

value.—Michelle S. Millet, Associate Professor and Information Literacy Coordinator, Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas

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***Encyclopedia of Time: Science, Philosophy, Theology, and Culture.*** Ed. by H. J. Birx. Los Angeles: Sage, 2009. 3 vols. Alkaline \$400 (ISBN 978-1-4129-4164-8).

Time is considered in the broadest of perspectives in this encyclopedia edited by H. James Birx, professor of anthropology at Canisius College. Birx uses the introduction to explain various ways to understand time and its pervasiveness in cognitive, biological, and physical experiences, but he does not explain the bounds or limits to the encyclopedia and offers only a very brief explanation about what the encyclopedia seeks to accomplish beyond illustrating the breadth of the topic. As an aid to users, there is a subject index and a list of essay titles organized by broad themes.

The purpose of this reference source is to provide a wide range of essays placing time in the context of astronomy, archaeology, paleontology, biology, physics, chemistry, and generally in the social sciences, arts, and humanities. Approximately 650 essays focus on topics such as biological and physical evolution, fossils, calendars, memory, logic, relativity, planetary time, and the media. There are essays that illustrate the relationship of time to literature, poetry, religion, music, and psychology. Essays on writers Virginia Woolf and Arthur Conan Doyle clearly show how time plays a part in their works of fiction. Articles on religions help readers understand how time is understood in religious philosophy, practice, and theology. Major historical figures, philosophers, religious thinkers, and social scientists are essay topics because they either contributed important ideas about time or they influenced our understanding of time and historical developments. Each essay is followed by cross-references and further readings.

Too many essays in this work do not provide clear connections between the specific essay topics and concepts of time. For example, there is an article on the Peloponnesian War, but aside from an analysis of the war itself, there is no attempt to relate the subject to time except for the fact that the war may offer issues relevant to later generations. In the essay on the Industrial Revolution, the author focuses on a narrative of the period and writes little on how the subject relates to time. There are no articles specifically on concepts of historical periodization. The essay on Roman emperor Nero describes his life without providing a relationship to time except to note that Nero was the last emperor in the Caesar family line. The essay on heartbeat would offer an excellent opportunity to discuss time in the context of biology and human psychology, but aside from noting statistics on the average number of beats per minute, there is no discussion of time. The essay on Rapu Niu (Easter Island) offers a brief history of the island and its inhabitants but no clear reference to the issue of time. In all of these examples there seems to be an assumption that readers will understand why the articles were written for this encyclopedia, but this weakens the usefulness of the work.

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

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***The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Clothing through American History: 1900 to the Present.*** By Amy T. Peterson et al. Ed. by Amy Peterson. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 2 vols. Alkaline \$199.95 (ISBN 978-0-313-35855-5).

"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 *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 also are included in this encyclopedia.

The pictures of the various women's fashions are intriguing as well. I 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