

While one would expect entries on the historical aspects of the Roman Empire to be in this encyclopedia, one may not expect entries of movies and video games that are related to Julius Caesar. *AJTC* has a number of entries on movies (*Spartacus* and *Cleopatra*), television shows (HBO's *Rome*) and even video games (*Caesar I–IV*) related to Julius Caesar. These additional entries add tremendous value to this work.

Primary source documents lie at the end of *AJTC*. Their inclusion is a bonus allowing users to go straight from an article to a primary source. The value of their inclusion could be increased dramatically if more references were made to them in individual entries.

While they are several ways that *AJTC* could improve its value, its combination of being focused on a very specific topic yet providing an incredibly broad look at that topic, make it a reference set worth having in any undergraduate university library.—Garrett B. Trott, *Reference/Instruction Librarian, Corban University, Salem, Oregon*

Antarctica and the Arctic Circle: A Geographic Encyclopedia of the Earth's Polar Regions. Edited by Andres J. Hund. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2014. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-392-9). Ebook available (978-1-61069-393-6), call for pricing.

Although calling itself a geographic encyclopedia, the scope of this two-volume set is broader than such a designation suggests. Hund has attempted to encompass a large range of information about a vast area, perhaps a bit much for a modest two-volume set. Attempting to address in a meaningful way topics in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and applied sciences for both poles in approximately 350 entries and fewer than 800 pages is ambitious. His stated “central feature . . . the original inhabitants of the Arctic region” (xi) would, alone, merit a work of this size. John Stewart's larger, two-volume *Antarctica: An Encyclopedia*, 2nd ed. (McFarland, 2011) is more limited in both geographical and topical scope.

A significant strength of this set is as a starting place for research. The entries are significantly more in depth than those in Stewart's work or in David McDougal and Lynn Woodworth's single-volume *The Complete Encyclopedia: Antarctica and the Arctic* (Firefly, 2001). The entries most often present a cohesive and reasonably in-depth discussion of a topic, essentially reading much like journal articles, with less direct citation and a less complete list of references. Beyond this, most entries are followed immediately by a further-reading section composed largely of scholarly articles and books, government and nongovernmental organization documents, and other authoritative sources. This differs from the placement of references at the end of the two volumes, as in Stewart's set, and the seeming entire omission of citations, as in David McDougal and Lynn Woodworth's work. The latter seems almost impossible without violating intellectual integrity and undermines the substantial value of encyclopedic works as sources of research leads and direction.

In contrast to the “direct entry” organization adopted in *Antarctica: An Encyclopedia*, the signed, article-length entries in Hund's work rely on an index and cross references to enable readers to locate related topics and information on a more granular scale than the major articles, as well as under alternate terminology. The indexing is in volume 2 only and, unfortunately, is somewhat inconsistent. Animal species may be indexed by common name, scientific name, or both; common names may be indexed at different levels such as “elephant seal” versus “southern elephant seal”; and the variant or variants used in the entry do not seem to be a very good guide to what will be indexed. In notable contrast to the indication given by the subtitle, geographic locations are not described in this encyclopedia at as fine a level as in Stewart's set, nor as comprehensively.

The sparse illustrations are entirely black-and-white and often seem to do little to enhance the informational value of the content. They do add some interest and some do contribute to the entry. The set clearly lacks the impressive visual appeal of McDougal and Woodworth's work, but has more visual elements than Stewart's, which has not so much as a map or a table.

These three major reference works on the polar regions complement each other well. However, if you must limit your selections, for the most comprehensive geographical information, John Stewart's *Antarctica: An Encyclopedia* would be preferred. McDougal and Woodworth's volume would be the clear choice for visual appeal. As a broader scope research resource for undergraduate or graduate students, or for the strongest presentation in natural, social, and political sciences, Hund's work would be an excellent choice and is recommended.—Lisa Euster, *Reference Librarian, Brooks Library, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, Washington*

The Brain, the Nervous System, and Their Diseases. Edited by Jennifer L. Hellier. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 3 vols. Acid free \$294 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-337-0). Ebook available (978-1-61069-338-7).

Jennifer L. Hellier's *The Brain, the Nervous System, and Their Diseases* fulfills its purpose as a single, comprehensive resource that covers all aspects of the brain, nervous system, and the diseases effecting these organ systems. The text is easy to navigate: entries are listed alphabetically and by topic. A detailed index is also provided at the end of volume 3. The 333 entries vary in length from several paragraphs to multiple pages and include “see also” references and lists of further readings. Images, tables, charts, and graphs are provided when available. A list of recommended resources at the end of the encyclopedia provides only eight resources; however, each entry's own list of further readings makes up for the brevity of this list. The encyclopedia covers a wide range of topics, from the anatomy of the nervous system to the diagnostic tests and treatment for various diseases of the nervous system. Though the encyclopedia is easy to use, the entries are written at a level that may be challenging for

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the editor's target audience: high school and undergraduate students and the general consumer. A unique feature of the encyclopedia is the "Experiments and Activities" resource at the end of volume 3. This tool is a collection of various activities and experiments that help to illustrate many of the topics covered in the text. These activities not only benefit the reader but would be an excellent resource for high school or undergraduate instructors in need of lab and other hands-on activities that complement teachings on the brain and nervous system.

