ings of measurements and definitions of poverty. The entries include such topics as the "Arab Definition of Poverty," "Deprivation Index," "The Luxembourg Income Study," "Relative Welfare Index," and "World Bank Poverty Lines." Other areas covered in the encyclopedia are antipoverty agencies such as Better Safer World, Food First, and Second Harvest, and poverty relief initiatives such as Head Start, Microcredit, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) regional project for overcoming poverty.

The extensive index is included at the end of each volume. Volume three contains a glossary of terms and a resource guide, which lists books, journals, and Internet sites for reference. Rather than a compilation of all the sources listed in the bibliographies of each article, the guide is a separate list of resources. There are two appendixes: appendix A contains U.S. state economic data from the Bureau of the Census; appendix B has country economic profiles taken from the CIA World Factbook.

Any number of sources can be used to research specific topics covered in this encyclopedia. However, the editor does a nice job of bringing all this information together in a readable format. Otherwise, to get all the information covered in these volumes, one would have to consult several sources. As with many multivolume reference sets, the cost may be prohibitive for smaller libraries; however, this source is well worth the price. Recommended for all libraries.—Stacey Marien, Business and Economics Librarian, American University Washington, D.C.


The sixth installment of an ambitious Great Lives series includes biographies of noteworthy individuals dating from the ancient world through the twentieth century. The four volumes of Great Lives from History: The 19th Century are made up of 737 essays on the lives of 757 people from the 1800s who have, according to the editors, made important contributions to civilization. Although there are representatives from numerous countries, the volumes are mainly geared to Western achievement; 83 percent of the entries cover residents of North America (301 entries), the United Kingdom (182), France (seventy-seven), and Germany (sixty-five). There are 123 sketches of women.

The Great Lives series revises the ten-volume Dictionary of World Biography, which was published by Salem in 1998 and 1999. For these, the nineteenth-century volumes, 120 new entries were written and added to those that had originally appeared in the Dictionary. 189 new sidebars were incorporated, maps were included, and updated and annotated bibliographies were compiled for the older essays. Each entry is between fifteen-hundred and three-thousand words long and invariably includes basic tombstone information about its subject, sketches of the person's early life and life's work, an evaluation of his or her overall significance, a bibliography, and see-also notes. In addition, there are references to related articles in the publisher's companion set, Great Events from History: The 19th Century 1801–1900 (Salem, 2006).

The editors have included a complete list of contents in all four volumes, which is very helpful to the reader. Also, all of the maps are in each volume; unfortunately, their clarity and comprehensiveness leave something to be desired. Back matter in volume 4 features lists of nineteenth-century rulers and heads of state, a chronological list of entries, a category index in which people are listed by their occupations and avocations, a geographical index, a personal name index, and a subject index.

Because people do not necessarily fit neatly into one century or another, readers of Great Lives from History: The 19th Century should know that some of the biographical sketches include information from both the eighteenth and twentieth centuries. For instance, the essay on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who lived thirty of his seventy-one years in the twentieth century, notes his contributions in literature, war reporting, political life, and the Spiritualist movement, 1901–1930.

It is always puzzling why some people are included in these kinds of compilations, but not others. There is no sketch of Thomas Jefferson, president from 1801 to 1809, or his successor, James Madison, president from 1809 to 1817, but there is one on Madison's wife, Dolley. There is a sketch of actor Edwin Booth, but not his younger brother, John Wilkes, the latter arguably more important in the general scheme of things. Why are Impressionist artists Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Édouard Manet included, but not Claude Monet?

Users of compilations such as the Great Lives series benefit from the convenience of having numerous and diverse biographical sketches in one source. They need not consult the venerable Dictionary of American Biography (DAB) ( Scribner, 1928–1935, supplements 1944–1977) and the esteemed Dictionary of National Biography (DNB) ( Oxford Univ. Pr., 1885–1900, supplements from 1901 to 1996, updated by Oxford Dictionary of National Biography in 2004) plus other reference books, for example, if they are interested in finding information about a number of different Americans and Britons associated with a particular event that transcended national borders. What they lose, however, is the kind of comprehensiveness that works like the DAB and DNB offer.—E. Richard McKinstry, Andrew W. Mellon Senior Librarian, H. E. du Pont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware


There are several fine encyclopedias on adolescence that approach the topic from different points of view. International Encyclopedia of Adolescence from Routledge offers the unique perspective of looking at youth (ages ten to twenty-five) in the context of the larger culture in which they live as well as the historical and geographic settings that inform their worldview. The approach is a global one, with a glimpse of youth and family life set in the framework of each country's