

lows a standard format with recurring sections: "Introduction," "Historical Background and Scientific Foundations," "Impacts and Issues," and a "Words to Know" box that highlights vocabulary. There are "see also" recommendations for other entries in the work. There is a brief bibliography for each entry that may contain citations to books, periodicals, and websites. The length of the entries varies from two to nine pages according to the subject matter. Some of the more lengthy entries have sections titled "In Context," which summarize an important concept related to the subject. Other entries have "Primary Source Connection" sections. These sections are reprints of previously published articles on the subject of the entry. Each "Primary Source Connection" has an introduction explaining the importance of the article, and a citation for the article is at the end. The work is illustrated, but not extensively so.

*Environmental Science in Context* is an ambitious work. The topic is broad and interdisciplinary. The entries range from recent science, scientific concepts, and scientific organizations to Walden and Silent Spring. Political and social science issues such as test ban treaties, hunting practices, and United Nations policy and activism are also addressed. The entries are clearly written, informative, and authoritative.

I believe the work would be valuable in a high school, and perhaps even a middle school or public library as a reference resource. However, the cost might be a bit too steep for many of these types of libraries.—*Suzanne T. Larsen, Faculty Director, Jerry Crail Johnson Earth Sciences and Map Library and Oliver C. Lester Mathematics and Physics Library; Acting Faculty Director, Science Library, University of Colorado, Boulder*

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***The Facts on File Companion to British Poetry: 1900 to the Present.*** Ed. by James Persoon and Robert R. Watson. Facts on File Library of World Literature. New York: Facts on File, 2009. 576p. acid free \$85 ISBN 978-08160-6406-9).

The editors of this volume, James Persoon and Robert R. Watson, both English Professors from Grand Valley State University, state that "the selection of entries was largely determined by combing through textbooks and anthologies," while they also sought to "expand the horizon of the reader . . . beyond what is most commonly taught" (v). To this end, the editors succeed in covering all the major works and poets while also including many poets not often studied and emerging voices in British poetry. The editors broadly define British Poetry as "the world community of poets writing in English, minus the Americans" (v). Other similar works have taken a broader approach in defining English Poetry as all poetry written in the English language, including Americans, so poets who could be considered either British or American, such as Hughes, Plath, and Auden, are included.

By leaving out the Americans, this volume gains room to offer a selection of thorough entries on both commonly taught works as well as the obscure, which includes close readings and explication of the poems as well as social, historical, and biographical contexts. All the major poems one would expect

are covered, while lesser-known or contemporary poems such as "The Fat Black Woman Remembers" and "The Death of Joy Gardner" are also included. The attention given to often neglected periods in British poetry such as World War I is also a strong point of this work. For example, the major poets of World War I such as Wilfred Owen and Isaac Rosenberg have several works and biographical entries, but the inclusion of other war poets such as Charles Hamilton Sorley and his "A Letter From the Trenches to a School Friend" reveal the efforts of the editors to represent important poets from all of the twentieth century, regardless of if they have fallen out of the popular canon. Also, many contemporary poets such as Carol Ann Duffy, with entries on five poems, are included in this volume.

Each biographical entry chronicles the major events in the author's life and explains the poet's major themes and works. The up-to-date bibliographies for entries consist of a biographical source, the author's major collected or selected works, and a book of criticism on the poet. The 450 entries, ranging in length from 300 to 2,500 words, are signed by contributing academics from across the world. All major critical concepts, movements, and the major events that influenced British Poetry (for example, the Spanish Civil War and World War II) are also well covered. The appendix features a brief glossary with clear explanations of poetry terminology such as "enjambment" and "heroic couplet."

A similar work, *The Oxford Companion to Twentieth Century Poetry* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 1996), which includes American poets, does not include analyses of individual poems, and because of its publication date does not include any twenty-first-century poetry, as this work does. *A Companion to Twentieth-Century Poetry* (Blackwell, 2001) is another excellent source on twentieth-century poetry in English consisting of in-depth essays on national poetries, movements, topics, and readings of major individual poets, but it doesn't have the breadth of coverage of individual poets and poems as this work.

*The Facts on File Companion to British Poetry: 1900 to Present* fills an important gap in the reference literature in twentieth-century British poetry, which was in need of an updated work, and will be useful for a variety of students and patrons who will no doubt find the writing accessible. Highly recommended for high school, public, and academic libraries.—*Shannon Pritting, Coordinator of Access Services, the State University of New York, Oswego*

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***Latino America: A State-by-State Encyclopedia.*** Ed. by Mark Overmyer-Velázquez. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 2 vols. alkaline \$175 (ISBN 978-0-313-34116-8).

This two-volume work, published by Greenwood and edited by University of Connecticut Associate Professor Mark Overmyer-Velázquez, charts the historical and contemporary contributions of Latinos throughout the United States. The encyclopedia approaches its material from a geographical perspective, with a chapter devoted to each of the fifty states.

The chapters are penned by different authors, but contain