An additional strength of the text is the editor. Hellier is an expert in the field of neuroscience, with teaching and research experience. Though Hellier's background is impressive, the authority of the contributors is questionable. The Hellier states that the contributors are "uniquely qualified to speak with authority regarding at least one aspect of the brain, the nervous system, and their diseases" (xxvi), and the backgrounds of the contributors include neuroscientists, neurologists, family physicians, psychologists, and public health professionals. She fails to explain why twenty-four of the seventy-three contributors are undergraduate students, not professionals. This calls into question the authority of the work. A student pursuing his or her bachelor's degree does not possess the same or comparable authority of a neurologist. Due to the questionable authority of the contributors, the encyclopedia is not recommended as a resource for health care professionals or researchers.

Despite this drawback, the text fills a gap in the literature. While Carol Turkington's *Encyclopedia of the Brain and Brain Disorders* (Facts On File, 2009) is more user friendly for the general consumer and high school student, it is not as comprehensive or detailed as Hellier's work. Though the level of detail regarding the brain and neurological disorders in Noggle, Dean, and Horton's *The Encyclopedia of Neuropsychological Disorders* (Springer, 2012) is comparable to Hellier's text, it is a clinical resource written to aid health care professionals in patient care. Hellier provides a balance between both Turkington's and Noggle, Dean, and Horton's encyclopedias. *The Brain, the Nervous System, and Their Diseases* is a comprehensive introduction to neuroscience and neurology that is accessible for consumers and undergraduates. The level at which the text is written in combination with the "Experiments and Activities" resource also makes this resource an ideal teaching tool for high school and undergraduate educators.—*Maria C. Melssen, Medical Librarian, Port Clinton, Ohio*

Comics Through Time: A History of Icons, Idols, and Ideas. Edited by M. Keith Booker. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 4 vols. Acid free \$415 (ISBN: 978-0-313-39750-9). Ebook available (978-0-313-39751-6), call for pricing.

Comics Through Time: A History of Icons, Idols, and Ideas is an ambitious, four-volume title that "seeks to capture some of the richness" of comics history and "provide information on this history for a wide range of users, from casual fans

of comics to professional scholars of the form" (xxiii). Each of the four volumes covers a specific time period, beginning in the 1900s with comic strips and continuing to the present. Just as the volumes cover a broad expanse of time, they also deal with a diverse array of subjects, including comic strips, comic books, comics creators both well-known and obscure (often accompanied by large photographs), comics publishers, and genres such as science fiction and horror. Articles on topics such as the Cold War and religion provide insight into how comics depicted the societal landscape of the time. *Comics through Time* even provides information on the more obscure aspects of comics history such as Tijuana Bibles, which depicted well-known comics characters in bawdy stories.

Each volume has an extensive and incisive introduction and chronology covering the landscape of comics during the period covered by that volume. While the individual entries provide information on specific topics, the introductions give the reader a broader picture of the ups and downs of the comics industry as well as how comics influenced (and were influenced by) the broader culture.

Since the work is organized by time period, each entry covers a given topic only within the specific period covered by the volume; therefore many subjects, publishers, and creators are given multiple entries throughout the volumes. For example, Will Eisner, whose career spanned from the 1930s until his death in 2005, is given entries in all four volumes. An index ensures that readers will be able to locate all entries for a given topic or creator.

A minor weakness of the work is that a few notable creators, while mentioned in various places, do not receive entries of their own. For example: Carmine Infantino, who became one of the most notable DC Comics artists of the Silver Age for revitalizing the Flash and Batman, and eventually became the company's publisher, is mentioned in various entries and a sidebar but is not given a proper entry of his own.

Recent years have seen the publication of several valuable comics reference works, such as Beaty and Weiner's *Critical Survey of Graphic Novels* series (Salem Press 2012–13). Libraries that have found that series to be a useful resource for patrons should also purchase *Comics through Time*. The two works are similar in scope but each provides a good amount of unique information, so the two titles complement each other nicely.—*Edward Whatley, Instruction and Research Services Librarian, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, Georgia*

Drugs in American Society: An Encyclopedia of History, Politics, Culture, and the Law. Edited by Nancy E. Marion and Willard M. Oliver. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 3 vols. Acid free \$294 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-595-4). Ebook available (978-1-61069-596-1), call for pricing.

Drugs in American Society: An Encyclopedia of History, Politics, Culture, and the Law fills a hole in reference resources that examine the breadth of drugs' impact on American Society.