

Dr. Seuss, which does a fine job of establishing Geisel as a political writer, which is typically covered in other reference works, but is not the focus of the entry. Genres are also well represented, with a specific strength with the coverage of science fiction including representation of authors from well-established canonical figures such as H.G. Wells, but also including more obscure international writers such as Karel Capek and also contemporary authors such as China Mieville. Further strong points of *Literature and Politics Today* are the entries on national literatures and subsets of national or regional literatures such as difference between Francophone or Anglophone literatures.

The entries have brief bibliographies, which tend to list a few major primary or critical works. However, often these bibliographies are not current enough. For example, the Toni Morrison entry has no citations newer than 1997. Booker is the author for many of the entries, but many other experts, mostly professors of English, are also represented, resulting in reliably accessible and informative writing throughout. Overall, this work does an admirable job of representing *Literature and Politics* and will serve as a valuable supplement to other reference works in literature. Recommended for high school and college libraries.—Shannon Pritting, *Library Director, SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Utica, New York*

Make 'em Laugh!: American Humorists of the 20th and 21st Centuries. Ed. by Zeke Jarvis. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 322 pages. acid free \$89 (ISBN: 978-1-4408-2994-9). E-book available (978-1-4408-2995-6), call for pricing.

While books about comedy often strip all the life out of it, good books about comedy are a useful resource for learning about key performers, for analysis of comedy trends, and for discovery of little-known works one may have missed. Unfortunately, *Make 'em Laugh!: American Humorists of the 20th and 21st Centuries* is not one of those good books about comedy.

The volume's purpose is to examine "the issues of craft and technique found in each artist's work as well as the social significance of these artists and their work" (xvi). A lengthy introduction provides an essay on various cultural aspects of humor, though it is puzzling why the editor chose to include references to literary and cultural figures who do not have entries in the book (Edna St. Vincent Millay, e.e. cummings, W.C. Field, and Shirley Temple, to name a few). The book is organized in several sections: literature, popular writing (which includes comic strips), television and film, and stand up and performance. The entries in each section are alphabetized, include biographical and career information, and have a few sources for further reading. The introductory material does not address how or why the entries were selected for inclusion, which would have been very helpful in determining just what this reference book intends to do. It does say that the text "tries to take a very broad view of humor so as to see as many different aspects of humor as

possible," (xv) but that does not assist with identifying the book's purpose.

The entries contain mostly factual information (some of which, unfortunately, is incorrect) and little analysis or insight into the individual's humor. There is also an alarming lack of inclusion of minority humorists. Had the editor chosen a narrower focus, such as just stand-up comedians and actors, or a more limited date range (most of the entries are from the late twentieth century through current), this book would have had a clearer focus and purpose. As it is, it's exclusive, not nearly thorough enough, and just too broad to know what its purpose is.

Not recommended.—Tracy Carr, *Library Services Director, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Mississippi*

Modern Genocide: The Definitive Resource and Document Collection. Ed. by Paul R. Bartrop and Steven Leonard Jacobs. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 4 vols. Acid free. \$415.00. (ISBN: 978-1-61069-363-9) E-Book available (978-1-61069-364-6), call for pricing.

As a term, "genocide" is one of the more recent entrants in the English language lexicon, having gained currency only since World War II and that conflict's attendant pogroms of the Jewish and other peoples. As a concept and course of action, however, that of a methodical effort to eliminate an entire race or ethnic group, history shows that there have been numerous holocausts stretching back, probably, to the origin of our species. In fact, there have been so many concerted efforts on the part of People A to rid Planet Earth of People B, that the editors have limited the scope of their work to those instances that occurred during the twentieth century, hence the import of "modern" in its title.

Editors Bartrop and Leonard state in the "Introduction" that their purpose in creating yet another reference work on genocide studies—and there have been several other excellent titles of late—is to educate ". . . a new generation to what has transpired in the century just concluded [so that] we can break this cycle of violence, death, and destruction and move humanity forward positively" (xxxvii). The question of whether education, commendable goal that it is, will act as a deterrent to such baser human instincts as hate and greed, is one for the philosophers to grapple with, as this is beyond the capacity of a mere book reviewer. That being said, the editors and contributors have done a yeoman's job in laying out the facts regarding mass murder over the last hundred years. The bulk of these four volumes are taken up by ten substantial chapters, each one focusing on a discrete episode of genocide as defined by Article 2 of the United Nations Convention. In alphabetical order, they range from Armenia during World War I to Rwanda in 1994. Each chapter follows a standard format beginning with an overview essay that frames the occurrence in its cultural and historical context. Other aspects examined include "Causes," "Consequences," "Perpetrators," "Victims," "Bystanders" (witnesses), and "International Reaction." An interesting and useful feature that