The only other reference source similar to this new work is Samuel L. Macey's *Encyclopedia of Time* (Garland, 1994). In one volume, Macey offers fewer essays than Birx's much larger work, but all of them focus on issues or concepts of time as it relates to a wide range of topics. Macey's encyclopedia is preferable as a scholarly or general reference work because it was more clearly conceived and focused than Birx's work. Birx seeks to illustrate much broader connections between time and the universe, but his encyclopedia too frequently strays from the theme of time.—David Lincove, Ohio State University Libraries, Columbus


“That dress is so 1950s,” my friend would often say in high school. I was never a fashion queen, and often my clothing was sewn by my grandmother or was hand-me-downs from my older sister. How I wish that I had Had The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Clothing through American History: 1900 to the Present by Amy Peterson in high school. If I had, I could have had a witty come back, such as, “Well, if you notice the hem length and the design, the dress is very 1940s.”

On a more serious note, Amy T. Peterson's two-volume set is very intoxicating. When I first picked up the book, I planned to just browse through it briefly and review it for another day. However, more than an hour later I found myself engrossed by the history of clothing. Peterson begins each volume with a simple chronology of events that have influenced the history of clothing and fashion. Next, she summarizes the various events and political movements, such as the two World Wars, the Great Depression, and the women's rights movement, that influenced the changing world of fashion.

After the brief history lesson, Peterson writes about the various fashions for outerwear, formal wear, and even intimate apparel, decade by decade. Peterson also includes items that one would not typically think of in a fashion sense, like sleepwear, leggings, and headwear. Another added bonus is that infant, children's, and preteen fashions are also included in this encyclopedia.

The pictures of the various women's fashions are intriguing as well. Sometimes felt that I was reading a *Cosmopolitan* or *Vanity Fair* magazine instead of a clothing encyclopedia. The pictures bring to life the detailed descriptions of the apparel women wore during the twentieth century.

The only negative aspect of this encyclopedia is that it is a bit sexist. Granted, men's fashions have not changed much over the century, but the author could have written more about the change in men's apparel over the years. Despite this fault, *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Clothing through American History: 1900 to the Present* is a perfect reference source for high school, public, and academic libraries.—Theresa Bruno, Assistant Visiting Librarian, Indiana University, Purdue University, Columbus