

valuable essay that lays out manageable strategies for individuals who want their voices to be included in political dialogue. Volume 2 includes roughly two hundred articles with information on “people, events, laws, organizations and more” (xxvii). The articles are clearly written and brief, typically one to three paragraphs, and provide suggested readings. Volume 3 provides a rich array of primary documents ranging from laws, court decisions, and executive orders to classic texts and data. While most of the documents are discoverable on the Internet, it is convenient to have them collocated, organized, and often excerpted for accessibility and ease of use.

There are clear benefits to combining, updating, and expanding existing works to provide more comprehensive coverage of lobbying, political influence, and corruption in a single multi-volume encyclopedia. *Dirty Deals?* provides a solid foundation for beginning research in these areas of study. It is appropriate for public, high school, college, and university libraries.—Anne C. Deutsch, *Reference and Instruction Librarian, State University of New York at New Paltz, New Paltz, New York*

Encyclopedia of Humor Studies. Ed. by Salvatore Attardo. Los Angeles: Sage Reference, 2014. 2 vols. \$315 (ISBN 978-1-4129-9909-0).

Search online for information about any sitcom and you are likely to find a fan-authored site that provides minute details about every character and episode. Yet such web sources seldom offer intellectual linkages from popular shows like *The Office* to an identification of the first “mockumentary” (*This is Spinal Tap*) to an academic explanation that this particular genre involves “the appropriation of codes and conventions from the full continuum of nonfiction and fact-fiction forms” (515). Sage’s *Encyclopedia of Humor Studies* does precisely this, and thus is an invaluable aid to students exploring this highly fascinating discipline.

Humor studies is an interdisciplinary and international field. Fortunately, the encyclopedia’s contents reflect this diversity. The editor, Salvatore Attardo, is the author of *Linguistic Theories of Humor* (de Gruyter, 1994), *Humorous Texts: A Semantic and Pragmatic Analysis* (de Gruyter, 2001), and many other highly-cited publications in the fields of humor and linguistics. From 2001 to 2011, he was also the editor of *HUMOR*, the official journal of the International Society for Humor Studies. For compiling his encyclopedia, Attardo recruited a board drawn from most of the related fields, including communication (Owen Hanley Lynch), cross-cultural studies (Jessica Milner Davis), folklore (Maira Marsh), linguistics (Victor Raskin), media studies (Sharon Lockyer), religious studies (John Morreall), and social psychology (Thomas E. Ford). This team vetted topics and entries. The final product reflects the efforts of more than two hundred contributors, approximately one-third of whom are employed at institutions outside of the United States.

Containing approximately three hundred entries, the encyclopedia allows students to take various approaches to studying

humor, including the components of humor, such as “punch line”; humor in various cultures, such as “Jewish humor”; and artifacts such as “comic strips.” Most, if not all, entries include cross-references and bibliographies to enable further study. Within the appendices, one helpful feature is a fifteen-page “Chronology,” citing important events in the history of humor from ancient times through the present day. Another is a five-page list of “Human Associations and Publications.”

Editor Attardo rightfully claims that there is no comparable title. Although many libraries own Alleen Pace Nilsen’s and Don Lee Free Nilsen’s *Encyclopedia of 20th-Century American Humor* (Oryx Press, 2000), Maurice Horn and Richard Marschall’s *World Encyclopedia of Cartoons* (Gale, 1980), or other reference works, these are very limited in scope and do not present the theoretical and research approaches present in the current encyclopedia. Thus the *Encyclopedia of Humor Studies* is a welcome addition for campuses supporting interdisciplinary scholars.—Bernadette A. Lear, *Behavioral Sciences and Education Librarian, Penn State Harrisburg Library, Middletown, Pennsylvania*

Encyclopedia of the Zombie: The Walking Dead in Popular Culture and Myth. Ed. by June Michele Pulliam and Anthony J. Fonseca. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2014. 381 p. Acid free \$89 (ISBN 978-1-4408-0388-8). E-book (978-1-4408-0389-5) available, call for pricing.

And

The Zombie Book: The Encyclopedia of the Living Dead. By Nick Redfern with Brad Steiger. Detroit: Visible Ink Press, 2015. 367 p. Paperback \$19.95 (ISBN 978-1-57859-504-4). PDF e-book (978-1-57859-530-3), Kindle e-book (978-1-57859-532-7), and ePub e-book (978-1-57859-531-0) available, call for pricing.

The AMC television series *The Walking Dead* is merely one of the latest manifestations of our recurring fascination with zombies. An earlier wave was sparked by George Romero’s 1968 film *Night of the Living Dead* and its sequels, and an earlier one still by W. B. Seabrook’s 1929 travelogue *The Magic Island*. The two reference works under review delve into the gruesome details of the phenomenon, discussing religion and folklore, writers and their books, films and their directors and actors, graphic novels and comic books, diseases and epidemics, and so on, with side trips into somewhat related subjects such as ghouls and vampires. There are also entries on specific events (particularly in *The Zombie Book*, whose approach is more anecdotal) and broader concepts.

There has never been a classic work defining the attributes of the zombie or fixing the details of the creature in the public mind the way *Dracula* did for vampires. Instead, the concept has mutated over the years from its origin in the religion of Voodoo and has now taken on a striking variety of forms. Thus *Encyclopedia of the Zombie* is compiled using “an expansive definition” (xviii), an approach true of both works. Coupled with the elasticity of the concept, this expansiveness leads to a surprising lack of overlap between the contents of the works.

