

SOURCES

in a more standard encyclopedic arrangement, but it is now nearly a decade old. Cordelia Candelaria's *Encyclopedia of Latino Popular Culture* (Greenwood, 2004) is more restricted in scope for a field where currency is of major importance. *Latino History and Culture: An Encyclopedia*, edited by David J. Leonard and Carmen Lugo (Sharpe Reference, 2010) is arranged for easier use but does not provide the depth of coverage in the arts and literature as the newer work.

Despite its organizational difficulties and faulty index, I would recommend this new reference work to public, school, and college libraries—especially in areas of the country where Hispanic/Latino populations are growing in size and influence—and that would be just about everywhere in the United States today. —Molly Molloy, *Border & Latin American Specialist*, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Encyclopedia of Politics of the American West. Ed. by Steven L. Danver. Los Angeles: CQ, 2013. 2 vols. \$325 (ISBN: 978-1-60871-909-9).

This two-volume work is broad in scope with a few identified boundaries, namely geography, discipline, and chronology. Danver explains, “the principle focus of this work is the twentieth-century transformation of Western politics and how that transformation has led to the emerging political patterns of the twenty-first century” (xxiii). Coverage of the American West extends from the Great Plains to the Trans-Pacific West (Alaska, California, and Hawaii).

The encyclopedia is divided into three sections: “Western Political Themes,” “Western Regions and States,” and “A-Z Entries.” There is also an appendix that includes forty-eight primary documents. Efforts were made to enhance usability, as each volume includes an index, entry listing, and reader's guide with categorized entries. The content is readily accessible and clearly written for a general readership. The entries do include useful updates to existing resources, with examples including the Occupy Movement, Sarah Palin, and the Tea Party Movement. However, several entries are overly general and not fully fleshed out—an example being a seven paragraph entry on education that begins with the founding fathers and closes with the late twentieth century.

It is worth noting the four identified political themes as they set the stage for comparison. Themes include levels of government, immigration and migration, natural resources and the environment, and rural West and urbanization. This work inhabits a complicated space as it is interdisciplinary and much of the content can be found in reference works from disciplines such as environmental studies, Native American studies, Latin American studies, and US history. On the flip side, it is a solid one-stop reference resource for undergraduates, particularly those new to college level research.

According to Danver, “although this is not explicitly historical work, the line between politics and political history is really nonexistent” (xxiv). This passage immediately brought to mind Michael Kazin's (ed.) *Princeton Encyclopedia of Political History* (Princeton, 2010) and Andrew W. Robinson's (ed.)

Encyclopedia of US Political History (CQ Press, 2010). The *Princeton Encyclopedia of Political History* is dense, scholarly in tone, and focuses on political processes and players while the *Encyclopedia of Politics of the American West* is more general and inclusive. For instance, Kazin includes a few sentences about the Japanese American Internment and no index entry while Danver includes a dedicated entry with a photograph and several index entries. *Encyclopedia of Politics of the American West* is most similar to *Encyclopedia of US Political History* in terms of style and accessibility, which is not surprising as they are both from CQ Press. However, Danver can't compete with Robinson's seven volume set that covers all regions of the United States from the colonial period to the present day.

Ideally, a companion *Encyclopedia of Politics of the American East* would round out this work. If similar in pricing the two together would be more affordable than the *Encyclopedia of US Political History* and be a welcome addition to many collections. As it stands, this encyclopedia will best serve small liberal arts colleges and community colleges in the West or colleges and universities that have regional studies programs.—Anne C. Deutsch, *Reference and Instruction Librarian*, State University of New York at New Paltz, New Paltz, New York

Famous Americans: A Directory of Museums, Historic Sites, and Memorials. By Victor J. Danilov. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 2013. 419 pages. alkaline \$95 (ISBN: 978-0-8108-9185-2). E-book available (978-0-8108-9186-9), \$94.99.

Here is a directory that enables the user to quickly ascertain whether there is a museum somewhere in the United States associated with a famous American. Although there are many entries for American presidents, individuals who achieved fame in the fields of education, business, literature and the arts are well represented. If you had a patron who was doing research on Thomas Edison, by looking under the subject heading for inventors then the subheading for Edison, you would get a biographical synopsis of Edison's accomplishments, plus information about the six museums associated with him. Danilov's writing style makes the people and places come alive. He skillfully interweaves descriptions of each museum with the biographical details, giving the reader a feel for what each place has to offer that could further his or her understanding of the person's life and legacy. The author might have done us more of a service had he personally visited these museums and provided more in the way of hard-hitting critical assessment. We can't really tell whether this or that museum lives up to its billing. The lack of photographs is another real shortcoming of this source. What few photographs the author did include are not only boring but technically defective.

Comparing Danilov's book with *The Official Museum Directory* (American Association of Museums, 2012), I found that the former is, in some respects, more helpful to the researcher than the latter because, in cases where there is more than one museum associated with a certain person, they are