

SOURCES

Harlem Renaissance Lives from the African American National Biography. Ed. by Henry L. Gates and Evelyn B. Higginbotham. New York: Oxford Univ. Pr., 2009. 608p. acid free \$50 (ISBN 978-0-19-538795-7).

Some three hundred biographical entries make up this single-volume work on the Harlem Renaissance. Biographies are of both the now well known (Billie Holiday, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Lead Belly) and those known mostly to experts in the field. Each biography is followed by a list of further reading, which includes books, encyclopedia articles, and journal and newspaper articles. The biographies are taken from Gates and Higginbotham's monumental eight-volume work, *African American National Biography* (Oxford, 2008).

Supplementary material includes only a general index and a brief introduction. The index would benefit from sub-headings. An index entry is followed only by a series of page numbers, with no information as to what the entry is about. W. E. B. Du Bois, for example, is followed by two dozen page numbers. Any or all of them might be relevant or helpful to an individual researcher, but the index gives no specific information. A general bibliography also might have been helpful in addition to the lists of further readings.

Harlem Renaissance Lives contains only biographical entries. No entries cover topics related to the Renaissance, such as literary or artistic themes, publishing houses, individual works of literature or art, or historical events. In this sense, it is more limited than an earlier reference volume on the Harlem Renaissance, *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Literary Renaissance: The Essential Guide to the Lives and Works of the Harlem Renaissance Writers* by Lois Brown (Facts on File, 2006). That earlier work has some eight hundred entries, both biographical and topical. Several works published by Thomson Gale also cover the period. The first volume of the three-volume *The Harlem Renaissance: A Gale Critical Companion*, edited by Janet Witalec (Thomson Gale, 2003) contains chapters on the various arts that flourished during the Harlem Renaissance—music, performance, the visual arts, and literature. In addition, two volumes of Gale's *Dictionary of Literary Biography* examine the Harlem Renaissance. Volume 50 of this series is *Afro-American Writers before the Harlem Renaissance* (Gale, 1986) and volume 51 is titled *Afro-American Writers from the Harlem Renaissance to 1940* (Gale, 1987). Both volumes contain biographies, including extensive critical comment, bibliographies of primary and secondary works, and excerpts from primary works such as letters of the writers of this time and movement.

Libraries that do not already own one or more of the titles mentioned above, and those who seek to have a complete collection in the area, will find *Harlem Renaissance Lives* a valuable purchase.—Terry Ann Mood, Professor Emerita, University of Colorado, Denver

978-1-58765-518-0).

Wilson, a professor of political science at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, has previously coedited *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Supreme Court* and authored *American Political Leaders (American Biographies)*. In this reference work, he has gathered more than 140 contributors from institutions from all around United States to put together this three-volume set that covers the history of American business. The entries are arranged alphabetically, and the beginning of each volume contains an A to Z list of entries along with a table of contents for that particular volume. Volume 1 also contains a list of contributors and a publisher's note. Volume 3 has several appendixes: a glossary, a bibliography arranged by topic, "Notable Persons in American Business History," "Notable American Companies and Corporations," "Federal Government Agencies," "Federal Laws," "Notable Court Decisions," and timeline of notable events. There are also several indexes included in volume 3.

The publisher's note states that the encyclopedia "provides broad, basic coverage of the business world, addressing the forces that shaped business, the regulations and organizations that kept it in balance and the major issues and ideas that emerged over the course of history" (ix). While the focus is on American business, there are essays in topics of foreign relations, such as trade agreements and international economic issues.

The articles range in length from several paragraphs to several pages. Each entry begins with some initial information about the topic, such as a definition, the date and place of the event, and the significance of the topic. Even the lengthier articles do not cover the topic in depth, as the source is designed to give the reader just an introduction to the topic. All articles are signed and have bibliographies, although those vary widely in length. Most entries have *see also* references. For example, under "Warehouse and Discount Stores" the *see also* includes "Catalog Shopping," "Retail Trade Industry," "Thrift Stores," and "Wal-Mart." There are a number of individuals profiled, such as Henry Ford, Walt Disney, Andrew Carnegie, and Madame C. J. Walker. The volumes are filled with insets of charts and photographs.

There are many resources that provide business history information, such as the *International Directory of Company Histories* (Gale, serial, 1988) and *Encyclopedia of American Business History* (Facts on File, 2006), and certainly the topics covered in this source can be extensively researched elsewhere. The editor does do a nice job of bringing all this information together in a readable format for those new to the subject area.

Recommended for school, public, and undergraduate libraries.—Stacey Marien, Budget and Finance Manager, Information Delivery Services, American University, Washington, D.C.

Historical Encyclopedia of American Business. Ed. by Richard L. Wilson. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2009. 3 vols. Alkaline \$364 (ISBN

Magill's Survey of World Literature. Rev. ed. Ed. by Steven G. Kellman. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2009. 6 vols. Alkaline \$499