

mental and physical health problems of caregivers. The comparable entry in *Encyclopedia of Senior Health and Well-Being* discusses the feeling of empowerment that can accompany being a caregiver and includes a brief discussion on caregivers' perceptions of their own health.

Encyclopedia of Health and Aging is a single-volume work containing more than two hundred entries written by more than 250 contributors. Entries range from "Alzheimer's Disease" to "Lewy Body Dementia," and "Asian and Pacific Islander Americans" to "Normative Aging Study." Markides' inspiration for topics in this encyclopedia reflects those covered in the *Journal of Aging and Health*, a publication he founded and edits.

The encyclopedia's organization and its straightforward presentation of information strengthen the work's value to the field of medicine. In addition to the list of contributors and alphabetic list of all entries, a readers guide divides all of the entries into eleven different subject areas, aiding in the location of entries covering similar topic areas. One shortcoming of the readers guide is the lack of explanation for which topics fall under which headings. For example, it is not clear why under "Diseases and Medical Conditions" there is an entry for "Men's Health" but not "Women's Health."

Following the readers guide and introduction to the encyclopedia are the entries themselves. Entries vary in length from half a page to several pages and include the contributor's name, "see also" references, and further reading and reference lists. There are some figures, charts, and tables that enhance the content of the text. Following the entries is an appendix providing forty-five online, annotated resources regarding aging. An index also is included.

The information covered in this resource is straightforward and content-rich. One is able to locate information quickly and efficiently without having to sort through lengthy entries or pages of images or tables. With its medical focus this work fills a gap in the literature. It is recommended for hospital and academic libraries.—*Maria C. Melssen, Reference and Education Librarian, University of Toledo, Ohio.*

Encyclopedia of World Constitutions. Ed. by Gerhard Robbers. New York: Facts On File, 2007. 3 vols. acid free \$255 (ISBN 0-8160-6078-9).

Almost all countries have some form of written constitution that defines the rules that govern that state. As Gerhard Robbers, the editor of the *Encyclopedia of World Constitutions*, notes in the introduction, these rules may not always be followed by that country's leaders, but they do define expectations by which that nation may be judged by the world. Constitutions define fundamental rights, including human rights and rights of citizens; they outline the structure of the government; and they define the degree to which people can participate in governance.

This set includes entries for 194 nation-states as well as special territories and the European Union. Entries, which are generally about five to six pages in length, follow the same

basic format. The opening "At-a-Glance" section provides basic information, such as the name of the state, the capital, population, languages, religions, and type of government. This is followed by a brief introduction, a somewhat longer constitutional history, and then details about the current constitutional structure. This last portion includes sections on the "Form and Impact of the Constitution," "Basic Organizational Structure," "Leading Constitutional Principles," "Constitutional Bodies," "The Election Process," "Political Parties," "Citizenship," "Fundamental Rights," "Economy and Economic Rights," "Religious Communities," "Military Defense and State of Emergency," and "Amendments to the Constitution." In cases where it is warranted, these sections are subdivided. For instance, the section on constitutional bodies may include subsections on the presidency, the cabinet, the congress, and the judiciary. In states where it is warranted, the federal structure is outlined here as well. The entries are well-written in language understandable to high school students but still useful for more advanced users. All entries are written by constitutional scholars, who, in many cases, are from the country being described.

For readers who wish to consult the original documents, there are citations to the Internet versions of the constitutions at the end of each entry. Whenever possible, these include versions in English and native languages. The citations are followed by a brief list of secondary sources, many of which are in languages other than English, making them of questionable use for a set designed for an English-speaking high school and undergraduate audience.

Despite this minor quibble, this is a valuable set that all types of libraries will wish to acquire. It is much more comprehensive than Robert L. Maddex's single-volume *Constitutions of the World* (2d ed., CQ Pr., 2001), which contains entries for only one hundred countries. And, because constitutions are constantly evolving, the currency of *Encyclopedia of World Constitutions* is important.—*Michael Levine-Clark, Collections Librarian, Penrose Library, University of Denver, Colorado*

The Fourth of July Encyclopedia. By James R. Heintze. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2007. 360p. alkaline \$55 (ISBN 0-7864-2777-9).

James Heintze, librarian emeritus at the American University Library in Washington, D.C., has written extensively on American music, history, and culture. His most recent books include a bibliography on Igor Stravinsky and *Reflections on American Music: The Twentieth Century and the New Millennium* (Pendragon Pr., 2000, co-edited with Michael Saffle). His latest book, *The Fourth of July Encyclopedia*, is the first comprehensive reference text on Fourth of July celebrations and origins.

The Fourth of July Encyclopedia consists of a broad range of entries, from the origins of America's independence, to notable events throughout American history on and around July Fourth (including events that had an impact on the holiday), to notable aspects of July Fourth celebrations, such as fireworks displays, social movements, and civic projects.

