

SOURCES

favorite topic/work/author/scientist being left out, but overall Stableford has done a good job of covering the field.

There really is not anything directly comparable to *Science Fact and Science Fiction*. Stableford was a contributing editor to John Clute and Peter Nicholls's *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* (Orbit, 1993) and provided several entries on science topics from asteroids to evolution to nuclear power. John Clute edited *Science Fiction: The Illustrated Encyclopedia* (Dorling Kindersley, 1995) which touches on technology but does not address science. George Mann's *The Mammoth Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* (Carroll and Graf, 2001) is not even in the running. Stableford's other nonfiction works, such as his contributions to the fifth edition of *Anatomy of Wonder: A Critical Guide to Science Fiction* (Libraries Unlimited, 2005) and *A to Z of Science Fiction Literature* (Scarecrow, 2005, a revision of his *Historical Dictionary of Science Fiction Literature*), also do not focus on the science of science fiction, although he was a contributor to Nicholls' *Science in Science Fiction* (Michael Joseph, 1982).

At \$165 this work may be out of the reach of school libraries, which might have to content themselves with Robert Bly's much less scholarly and complete popular-level *The Science in Science Fiction: 83 SF Predictions That Became Scientific Reality* (BenBella, 2005), but public and college/university libraries—not to mention a goodly number of fans—will definitely want to buy *Science Fact and Science Fiction*.—Cindy Stewart Kaag, *Interim Director of Libraries, Washington State University, Pullman*.

Sports and the Physically Challenged: An Encyclopedia of People, Events, and Organizations. By Linda Mastandrea and Donna Czubernat. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2006. 169p. acid free \$75 (ISBN 0-313-32453-0).

The authors' introduction states that this volume aims to cover "people important to the disability sport movement, some key pieces of the history of the movement, and many of the organizations and events that have been part of it" (xxi). The work is primarily focused on the United States.

Author Mastandrea is herself a highly successful international athlete in wheelchair track events, and her entry in this book indicates that she is a lawyer and the first disabled athlete to serve on the U.S. Olympic Committee's board. Her coauthor and sister, Donna Czubernat, is also familiar with disability issues. In addition to reading about remarkable athletes like Mastandrea, we can learn many things from the entries in this book. We can learn that the Italian game of Boccia is particularly useful for athletes with cerebral palsy and that blind athletes play a special version of baseball called Beep Baseball. We can learn of original games such as goal ball, wheelchair rugby, and sitting volleyball. We can learn the aims of a host of organizations such as Wheelchair Sports, USA and the mechanics of technologies like "Sip and Puff."

Entries are listed alphabetically and fall into one of five categories: equipment, legislation, organizations, people, and sports and events. Most entries run three to five paragraphs

but some are lengthier. There are only 150 pages devoted to the entries, though, so some information is missing. For example, it's surprising that there is no mention of Gallaudet University, the oldest institution of higher education for the deaf in the country, with a long history of athletic competition. There is also no notice of Jami Goldman, a runner with two prosthetic legs who wrote a well-received account of her physical challenge, *Up and Running* (Pocket Books, 2001), as well as being the subject of an Adidas commercial, and playing the role of the Spice Girl Robot in the film *A.I.*

One of the most useful and fascinating parts of the book is also somewhat frustrating. The "Disability Sport Timeline" covers the 1870s to the present and provides a good chronological overview of the issue. However, this section would have been a good place to recognize some of the significant achievements of the disabled in professional sports. Baseball history has been enriched by a one-armed outfielder (Pete Gray), two one-handed pitchers (Hugh Daily and Jim Abbott), and two pitchers with prosthetic legs (Bert Shepard and Monty Stratton). The man who kicked the longest field goal in NFL history, Tom Dempsey, was born with a deformed arm and foot. Deaf athletes have played baseball (Bill Hoy and Luther Taylor) and football (Bonnie Sloan and Kenny Walker), and the NFL has had a quarterback who was blind in one eye (Tommy Thompson) and another who was a hearing-impaired lip-reader (Bill Donckers). Beyond this, the football huddle was invented by Gallaudet's deaf quarterback Paul Hubbard in 1894, and the practice of the plate umpire signaling balls and strikes was instituted for the deaf Hoy more than 100 years ago. Although the focus of this book is not professional sports, these are all important benchmarks for the general acceptance of disabled athletes and should be noted.

The work also contains a list of entries by subject, an appendix that lists disability organizations, a bibliography, and an index. This is a unique and very specialized reference work on a very timely subject matter. Both public and academic libraries should be interested.—John Maxymuk, *Reference Librarian, Rutgers University, Camden, New Jersey*

UXL Graphic Novelists: Profiles of Cutting Edge Authors and Illustrators. By Tom Pendergast and Sara Pendergast. Detroit: U-X-L, 2006. 3 vols. alkaline \$172 (ISBN 1-4144-0440-9).

Aimed at a high school or young adult audience, this beautifully produced work is a "squeaky clean" and noncontroversial encyclopedia, deliberately lacking in adult content. It is a unique contribution to the field of graphic novels, which, according to the authors, had three separate but interconnected beginnings: in the 1930s in Europe with Hergé's *TinTin* stories; in the late 1940s in Japan with manga (rooted in twelfth-century Japanese artistic traditions); and with Will Eisner's *A Contract with God* in the United States in 1978.

