

SOURCES

work would complement this work as a conscious step away from default western perspectives.

Such a role as a sole reference work in the area is especially enhanced by three longer, introductory essays titled "Overview," "Causes," and "Consequences." Anyone needing a historical refresher, an introduction to the crusades, or to their lingering effects would benefit from these interesting and readable essays. A thorough chronology toward the end of the volume is also useful for orientation.

The index is quite thorough, listing all people, places, structures, and tribes mentioned in the essays in addition to main entry topics, which enhances accessibility, as does the readable content. The work contains an unobtrusive number of interesting grayscale images of appropriate artwork and maps. The hardbound cover is interesting and attractive, but not pretentious.

The Crusades to the Holy Land: The Essential Reference Guide lives up to its subtitle. The work could indeed be an essential starting point for a researcher who is not already an expert on the crusades. It points the researcher farther down the road as well. This work belongs in collections supporting undergraduate and secondary educational programs, or graduate programs that might tangentially require a refresher about this period of western history that still haunts us today.—Steven R. Edscorn, *Executive Director of Libraries, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma*

A Day in a Working Life: 300 Trades and Professions through History. By Gary Westfahl. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 3 vols. Acid free. \$310 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-402-5). E-book available (978-1-61069-403-2), call for pricing.

The evolution of the human experience over the past ten millennia is truly remarkable. Humans began their existence huddled over a fire, living in dark, dank caves. Today, we have the ability to construct towering skyscrapers in sprawling metropolises where countless millions of people call home. *A Day in a Working Life* aims to provide information on how our trades and professions evolved over time and led us to where we are today.

Author Gary Westfahl has done an admirable job of collecting and synthesizing the key information associated with each profession, making each entry pithy, yet rich in essential information. While he readily admits in the Preface that, "its coverage is necessarily selective, since no work of this size could possibly examine every single occupation in every single culture" (xv), Westfahl covers many key professions. Highlights include Hunters and Gatherers, Blacksmiths, Musicians and Dancers, and Web Site Designers.

Each of the more than three hundred entries in this set range from one to three pages in length. Every entry concludes with a fairly lengthy "Further Reading" section containing numerous citations for additional sources on the profession. Also included at the end of each entry is a "Document" section, where the citation and text of a relevant

primary source document is provided for the corresponding occupation. As a result, each entry has an excellent flow to each entry; users are first given the essential overview information on the profession, then led to a list of additional resources to explore for further information, and then they are provided with a copy of a primary source material to further enhance their understanding of the profession.

If there is one critique to levy against this set, it would be the somewhat clunky method of tracking the evolution of a single profession over time. This set does contain a traditional, alphabetical index of professions at the end of its third volume, which is the only way users can track a profession over time. They can look up a profession in the index, and then refer to the corresponding sections in each of the three volumes to gather the information. This set is predominately organized by period; users first navigate to their desired period, and then alphabetically browse the professions contained within said period. If there were a more graceful way to browse first by profession, and then track how that profession changed and/or evolved throughout time, that would make this encyclopedia set even better.

While some of the indexing/organization of this set are less than ideal, overall, this is a high-quality encyclopedia rich with useful information. This encyclopedia set would be a welcome addition to any academic library.—Matthew Laudicina, *Reference and Instruction Librarian, Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York at New Paltz*

Earth's Landscape: An Encyclopedia of the World's Geographic Features. By Joyce A. Quinn and Susan L. Woodward. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 2 vols. acid free \$205 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-445-2). E-book available (978-1-61069-446-9), call for pricing.

Authors Joyce Quinn and Susan Woodward combine their decades of research, teaching, and knowledge in *Earth's Landscape: An Encyclopedia of the World's Geographic Features*. The entries in this two volume set focus on 460 of the natural geographic features of the earth. The introduction provides a wealth of useful background information, including a table of the geologic time scale, a table of major climate types and descriptions of the earth's major surface features. The authors state, "this work fills a common gap in physical geography education, the absence of details about specific examples of topics typically covered in the classroom. It also assembles in one place information that usually requires a search through many disparate sources to find" (xxvii).

The organization of the individual entries demonstrates the interdisciplinary approach that the authors mention in the preface, and allows users to quickly identify discrete bits of information from associated disciplines. Entries are organized under bolded subheadings, with the majority of information contained within the "Description" section. Additional details about each natural feature are included under such subheadings as "Geographic Coordinates," "Geologic History," "Biota," "Protected Areas," and "Environmental