SOURCES

Each entry contains information gleaned largely from primary sources, particularly newspaper reports and speeches, as well as some “key secondary print and online texts” (1), mainly encyclopedic and reference sources. Many of the book’s entries provide background and detailed coverage. Compare, for example, the entry on “Independence Day Rock, Wyoming” to that of one of the more popular encyclopedia resources today, *Wikipedia* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_Rock_\(Wyoming\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_Rock_(Wyoming))), and readers will see why the former is more thorough.

As thorough and comprehensive as *The Fourth of July Encyclopedia* is in covering how the day has been commemorated in United States history, some readers may wish for even more details and references. The book’s bibliography cites twenty-three sources, including *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* (University Microfilms, 1967), *The Encyclopedia Americana* (Grolier, 1999), and *The Encyclopedia of American History: Bicentennial Edition* (Harper and Row, 1976). It would have been useful to cite more recent scholarly work on the history of July Fourth in America, such as W. Caleb McDaniels’ 2005 article in *American Quarterly* and James Colaiaco’s *Frederick Douglass and the Fourth of July* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006). To his credit, Heintze does cite some solid scholarly work within many of the entries in the book. Also, it would have been interesting to include some entries on how the holiday is perceived by other countries and by more ethnicities, such as Asian-Americans, or how it has been portrayed in other media (Oliver Stone’s 1989 *Born on the Fourth of July*, for example). Heintze’s companion Web site, *Fourth of July Celebrations Database* (www.american.edu/heintze/fourth.htm), arranges sources categorically. Readers would be greatly benefited by consulting this extensive and—hopefully—growing database.

One also can think of even more entries that could have been included, such as food (hot dog eating in particular) or baseball. One also can quibble on certain entries’ wording and amount of coverage. Why, for example, is the entry for George H. W. Bush longer than those for Presidents Carter or McKinley? The entry on the Civil War describes it as, “the single most significant event of the nineteenth century” (59). Some historians might argue that the Napoleonic Wars were at least equally significant.

Heintze, being the sole author, has undertaken a large task in covering a topic so complex and rich in history. The book serves as an excellent resource for academics, from middle-school students to post-secondary researchers, and as a strong introductory resource for historians interested in pursuing this subject.—Richard Wisneski, *Archival Assistant, University of Akron Archival Services, Ohio*

Great Events from History: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Events, 1846–2006. Ed. by Lillian Faderman et al. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2007. 2 vols. acid free \$160 (ISBN 1-58765-263-3).

Edited by well-known specialists in gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) studies, this two-volume work con-

taining 150 entries by academics or independent scholars, is clearly aimed at an undergraduate audience. The writing in the entries is clear, if occasionally in need of a little editorial refinement, and each topic is placed in historic context. The publisher’s note states that, “Most of the essays published here were originally commissioned by Salem Press for inclusion in [the database] GLBT Life Full Text” (ix). Libraries that subscribe to this database and plan to continue to do so probably will not want to consider this print version, though it contains “newly commissioned materials, primary source documents,” (ix) and illustrations not found online.

The book is arranged in chronological order. Every entry includes alternate titles or names, key figures (some of which include dates or partial dates), a summary of events, and significance. The “Further Readings” section includes primary and secondary sources, with very few Web sites listed, and the “see also” section refers the reader to other entries in this book. There is an overabundance of indexes, which appear only in the second volume. One wonders about the need for a personages index when there is already a subject index that includes people. Both volumes provide a keyword list of contents and an alphabetic list of sidebars.

Though this book does not necessarily focus on “firsts,” there are a number of them, such as the “first gay and lesbian synagogue” in the United States (1972, in Los Angeles) and the “first lesbian and gay history anthology,” which was Jonathan Ned Katz’s *Gay American History* (Crowell, 1976), a classic reference work that has been reprinted. Broad topic areas include theatre, film (for example, “*The Wedding Banquet* is the First Acclaimed Taiwanese Gay-Themed Film” in the 1993 section), medicine (for example, “AZT Treats People with AIDS” in the 1986 section), and politics. Multicultural and transgender issues figure prominently in more recent years, such as the 1986 entry for the first newsletter for GLBT South Asians, *Trikone*, later *Trikone Magazine*. Entries cover both good and bad news: “Transgender Rights Added to New York City Law” and “Transgender Teen Gwen Araujo Is Murdered in California” both describe events from 2002.

Many of the entries are for GLBT literature and GLBT writers. For example, Gertrude Stein is included for her book *Q.E.D.* (written in the early years of the twentieth century and published fifty years later), which *Great Events* calls “the first modern lesbian novel by any author” (43). Though there are bound to be differences of opinion among literary critics about who really wrote the first such novel, Stein is certainly the best-known modern female candidate. There are many other quality reference sources that cover GLBT literature, such as *The Gay and Lesbian Literary Heritage* (Routledge, rev. ed., 2002). There is a fair amount of duplication between *Great Events from History: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Events, 1846–2006*, and such other reference books as *The Gay Rights Movement* (Fitzroy Dearborn, 2001), which is part of the *New York Times* 20th Century in Review series, and *LGBT: Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History in America* (Thomson Gale, 2004).