

interesting and well-written, the entries are too basic for scholars except for quick reference. For these readers, Trigger's updated classic, *A History of Archaeological Thought* (Cambridge, 2006), is probably more useful. On the other hand, it is difficult to imagine why a non-specialist would need an encyclopedic volume of general archaeological historiography; quick reference is well-supported by *The Encyclopedia of Archaeology* or Brian Fagan's *Oxford Companion to Archaeology* (Oxford, 1996), and more in-depth information on particular historical subjects is better provided by any number of individual, narrative resources. Murray's format choice, therefore, may limit the audience for an otherwise excellent resource. That being said, this volume is recommended for large public libraries and academic collections that support archaeological research.—*Amanda Sprochi, Health Sciences Cataloger, University of Missouri-Columbia*

The Oxford Companion to Black British History. Ed. by David Dabydeen, John Gilmore, and Cecily Jones. New York: Oxford Univ. Pr., 2007. 592p. \$60 (ISBN 978-0-19-280439-6).

This guide was developed in response to a 2005 British government report by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority citing the limited educational resources available covering the black British community. In going beyond the topics of slavery and post-war immigration, the editors present the nearly two millennia history of blacks in the British Isles, from the Roman era to the present day. Many works on immigration and diasporas have been published in the past decade, including the newly published *Encyclopedia of Diasporas: Immigrant and Refugee Cultures around the World* (Springer, 2007), and scholarly books covering discrete topics and eras of black British history have trickled out over the past two decades, but this reference work is entirely unique in its coverage and approach.

At nearly six hundred pages, this extensive work is bolstered by roughly four hundred well-researched, scholarly encyclopedic entries. The arrangement is strictly alphabetical, but the editors include a "Thematic Contents List" with sixteen broad topic categories and all entries represented within the list. Some of the categories are more helpful than others, such as "Literature" compared to the more nebulous "Personalities." The encyclopedia content is varied, covering all aspects of the subject matter, and even includes entries for African-Americans and other non-British blacks who affected Black British culture, such as Malcolm X, Frederick Douglass, and Haile Selassie. The Caribbean immigrant community is by far the most thoroughly covered group in the work. Other ancillary features are a chronology and selected bibliography.

Despite the inclusion of the aforementioned "Thematic Contents List" and a brief introduction, a more extensive introductory essay would have furthered the work. For those unfamiliar with the topic, a more in-depth understanding of the history and context of blacks in Britain would have served the readers' navigation of the entries. As well, although Ox-

ford generally does not include illustrations in their Companion series, their inclusion would have brought more weight to the subject. Regardless of a few omissions in the work, the editors certainly fulfilled their goal of creating an unprecedented and timely reference work on history of blacks in Britain. This reference title would be useful for all levels of undergraduate and graduate academic libraries as well as for larger public libraries.—*Brent D. Singleton, Reference Librarian, California State University, San Bernardino*

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Maritime History. Ed. by John B. Hattendorf. New York: Oxford Univ. Pr., 2007. 4 vols. alkaline \$550 (ISBN 978-0-19-513075-1).

A reader might think that after thousands of years of human beings sailing the seas, *someone* would have written an encyclopedia of maritime history before. If one exists, it remains obscure. In his introduction to this impressive set, editor John Hattendorf says it was the late 1980s before scholars began to look beyond such specialized fields as exploration, commerce, and navies and make the links in a common pursuit of maritime studies. Hattendorf's intention with his encyclopedia is to present a range of interrelated historical themes and information about people, ships, and the seas so that scholars and general readers can discover the history more readily.

The project is an entertaining and informative success. In more than nine hundred alphabetically organized articles, the encyclopedia explores topics ranging from maritime technology and literature to naval battles and exploration. Such topics as pearl fishing, finding longitude, Dutch marine paintings, piracy, and even surfing demonstrate the breadth of the work. More than four hundred black-and-white illustrations are complemented by more than sixty maps and nautical charts.

Any significant maritime subject that can't be found in the conveniently presented list of article titles in the first volume will very likely be referenced in the 220-page index at the end of the fourth volume. The fourth volume also includes a topical outline of entries and a directory of contributors. The articles, in turn, offer end references and bibliographies.

Those familiar with Spencer Tucker's *Naval Warfare: An International Encyclopedia* (ABC-Clío, 2002) will find this new set familiar in depth and format, with the all-important addition of non-military topics. An opposite comparison can be made with Peter Kemp's renowned *Oxford Companion to Ships and the Sea* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2005), whose brief entries cover a vast number of mostly non-military maritime subjects. Put the two together and there would be something close to Hattendorf's encyclopedia, which is exactly his point.

Arguably, atlases of maritime history have addressed their subject with some of the breadth that Hattendorf claims, but, as an example, Richard Natkiel's *Atlas of Maritime History* (Facts On File, 1986) gives only the briefest overviews of various maritime eras, most with a political-military emphasis. As for *Wikipedia*, its Internet article on maritime history