrepancy is when Foyle emphasizes or restricts himself to a sense the *OED* lists as a secondary meaning. Only one of the sample words could not be found in the *OED*: “haptodysphoria,” a medical term that Foyle defines as “an unpleasant sensation felt by some people in response to certain tactile sensations.” It is clear that Foyle has consulted a variety of sources and authorities and he has produced a highly enjoyable dictionary. The only substantive criticism of the *Philavery* is that Foyle has chosen to include pronunciations and derivations only where he feels they are necessary or interesting. Similar dictionaries include these for all terms, allowing the reader to determine when they are necessary or interesting. *Foyle’s Philavery* is suitable for school, public, and academic libraries.—Alistair Morrison, *Product Manager, Lexis-Nexis, MLS candidate, University of Maryland*

The Gale Encyclopedia of Diets: A Guide to Health and Nutrition. Ed. by Jacqueline Longe. New York: Gale, 2008. 2 vols. \$415 (ISBN 978-1-4144-2991-5).

Coronary heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, and obesity continue to increase in many Western countries; and, in the United States, coronary heart disease is the leading cause

of death for both sexes. Many medical experts attribute the rise in these diseases to a sedentary lifestyle and the modern Western diet that is based on unhealthy fats, processed foods, and an over-reliance on fast food.

At the same time, Western societies are youth-obsessed, and slenderness and physical fitness are usually associated with youth and beauty. Dieting, good nutrition, and the maintenance of health preoccupy the citizens of Western countries. Consumers are constantly bombarded by advertisements for diets and nutritional products that claim to offer immediate results. These consumers may find it challenging to locate accurate and truthful information about these items. In fact, these individuals’ main sources of information may be marketers and media messages.

This well-designed and comprehensive reference, which contains 275 signed articles, provides objective information in contrast to biased sources. All articles furnish good overviews, and they are good places to start research because they provide sections for definitions, descriptions, resources, and key terms. Cross-referencing includes capitalizing in the text of all topics that are main entries. The work also contains approximately two hundred color illustrations.

The resource provides information for basically three types of topics: special and popular diets, nutrition basics, and health. It will assist individuals to better understand relationships between nutrition and medical conditions. For example, the articles for specific diets, especially controversial diets, discuss precautions, risks, and questions to ask physicians. The articles focusing on nutrition basics have sections for precautions, interactions, aftercare, complications, and parental concerns; and the health articles discuss nutrition, dietetic concerns, and prevention.

Weight loss programs endorsed by celebrities such as Dr. Phil, Richard Simmons, and Suzanne Somers are covered, as well as popular plans like Jenny Craig and Weight Watchers. There is even an entry for the Subway diet, the diet associated with Jared Fogle, a loyal customer of the Subway fast-food chain. Many other entries focus on the foods and eating patterns of specific groups, such as adolescents, African-Americans, Central Americans and Mexicans, and men.

Jacqueline Longe, the editor, has edited similar encyclopedias for Thomson Gale, such as *Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine* (2006), *Gale Encyclopedia of Cancer* (2005), and *Gale Encyclopedia of Alternative Medicine* (2004). Although there is some overlap in topic coverage between works, the articles in this newest encyclopedia have been totally updated and are often written by new authors. Besides being an excellent resource to answer personal questions, this set will be useful for exploring a variety of research topics. Therefore, this resource is being recommended for all public and academic consumer health collections.—Caroline Geck, *School Library Media Specialist, Newark Public Schools, New Jersey*

Handbook to Life in the Medieval World. By Madeleine P. Cosman and Linda G. Jones. Facts On File Library of World History. New

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York: Facts On File, 2008. 3 vols. acid free \$210 (ISBN 978-0-8160-4887-8).

This latest volume in the Facts On File Library of World History series describes the world of Christians, Muslims, and Jews during the medieval period, dated roughly from 476 to 1492 C.E., who lived in the geographical area once ruled by the Roman Empire. Written by the medieval scholar Madeleine P. Cosman and completed by Linda G. Jones, a professor of Arabic philology, this three volume set explores the history, cultures, economy, and social milieu of medieval Europe, Britain, the Mediterranean, North Africa, Asia Minor, and the Middle East and discusses both the differences and the interrelatedness of Christians, Muslims, and Jews during this time.