SOURCES

Both books devote strong coverage to zombies in popular culture (films and so on) but are noticeably weaker in tracing the literary roots of the phenomenon. The two books carry entries for Seabrook, whose sensationalized book introduced zombies to the wider English-speaking public, but only *Encyclopedia of the Zombie* includes entries on African-American writer Zora Neale Hurston and her 1938 account *Tell My Horse*, in which she describes an encounter in Haiti with a woman alleged to be a zombie. Both works neglect Henry S. Whitehead, who lived in the American Virgin Islands during the 1920s and contributed finely crafted stories on Voodoo themes to the magazine *Weird Tales*. Also missing are the brothers Pierre Marcelin and Philippe Thoby-Marcelin, award-winning Haitian writers whose novels of island life won the praise of critic Edmund Wilson.

Both *Encyclopedia of the Zombie* and *The Zombie Book* are arranged alphabetically by subject, are well illustrated, and include indexes and extensive bibliographies. The former also includes an eighteen-page chronology of zombie films and makes good use of “see also” references, a feature generally lacking in its competitor.

Thanks to its more informal tone and lower price, *The Zombie Book* is a good choice for small public libraries. Despite its neglect of a few key authors, *Encyclopedia of the Zombie* is a better choice for academic and large public libraries, especially those where there are strong interests in folklore and the study of popular culture. Given the popularity of the subject and the lack of overlap between the two books, larger public libraries may want to consider purchasing both.—Grove Koger, retired reference librarian, independent scholar, Boise, Idaho

Hidden Religion: The Greatest Mysteries and Symbols of the World's Religious Beliefs. By Micah Issitt and Carlyn Main. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2014. 531 p. Acid free \$100.00 (ISBN 978-1-61069-477-3). E-book (978-1-61069-478-0) available, call for pricing.

This readable reference book generally seems to meet its stated goal. The authors' preface states their hope “that the information in this book will inspire our readers to take the quest for knowledge further, perhaps exploring fields and issues previously unimagined” (xiv). While it might be a long conversation if a goal were to focus on what “greatest” means in the title, it does seem this work could be a handy supplement or kick start for research.

To begin, there is an opening essay, “Introduction: History and Mystery,” with these discussion sections: “Life, the Universe, and Everything,” “Religious Evolution,” and “Symbols and Secrets.” Reading this discussion is like listening to an interesting speaker, both engaging and stimulating, although a slight frustration for this reviewer was not finding any citations relevant to the historical, sociological, and religious development claims made in the essay.

The book is arranged using these major headings: “Abrahamic and Iranian Religions,” “Dharmic Religions,” “East

Asian Religions,” “African Religious Traditions,” “Indigenous American Religions,” “Oceanic Religions,” and “Western Paganism.” Under those headings are short, introductory essays for religions (and nonreligion), along with confidently presented entries for a large array of visual symbols, beliefs, and practices.

An appreciated feature is the reading list with every entry. Lists include at least two books from good publishers or a book and a website. The value of these websites could be limited or need supplementing. For example, there might be a need to supplement information about Jainism obtained using the Jain Student Center website at the University of Michigan. Also, readers using some reading list sources might need to dig for information; not all of the sources focus only on the mystery or symbol being covered in the entry. In all, the lists did seem a good idea, and the author's use of websites was also helpfully suggestive.

The select bibliography of ninety-nine sources includes books and websites; book publishers included a large number of university publishers, as well as commercial publishers (Cambridge, Oxford, Wiley-Blackwell, Routledge, etc.). There is an eighteen-word glossary that might be helpful and an 11 1/2-page index.

Other related sources not included in the bibliography would be Ferguson's older *An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Mysticism and the Mystery Religions* (Continuum Book, Seabury Press, 1997) and Anthony S. Mercatante's small work *The Facts On File Encyclopedia Of World Mythology And Legend* (Facts on File, 2009), with its good annotated bibliographies. Larger resources would be Thomas Riggs' *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Religious Practices* (Thomson-Gale, 2006) and this publisher's companion four-volume *Religions of the World*, by Melton and Baumann (ABC-CLIO, 2010). Although considerably more expensive, the online *Encyclopedia of Religion*, edited by Lindsay Jones (MacMillan, 2005), would serve as an extensive resource for topics; it contains 939 search hits for “symbols,” a large chapter on “Symbol and Symbolism,” and chapters on iconography for a range of traditions, including traditional African, Buddhist, Confucian, Egyptian, Hindu, Jewish, Christian, and Islamic cultures. Another expensive resource would be the online *eHRAF World Cultures* (Human Relations Area Files, 2014).

This reference book could be a useful title for high school and public libraries. It might also serve academic libraries as a stimulus for research.—Paul Fehrmann, Reference and Instruction Librarian, University Libraries, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

Historical Guide to World Media Freedom: A Country-by-Country Analysis. By Jenifer Whitten-Woodring and Douglas A. Van Belle. Los Angeles: Sage Reference, 2014. 575 p. Alkaline \$150 (ISBN 978-1-60871-765-1). Online edition (978-1-45223-422-9) available, call for pricing.

This work fills a gap in the literature by providing a global and historical perspective on media freedom. Much of the information presented here is available in geographic and historical literature about various countries or in journal