

SOURCES

students in the health sciences will find this encyclopedia a welcome addition to their reference collections.—*Maria C. Melssen, Medical Librarian, Port Clinton, Ohio*

The Twenties in America. Ed. By Carl Rollyson. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, 2012. 3 vols. \$395 (ISBN 978-1-58765-855-6). Online access provided with purchase of print.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the incomparable 1920s, it is obvious the Twenties are once again roaring in America. Between the smashing success of television shows like *Boardwalk Empire* and the imminent release of the modern retelling of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, the Twenties have clearly reentered the popular consciousness in America. For those looking to research this unique time in American history, there is this excellent work.

The Twenties in America is a three-volume set containing approximately 675 entries from over 300 contributors. The scope of this encyclopedia is impressive; topics can be as broad as "Immigration to the United States" and "Business and the Economy," or as specific as "Bread Slicer" and "Cotton Swabs." Even though over 300 different experts in the field had a hand in the creation of this encyclopedia, each entry is cohesive and consistent, which is a testament to the deft skills of the editor, Carl Rollyson.

Each volume is organized alphabetically by entry title. Within the appendixes and indexes in the third volume, users can also find information organized in a multitude of ways, such as a "List of Entries by Category," in a chronological time line, and by "Personages Index." Varying in length between one half and two pages, each entry begins with brief, key information about the topic. Entries are enriched with a bibliography at the end, some of which are annotated. A comprehensive bibliography is critical for any historical reference source, and *The Twenties in America* is supported with extensive research.

Many libraries might already own the 1920–1929 volume of the popular *American Decades* (Gale Research, 1994) reference set, which sets out to answer the same questions as *The Twenties in America*. Fortunately, these two reference sets complement each other very well. *American Decades* is organized first by subject, and then chronologically, making it an excellent resource to browse for a research topic. However, since the entire decade is condensed into a single volume, the amount of information contained in each entry is fairly modest. Once users have discovered their topic in *American Decades*, they can then refer to alphabetically arranged *The Twenties in America* and easily find a more thoroughly researched and enriched encyclopedia entry.

Well-organized and clearly written, *The Twenties in America* is an exceptional encyclopedia for finding authoritative reference information on the uproarious 1920s in the United States and Canada. With its extensive bibliographies for each entry, *The Twenties in America* would make an excellent addition to any academic library looking to enhance their collection with what could easily become the preeminent reference source on the twenties.—*Matthew Laudicina, Reference and Instruction*

Librarian, Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York at New Paltz

The U.S. Justice System: An Encyclopedia. Ed. by Steven Harmon Wilson. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2012. 3 vols. acid free \$294 (ISBN 978-1-59884-304-0). E-book available (978-1-59884-305-7).

The U.S. Justice System: An Encyclopedia is a reference work that provides introductory, as well as in-depth essays, short entries, and excerpts of important legal documents relating to the justice system in the United States. This three-volume set also features a glossary of common legal terms, general bibliography, and index. This multi-volume encyclopedia is also available as an e-book.

The first volume contains ten introductory essays that provide an overview of the U.S. justice system. Beginning with the Constitution, each essay builds on its predecessor setting forth the concepts that comprise the foundations of democracy and justice in the United States. These topics include the structure and function of the federal government, the federal and state judiciary, judicial power and policy, the civil and criminal justice system, civil and criminal procedure, administrative law and regulations, and public interest law.

The second volume contains 126 alphabetically arranged topical short entries that primarily focus on the federal courts and constitutional law issues. Entries provide easy access to information on the federal judiciary, including biographical information on U.S. Supreme Court justices, seminal U.S. Supreme Court cases, and key concepts of constitutional law. Additionally, each entry contains citations for further reading and helpful cross-references.

The third volume contains 69 chronologically arranged entries about key primary documents in U.S. legal history, as well as excerpts from the documents, starting with the Magna Carta, 1215, to the present with the USA PATRIOT ACT of 2001. Each entry provides the user with useful background information, providing context and insight into the significance of these primary sources.

This encyclopedia is best suited for a general audience. It is recommended for high school and public libraries, as well as a supplemental purchase for college and university libraries serving undergraduate students. Other works are more useful to reference collections of college and university libraries serving undergraduate and graduate students. An excellent alternative is the single-volume A-Z encyclopedia *The Oxford Companion to American Law*, edited by Kermit L. Hall (Oxford University Press, 2002). This work is very broad in scope with approximately 500 entries on American legal issues, including entries focused on the U.S. justice system. Another great alternative is the *Gale Encyclopedia of American Law*, 3rd ed., edited by Donna Batten (Gale, 2011), (formerly known as *West's Encyclopedia of American Law*), which is broad in scope and depth. This 14-volume set includes nearly 5,000 alphabetically arranged entries on legal terms, concepts, cases, events, and people that have influenced the U.S. legal system.

