

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.

SOURCES

The second section contains the real heart of this work, more than fifty primary source documents. This section contains everything from the Mayflower Compact to the words to “Over the River and Through the Wood” to a poem by contemporary children’s author Jack Prelutsky. The documents are organized by ten broad historical time periods, including First Thanksgiving, Revolutionary Period, and Modern Times, and there is also a section on Native American perspectives on Thanksgiving. All documents have source notes or citations.

The final section of this work contains recipes ranging from appetizers to leftovers. There are instructions on how to handle and cook a turkey, prepare a turducken (a turkey stuffed with a duck stuffed with a chicken), and make desserts and drinks. This section does not have any source notes or discussion of the history (or rationale) of the recipes which is a little frustrating when one is looking for an “authentic” recipe.

The work also contains a helpful chronology, a bibliography, lists of photo and illustration credits, and an index that is essential if you need to find out about dispersed topics such as cranberries, which are mentioned in several sections of the book. The book is illustrated in black and white with small, muddy photographs or reproductions of artwork that do not really enhance the text.

Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of World Holidays (U*X*L, 2000) is also designed for the general reader and deals with celebrations of specific holidays such as Christmas and Thanksgiving, but it does not have the wealth of primary source documents and extensive recipes. *The Thanksgiving Book* work pulls together information from many sources and provides helpful, quick access to primary source materials on many related topics that are not covered thoroughly elsewhere. Recommended for middle school through community college libraries and public libraries that need reference material in this area.—Dona J. Helmer, Librarian, Anchorage School District, Anchorage, Alaska

Women in American Musical Theatre: Essays on Composers, Lyricists, Librettists, Arrangers, Choreographers, Designers, Directors, Producers and Performance Artists. Ed. by Bud Coleman and Judith A. Sebesta. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2008. 292p. alkaline \$45 paper (ISBN 978-0-7864-3382-7).

This book aims to fill the gap in the existing literature where women ought to be. *Women in American Musical Theatre* not only celebrates the often-overlooked women discussed here, but also promotes a more scholarly discourse around musical theater generally with rigorous and thorough essays. Yet it does not seem useful to this reviewer as a reference work.

Two excellent publications focusing on historically marginalized groups in musical theater are *The Queer Encyclopedia of Music, Dance & Musical Theater*, edited by Claude J. Summers (Cleis Press, 2004) and Bernard L. Peterson Jr.’s *A Century of Musicals in Black and White: An Encyclopedia of Musical Stage Works by, about, or Involving African Americans*

(Greenwood, 1993). Like standard reference works, they provide access through multiple indices, offer internal bibliographies pointing to further research, and arrange the short entries alphabetically so the researcher can easily dip in and find relevant information. The same cannot be said for the arrangement of *Women in American Musical Theatre*; scholars and enthusiasts will continue to wait for the feminist reference counterpart to the two works mentioned above. Moreover, coverage in *Women in American Musical Theatre* is limited to the twentieth century, and as the editors point out in their introduction, the information here should be considered a sampling of women’s contributions rather than an overview.

Given the resources we already have to work with, does a collection of essays belong on the reference shelf? *Women in American Musical Theatre* is a worthwhile purchase for public and academic libraries because of the popularity of musical theater and the unique coverage of the subject. However, this book is recommended for the circulating collection.—Amy R. Hofer, Research Instruction Librarian, Golden Gate University, San Francisco, California

Women in the American West. By Laura E. Woodworth-Ney. Cultures in the American West. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 387p. alkaline \$65 (ISBN 978-1-59884-050-6).

Notable author of American West-related scholarship Laura Woodworth-Ney has written an equally noteworthy historical survey with *Women in the American West*, the newest addition to the Cultures in the American West series. Woodworth-Ney immediately and necessarily defines the scope of her work both geographically and topically. Her “American West” includes North American areas west of the Mississippi River (excluding Hawaii and Alaska), while her topical scope is broad, including women who lived in or affected this geographic area and political and social events/phenomena that affected women in this geographic area. Woodworth-Ney organizes the majority of the work chronologically, rooting her discussion in the more general history of America at a given time.

Chapter two is devoted entirely to Native American experiences (though the experiences of this population are also interweaved throughout the work). Chapter one’s historiographical discussion of methods and limitations of conducting historical research about women in the American West suggests this work’s appropriateness as a women’s history textbook. A strong proponent of the benefits of including primary sources in the historical research process, the reviewer was pleased to find a twelve-page discussion on locating such resources for the covered topic. It was with great surprise and disappointment to then discover that the remainder of the work contains few examples of primary resources other than black-and-white photos. While some primary resources are cited within the bibliographic essay, the fact that they are primary resources is not immediately apparent due to the ill-chosen bibliographic format.

Though each chapter concludes with a lengthy