

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.