Two volumes are titled “Milestones in the Law” and provide an overview of landmark cases, as well as reproductions of the briefs and opinions for each case. A single volume also reproduces key primary documents.—*Jacquelyn N. McCloud, J.D., M.L.I.S., Electronic Services Librarian, The University of Iowa Law Library, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa*

Women Criminals: An Encyclopedia of People and Issues. Ed. by Vickie Jensen. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2012. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-0-313-33713-0). E-book available (978-0-313-06826-3), call for pricing.

The Preface to this set describes women’s criminality as a growing area of scholarship that can no longer be encapsulated in a chapter or two in a criminology textbook or monograph. The scope of the work supports this assertion. The first volume in this set provides twelve well-researched essays written by scholars in the fields of criminology, sociology, criminal justice, and psychology. The second volume includes biographies of 135 women criminals dating back to the sixteenth century. The essays discuss topics such as the types of crimes women most often commit and diversity in relation to women’s crime, as well as specific types of crimes such as sexual offending, political crimes, and crimes of retaliation by women victims.

This set is easy to use and provides cross references between essays and biographical sketches. Criminals’ names appear in bold print within the essays. While this makes the woman’s biography relatively easy to find by name using the complete tables of contents appearing in both books, the inclusion of page numbers would also be helpful, but ultimately proves unnecessary. The appendixes featuring statistics and reports will also prove useful for students and researchers. An index appears at the end of Volume 2. Names, laws, organizations, and topics are indexed with page numbers.

This set works to establish connections between women’s (often gender-specific) experiences, the crimes that they commit, and how they are received and treated by the criminal justice system; however, the authors resist arguing for overly simplified causal connections between these elements. Clearly, this resource has a decidedly feminist flavor. While some readers may find ideological difficulty with this, the assertions of the authors are generally well documented by thorough research, sound logical reasoning, and statistical information. Perhaps most importantly, the biographical sketches are readable and interesting. Throughout the writing of this review, I have likely spent more time reading than truly necessary as a result of the engaging biographical sketches.

To my knowledge, there exist few reference works specifically dedicated to women’s criminality. One such volume is Nicole Hahn Rafter’s *Encyclopedia of Women and Crime* (Oryx 2000). This volume, in its Preface claims to be the “first comprehensive reference book on the topic of women and crime” (xxv). This work includes discussions of various types of crime, crime occurrence and corrections by geographical area, correctional systems, women in law enforcement and

the court systems, and only a few profiles of women criminals. The breadth of this work is wider and covers a larger number of topics than *Women Criminals*. *Women Criminals*, on the other hand, offers more detailed biographical sketches of women criminals and a more in-depth examination of the relationships between women criminals and the crimes they commit. The two works together will complement each other nicely without being duplicative.

In summary, while this set is somewhat costly, it is recommended for most academic libraries and public libraries with adequate funding. Libraries supporting programs in law enforcement, criminology, sociology, gender studies, and related disciplines will find this set particularly useful.—*Anita J. Slack, Information Services Librarian, Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana*

Women in American Politics: History and Milestones. By Doris Weatherford. Los Angeles: CQ Press, 2012. 2 vols. Acid free \$225 (ISBN 978-1-60871007-2). E-book available, call for pricing.

Doris Weatherford’s latest compilation chronicles the political history of American women in nineteen thematic chapters beginning with the suffrage movement’s achievement of the franchise and ending with a state-by-state overview that draws on her previous 4-volume *A History of Women in the United States: A State-By-State Reference* (Grolier Academic Reference, 2004). In between, chapters cover statewide elective officeholders, state legislators, congressional legislators, state governors and lieutenant governors, city mayors, presidential and vice presidential candidates, cabinet and sub-cabinet officers, ambassadors, the judiciary, political parties and conventions, interest groups, and PACs.

Each chapter presents a chronologically arranged historical overview of the subject at hand, tabulations such as Table 9.1 “First Female Mayors of Cities with More Than 150,000 Residents, by Year” (238) and Table 14.1 “First Women on State Supreme Courts, by State,” (360), selective biographical profiles of representative women, and a brief listing of references and suggestions for further reading. Black and white photographs illustrate some of the entries. Indexes to names and to subjects are in the back of each of the two volumes.

The numerous tabulations in *Women in American Politics* are especially useful and would be more so had the author listed the sources from which she drew these tallies. With few exceptions (see for example tables 5.3 “Total Number of Women Elected to State Senates, through 1960s, by Decade and State” [122] and 12.2 “Female Ambassadors, Both Political Appointees and Career Diplomats, 1933 to 1993 [323]), Weatherford covers the data in her tables with the general source note “Compiled by author.”

Among recent reference works the one-volume *Encyclopedia of Women and American Politics* edited by Lynne E. Ford (Facts on File, 2008) emphasizes the conjunction in its title. Some 500 signed essays by 51 contributors address the interplay of women and the American political system through