

(ISBN 978-1-58765-431-2).

Magill's Survey of World Literature is a new, expanded edition of the 1993 title of the same name. In six volumes, the set covers 380 major writers from all time periods and defines "world literature" as literature written by authors "outside the United States" (ix). *Magill's Survey of American Literature* (Salem, 2007) fills in this gap, but as this is not the standard definition of "world literature," it should be noted. Authors who have some affiliation to the United States are included, however, such as Roald Dahl, Vladimir Nabokov, and Elie Wiesel.

Arranged alphabetically by author, each entry is divided into a biography, an analysis of the author's work in general, and at least one (and up to five) detailed analyses of specific titles by that author. For example, following a biography of Ngugi wa Thiong'o (born 1938, Kenya), analysis is provided on his novels *Weep Not, Child*, *The River Between*, *The Wizard of the Crow*, and his play *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi*. At the end of each author's section there is also a brief summary of the author, a bibliography of the works by and about the author, and (most handily for students or librarians trying to help students) a list of discussion topics suitable for papers. Students can attempt to answer such questions as "Was Marcel Proust a snob? How is snobbery treated in *Remembrance of Things Past*?" (2097) in the five-paragraph essay format for their sophomore lit classes.

Each of the six volumes includes a complete list of contents for the set, and volume six also contains several appendixes and indexes. They include a glossary of literary terms; a category list, in which authors are identified under such headings as "Gay or Bisexual Writers," "Playwrights," and "Women"; a geographical list (for what it's worth, England is the country most represented in this set, although there are entries regarding authors from Botswana, Albania, and Myanmar as well); a title index; and an author index.

Because *Magill's Survey of World Literature* includes authors from all time periods, it does contain fewer entries than a comparable set such as the *Encyclopedia of World Literature in the 20th Century* (St. James, 1999). Instead of being encyclopedic, the *Survey of World Literature* focuses instead on lengthier essays on more well-known names "at the heart of literary studies for middle and high school students and at the center of book discussions among library patrons" (ix). With these audiences in mind, the discussion questions pertaining to each author become especially attractive, although the authors covered are surely of interest to students in literature survey courses in junior and four-year colleges. Recommended for middle school through university libraries and public libraries.—Tracy Carr Seabold, *Reference Services Director, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson*

Milestone Documents of American Leaders: Exploring the Primary Sources of Notable Americans. Ed. by Paul Finkelman. Dallas, Tex.: Schlager, 2009. 4 vols. Acid free \$395 (978-0-9797758-5-7).

This set is intended to be a companion to the earlier

Milestone Documents in American History (2008). However, the new work can stand nicely on its own because it provides primary texts from a balanced set of influential people. Some examples of figures included are Cesar Chavez, Sam Houston, Jane Addams, Frederick Douglass, Tecumseh, Colin Powell, and J. Edgar Hoover. Entries seem well-balanced in terms of political party affiliation, and it is evident that the editor was intentional about including women and ethnic minorities.

Entries include a number of U.S. presidents; however, not all presidents are included. For example, the work includes recent presidents Nixon, Reagan, Clinton, and George W. Bush while omitting Ford, Carter, George H. W. Bush, and Obama. Here the qualification seems to be a second term in office, though some influential one-term presidents such as John F. Kennedy are included. The work includes a few influential leaders who lost presidential elections, such as Henry Clay, Barry Goldwater, and Al Gore Jr.

The primary documents include compositions for both oral and written delivery. They include speeches and sermons, memorials, Supreme Court opinions, letters, military orders, and newspaper editorials. The texts generally appear in their complete form, but a few texts from prolix nineteenth century orators such as Daniel Webster and Henry Clay have been sensibly condensed.

Generally, the documents included for each figure are of high canonical importance. For example, the entry for Lincoln provides the "House Divided" speech, the Gettysburg Address, and the two inaugural addresses.

While the centerpiece of this reference work is clearly the primary texts, the biographical essays and chronologies for each entry are a useful gateway to the primary content. These secondary essays are usually four to six pages in length, and they carefully supply the context for each primary document presented. It is these essays that set this reference work apart from Internet speech banks and anthologies.

For each main entry, the work provides "Questions for Further Study" that are clearly intended for use in secondary education, with a focus on American history classes. These questions may be useful discussion starters in that arena. However, this work probably has a wider audience than the questions would seem to indicate. These questions, along with glossaries for the primary documents that define words such as "indemnity," might subtly insult the intelligence of more advanced readers.

The four volumes are reasonably attractive, glossy, red, white, and blue hardbacks. They contain occasional black and white portraits and scanned images of original texts. The index and table of contents are thorough and useful.

The real value of this work is that it provides a laboratory for introducing the study of primary texts. Beyond American history, this could be a valuable resource for students in political science, rhetorical criticism, and argumentation. It is perhaps most appropriate for undergraduate education, though it could be accessible to many secondary students, and may continue to provide a useful collection of texts and basic contextual reference for graduate students and profes-

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sional scholars.—Steven R. Edscorn, *Library Director and Associate Professor of Theological Bibliography, Memphis Theological Seminary*.

