

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

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(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maritime_history) was, as of July 13, 2007, a lengthy survey focused on military affairs and studded with so many links as to be distracting.

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Maritime History delivers a comprehensive look at maritime history in a highly accessible manner. It belongs in academic libraries and in mid-size or larger public libraries, and should be well used.—*Evan Davis, Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Indiana*

Religion and the Law in America: An Encyclopedia of Personal Belief and Public Policy. By Scott A. Merriman. Denver: ABC-Clío, 2007. 2 vols. alkaline \$195 (ISBN 978-1-85109-863-7).

Religion and its role in the public arena has been one of the most controversial and emotionally charged issues throughout our nation's history. The term "Separation of Church and State," the political and legal doctrine that establishes that religious and government institutions should be kept separate and independent of each other, was first coined by the Supreme Court in 1847. Since then, two centuries of political discourse have failed to resolve the controversy over the framers' original intention in the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. The controversy has become ever more contentious and polarizing, as political groups have increasingly turned to the courts to impose their ideological agenda on states and municipalities when legislators have refused to force religion into public life, or, conversely, to enact prohibitive legislation denying religious expression.

Scott A. Merriman, history instructor at the University of Kentucky and adjunct professor at the University of Maryland University College, has comprehensively addressed the relationship between religion and government since the country's founding in this timely, two-volume encyclopedia. Organized alphabetically, *Religion and Law in America* offers more than 250 articles featuring in-depth analysis of relevant legal cases, biographies of important personalities, and thematic essays covering a broad range of controversial topics that have dominated public debate in recent years, including intelligent design, evolution, and creationism; school prayer and religious expression in public schools; the Pledge of Allegiance; atheism; public displays of religious symbols; political activism; *Roe v. Wade*; the refusal of medical care on religious grounds; and many others. At the same time, the encyclopedia provides a comprehensive historical overview and analysis of religion in public life, including important events, significant political movements, and key personalities. Entries conclude with cross-references and bibliographies, and are frequently accompanied by high-quality photographs and illustrations. Merriman writes in an engaging and straightforward style, and he is refreshingly evenhanded in his analysis.

There is an interesting variety of publications that will serve as excellent companion volumes to the encyclopedia. Leslie Griffin's *Law and Religion, Cases and Materials* (Foundation Pr., 2007) is the newest addition to the University Casebook series and provides a comprehensive overview of law and religion using an academic, interdisciplinary approach.

The book's thorough and frequently overlapping treatments of state, federal, and Supreme Court cases nicely complements *Religion and Law in America's* thematic essays and biographical entries. Stephen M. Feldman's *Law and Religion: A Critical Anthology* (New York Univ. Pr., 2000) provides a fair and balanced anthology of essays concerning religion in public life from twenty-three academic lawyers specializing in religious issues. The work serves as an important reference for readers interested in understanding the constitutionality of laws governing religious expression and public policy. Finally, James Hitchcock's exceptionally comprehensive, two-volume treatment of the Supreme Court's religion cases, *The Supreme Court and Religion in American Life* (Princeton Univ. Pr., 2004), is an impressive historical survey that is free of polemic and includes many obscure cases that have not received much attention. The set serves as a significant resource for understanding the role of religion in public life.

Religion and Law in America is unrivaled in its format, and as such, will fill an important void in American reference historiography. Attractively bound using sturdy, high-quality materials, Merriman's work will make an interesting and valuable addition to collections supporting American history and political science programs. It is therefore highly recommended for all undergraduate libraries and large public libraries serving the interested general reader and researcher.—*Vincent P. Tinerella, Coordinator of Electronic Reference Services, Founders Memorial Library, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb*

Religion in America. By Timothy L. Hall. American Experience. New York: Facts On File, 2007. 496p. alkaline \$80 (ISBN 978-0-8160-6198-3).

Spanning the period from before Columbus's arrival to the early twenty-first century, this entry in Facts On File's American Experience series examines the continuing evolution of religion throughout America's history. Although the author does not state a specific purpose for the title, it is clear *Religion in America* is intended as an overview of religion's role and place in American history.

While this book will best serve as a work of reference, it differs from many reference titles in that it is written in a narrative format. Beginning with the year 1400, fourteen chapters cover the six-hundred-year period of American history. Each chapter begins with an essay followed by a timeline covering the period discussed in that chapter. Author Timothy Hall, who has published previously in the area of American religious history, deserves credit for keeping his writing clear and concise. Without dumbing down his language, he has created a work that is readable for high schoolers, college students, and adults interested in the topic.

The work is strengthened by the inclusion of numerous firsthand accounts, giving a people's history feel to the book. These eyewitness accounts are chosen to represent the whole spectrum of religions, offering as many viewpoints as possible. The timelines are quite thorough, and should prove of value mainly to the students using this work.