Entries about graphic novelists (GN) run five to eight pages and the writing is uniformly clear throughout. Each entry includes a sidebar listing the GN's best-known works

(title and date of publication only), and most entries have a second sidebar covering an aspect of the GN's life that was not appropriate for the main entry. For example, the entry on Naoko Takeuchi includes a sidebar about the marketing of products linked to her girls' manga, *Sailor Moon*. Most entries include an undated photo of the GN, but there are remarkably fewer reproductions of artwork than one might have expected. Words such as *pantomime*, *fascism*, and *glutton* are defined in the text, as is *World War II* (each time it is mentioned). Of the GNs, about fifteen are women and about seventeen are Japanese. Twenty-three of the seventy five GNs were interviewed for the encyclopedia, lending much more immediacy to those entries. References include easily found newspaper and magazine articles, as well as the occasional scholarly article, such as in the entry for Marjane Satrapi (author of *Persepolis*, *Persepolis 2*, and *Chicken with Plums*), which cites a 2005 *Yale Review* article. On the other hand, Miwa Ueda's life "is a bit of a mystery to Western readers" (583). Her entry lacks a date of birth, and the sidebar in her entry is "Art of Shōjo Manga" or manga for girls. All Web sites are from recent vintage and most seem to have been accessed just prior to publication.

Each volume includes a cumulative index, and all the introductory material, consisting of a history of the graphic novel, discussion of manga, bibliography, and glossary, is reproduced in each volume. There are a modest number of see-also references.

By way of comparison, it should be noted that about nine of the entrants and their award-winning works can be found in *Graphic Novels in Your Media Center* (Libraries Unlimited, 2004). *UXL Graphic Novelists* bears little resemblance to the heavily illustrated, two-entries-per-page *Comic Book Encyclopedia* (HarperEntertainment, 2004) or to the *World Encyclopedia of Comics* (2nd ed., Chelsea House Pubs., 1999) with its more than 1,400 brief entries with more emphasis on the artwork than on the GN.

All libraries serving a young adult population will want to purchase this work. It should be noted that according to the publisher's Web site, an e-book version was released in October 2006. The price for the e-book was not given on the site.—Martha E. Stone, *Coordinator for Reference Services, Treadwell Library, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston*

Women and Gender in Medieval Europe: An Encyclopedia. Ed. by Margaret Schaus. Routledge Encyclopedias of the Middle Ages. New York: Routledge, 2006. 984p. \$175 (ISBN 0-415-96944-1).

Reference works about the medieval and Middle Ages periods abound. Indeed, there are several encyclopedias that pertain specifically to women during this time period. Yet, *Women and Gender in Medieval Europe: An Encyclopedia* is not simply a rehash or even a reorganization of information already available. The work's uniqueness lies in its impeccable organization and referencing, its catering to its intended audience, and in the contributors' historiographical orientation.

Considering the contributors' writing styles, the depth of information, and the assumed background knowledge, *Women and Gender in Medieval Europe* appears to be geared toward graduate students, college instructors, and scholars of history and women's and gender studies. Yet, the interdisciplinary nature of many of the entries extends the work's usefulness to a variety of fields. For example, the entry "Adolescence" is clearly rooted in anthropological and social historical traditions and offers the psychology or anthropology student a good understanding of the concept's meaning and application as it varies according to geographic location and throughout history.

The introduction to *Women and Gender in Medieval Europe* implies that the entries will focus as much on the methodologies of women's and medievalist history as on the particular subject at hand. Including historiographical discussions as part and parcel of the thematic entries again speaks to the high quality and scholarship (and therefore intended readership level) of this work. For example, the entry for "Lying-in," "a customary period of time for a woman to withdraw from normal society when she gave birth" (500), discusses pre- and post-1980 understanding of this concept by scholars, allowing readers a chance to better comprehend apparent contradictions found in other sources.

As mentioned, several reference works address similar content. One such work is *Women in the Middle Ages: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Katharina M. Wilson and Nadia Margolis (Greenwood, 2004). The two works share many topical entries but each contains information that the other does not. The one glaring flaw of *Women in the Middle Ages* is its lack of index, thereby making *Women and Gender in Medieval Europe* its superior, though both are suggested for libraries serving graduate-level learners and above. A second, older encyclopedic work by Jennifer Lawler, *Encyclopedia of Women in the Middle Ages* (McFarland, 2001), is useful as a quick reference for middle school through undergraduate-level learners but does not meet the level, quality, nor depth of information found in either of the two aforementioned works. Additionally, *The Annotated Index of Medieval Women* (M. Wiener, 1992), edited by Anne Echols and Marty Williams, and *Extraordinary Women of the Medieval and Renaissance World: A Biographical Dictionary* (Greenwood, 2000) by Carole Levin et al., both focus on specific women. Neither work attempts to address the era in a thematic sense, nor to interweave the various entries as part of a larger context. Finally the textbook *Women in Early Medieval Europe 400–1100* (Cambridge, 2002) by Lisa M. Bitel should be mentioned as it is the perfect companion to the reviewed encyclopedia. Both state the importance of primary resources and historiographical discussions but, while Bitel's work paints broad strokes of women during this time period, the reviewed work provides more detail. A student taking a "Women in Medieval Europe" class would be well served in studying the works simultaneously.

This well-organized encyclopedia contains all the hallmarks of a traditional, high-quality reference work including: an extensive analytical index; cross references, author listings,