The Nineties in America. Ed. by Milton Berman. Decades. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2009. 3 vols. alkaline \$364 (ISBN 978-1-58765-500-5).

The 1990s may not come to mind as a watershed decade like the depression thirties or the socially convulsive sixties. Nevertheless, the nineties have passed into history and reference sources about that decade are beginning to appear. *The Nineties in America* is the fifth entry in the Decades series by Salem Press that covers every decade beginning with the 1950s. As with the other volumes in this series, the aim of this three volume set is to cover “events, movements, people, and trends in popular culture, literature, art, sports, science, technology, economics and politics in both the United States and Canada” (ix).

The decade of the nineties has already been covered by Gale in its *American Decades* series (Gale, 1996–2001). The Gale volumes are organized into broad categories such as “World Events,” “The Arts,” and “Lifestyles and Social Trends”; within each category are a chronology of events and short entries on trends and people important in that area. *The Nineties in America* and the other Salem press Decades books differ from the Gale volumes in that they provide a very large number of entries (approximately 650 articles in the nineties set) in a purely alphabetical arrangement. Some entries are broad in scope (“African Americans,” “International Relations”), while others are much more narrow profiles of people or events (“Chicago Heat Wave of 1995,” “Cirque du Soleil”). Volume 3 includes a list of entries by category and appendixes providing a time line of the decade, a glossary of new words and slang, major legislation and judicial decisions of the decade, and many lists of award winners in the arts and sports.

The Nineties in America can offer entries on topics that the Gale volumes can only mention in passing. The aforementioned “Chicago Heat Wave of 1995” entry covers almost three pages and includes a short bibliography. The same topic is not even listed in the index of Gale’s 1990s volume. The Kelly Flinn Air Force scandal merits a full article in this source but is given only a short paragraph in the Gale book. The biographical entries focus almost entirely on the 1990s and are not complete biographies. For instance, the entries on tycoon Donald Trump and writer John Updike mention nothing about their upbringing, education, or careers prior to 1990 or post-1999.

In assessing a reference work such as this, Reference Librarians should think about the potential uses of “decades” sources. Likely users of such reference books include high school or college students seeking information about the social conditions, fashions, lifestyles, and popular culture of a particular decade. The Gale *American Decades* volumes, which are organized around broad themes, are well suited

to this purpose. *The Nineties in America*, comprised of a large number of entries alphabetically arranged and indexed very broadly in the third volume, does not facilitate this kind of research as easily. Libraries looking at restricted budgets may also be concerned about the amount of duplication involved here. The subjects of many of the entries, particularly the narrowly focused biographical entries, will be better covered in other reference works. Libraries looking to cover the decade of the 1990s in their reference collections should acquire the Gale book first; those with extensive budgets could consider this source as a supplement.—Peter Bliss, *Reference Librarian, University of California, Riverside*.

Science Fiction Television Series, 1990–2004: Histories, Casts and Credits for 58 Shows. By Frank Garcia and Mark Phillips. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland, 2009. 431p. alkaline \$59.95 (ISBN 978-0-7864-2483-2).

In the “Introduction” to their latest reference work, science fiction scholars Frank Garcia and Mark Phillips offer an informed overview of science fiction television (SFTV) series. The key event in the genre’s recent history, they explain, was the decision of Paramount executive Rick Berman to join *Star Trek* creator Gene Roddenberry in launching the series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, which would run from 1987 through 1994 and eventually be succeeded by three more spinoffs.

Garcia and Phillips go on to describe those four series and fifty-four others, from the famous to the nearly forgotten, from *Andromeda* to *The X-Files*. The entries vary in length from less than three pages (the short-lived anthology series *Welcome to Paradox*, for example) to almost thirteen (*Babylon 5*). A typical entry opens with a short statement of the program’s premise and lists of cast, recurring cast, and guest stars. The discussions are lengthy but very readable, enlivened by extensive quotations from those involved, and conclude with cast notes. Many entries are illustrated with black-and-white photographs and include brief bibliographies of printed and electronic sources.

In the interests of space the authors exclude comedy, fantasy, horror, superhero, and children’s series, as well as those in which the science fiction element was of relatively minor importance.

The work’s features include an appendix consisting of additional quotations from interviewees. A second, more useful appendix offering brief descriptions of older series is based on Garcia and Phillips’s earlier volume, *Science Fiction Television Series: Episode Guides, Histories, and Casts and Credits for 62 Prime Time Shows, 1959 through 1989* (McFarland, 1996). The index is gratifyingly comprehensive.

There are currently no other printed sources offering comprehensive coverage of SFTV series for the period in question, and while there is extensive information about individual programs on the World Wide Web, quality and reliability remain elusive on many sites. Garcia and Phillips’ guide is recommended for larger collections emphasizing television,