Each of the twelve chapters in the *Handbook* covers a separate aspect of the medieval world, and includes history, literature, economy and trade, and clothing and textiles, following the format of other volumes in the series. Chapters begin with a general treatment of the topic at hand and a description of the intersections between the three cultures, before continuing with an in-depth look at each culture separately. There are numerous maps and illustrations and a short list of references at the end of each chapter supplemented by a full bibliography at the end of volume three. The text is clearly written in easily understood language and avoids unnecessary academic jargon. The volumes themselves are well-laid out, with crisp text and handsome black-and-white illustrations.

There have been several recent reference works published on the medieval world, including *Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages* (Fitzroy Dearborn, 2001), *The Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages* (Viking, 1999), and Facts On File's own *Encyclopedia of the Medieval World* (2005). The *Handbook of Life in the Medieval World*, with its concentration on daily life and its topic coverage that emphasizes depth over breadth, tends to complement rather than compete with these other resources and would make an excellent addition to academic, public, and high-school libraries.—Amanda K. Sprochi, *Health Sciences Cataloger, University of Missouri, Columbia*

Holocaust Literature. Ed. by John K. Roth. Magill's Choice. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2008. 2 vols. alkaline \$120 (ISBN 978-1-58765-375-9).

Magill's Choice *Holocaust Literature* is a welcome affordable addition to reference works on the literature of the Holocaust. The purpose of the encyclopedia, to provide a survey of the "essential" works of Holocaust literature, is ambitious for a work that is 960 pages across two volumes. The encyclopedia includes more than one hundred essays, arranged alphabetically by the title of the work. Two-thirds of the essays cover works of non-fiction, with the remainder comprised of fiction and poetry. The selections made by editor John K. Roth, a professor of philosophy at Claremont McKenna College, offer an interdisciplinary and comprehensive overview of Holocaust literature. Topics of the works covered are as far ranging as the history of genocide, eugenics in the twentieth century,

the effects of bombing during World War II on contemporary German cities, and how the Holocaust has influenced contemporary American life. The title does not adequately describe the content; this encyclopedia offers a thorough introduction to not only the literature but also the development of intellectual thought about the Holocaust.

The essays originally appeared in *Magill's Literary Annual* and several different editions of the *Masterplots* series. Although new material has been added, the extent of updating is often negligible. For example, the changes for the entry on Sylvia Plath's "Daddy" consist only of an updated bibliography from the 1987 edition of *Masterplots*. Although much of the content is available in other sources, having the various authors arranged under the main topic of Holocaust literature is useful. In addition, few libraries are able to afford all of the different editions of *Magill's* and *Masterplots* from which these essays are gleaned. The up-to-date bibliographies in each essay feature only books and articles from newspapers and popular periodicals, with no references to journal articles included. The entries feature the plot summaries, list of characters, and brief biographical information typical of *Masterplots* and *Magill's*, but offer little or no explanation about how the authors or works fit into the larger topic of Holocaust literature. Additional commentary on how these works fit into the topic of Holocaust literature would have greatly improved this work.

There is an extensive bibliography arranged by genre, title, and author of both further primary and secondary sources on both the Holocaust and the literature of the Holocaust. Both volumes also offer a chronology of the Holocaust.

The extensive and scholarly two-volume *Holocaust Literature* (Routledge, 2003) is more suitable for academic libraries as it features lengthier bibliographies for entries and covers more scholarly authors and texts. The one-volume *Encyclopedia of Holocaust Literature* (Oryx, 2002) is another recent title, which is a quality work, but does not describe individual works. The entries are all specific to authors. The careful thought informing the selections made by the editor of Magill's Choice *Holocaust Literature* is clear throughout. Reading through the majority of the essays would expand any reader's understanding of the Holocaust, but the information contained in individual essays could be more in depth. Recommended for public and high school libraries.—Shannon Pritting, *Coordinator of Access Services, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, New York*

International Encyclopedia of Organization Studies. Ed. by Stewart R. Clegg and James R. Bailey. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2008. 4 vols. acid-free \$695 (ISBN 978-1-4129-1515-1).

This four-volume set edited by Stuart R. Clegg (University of Technology, Sydney, Australia) and James R. Bailey (George Washington University) provides a wealth of information about organization studies and spans multiple disciplines.

With more than five hundred entries, the encyclopedia is organized alphabetically with plenty of cross-references to direct the reader to more possibilities. All of the entries