

Selected Reference Books of 2001

Eileen McIlvaine

This article follows the pattern set by the semiannual series initiated by the late Constance M. Winchell more than sixty years ago and continued by Eugene Sheehy. Because the purpose of the list is to present a selection of recent scholarly and general reference works, it does not pretend to be either well balanced or comprehensive. A brief roundup of new editions of standard works is provided at the end of the articles. Code numbers (such as BD111) have been used to refer to titles in the *Guide to Reference Books*, 11th ed. (Chicago: ALA, 1996).

Interdisciplinary

Encyclopedia of Postmodernism. Eds. Victor E. Taylor and Charles E. Winquist. London, N. Y.; Routledge, 2001. 466p. \$188 (ISBN 0-415-15294-1). LCCN 00-28239

The *Encyclopedia of Postmodernism* avoids the murky territory of defining "postmodernism." The editors state that it "does not adhere to a single definition of postmodernism as much as it documents the use of the term across a variety of academic and cultural pursuits" (*Introd.*), thus skirting the tricky task. The encyclopedia proceeds to survey scholarly fields for usage of the term that the editors consider "more than a fad, with much deeper and longer lasting effects on academic and cultural life." Their aim is to present the reader "clarifications as well as contradictions in the field of postmodern studies."

So the reader, cautioned not to expect any clear-cut definition, will find a dy-

namic and evolving intellectual history of contemporary North America and Europe. Prepared mostly by scholars affiliated with American and British universities, the articles are short, signed, and accompanied by reference sources and/or a list of half-dozen titles for further reading. Topics include theoreticians and philosophers from Nietzsche to Culler, key concepts in postmodernist discourse, and surveys of postmodernist writing by field, from history and literature to film studies and women's studies.

The quality of the articles varies. In very short articles, the lack of editorial cleanup is disturbing; for example, on page 264, in the article on Nietzsche, the same ten lines are in both columns. Moreover, it is not very useful to include biographical information that could be found in any biographical dictionary and is not directly connected with the topic of the article. The editors should have taken more time to improve the clarity and con-

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sistency of entries. Some articles are more informative than others, but as a whole, the *Encyclopedia* is a useful addition to university and college libraries frequented by students of disciplines that have been affected by postmodernism.—J.S.

Periodical Indexes

Balay, Robert. *Early Periodical Indexes: Bibliographies and Indexes of Literature Published in Periodicals before 1900.* Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 2000. 317p. \$55 (ISBN 0-8108-3868-0). LC 00-56265.

This useful bibliography from the most recent editor of the *Guide to Reference Books* lists 400 titles that index periodicals published before 1900. Included are periodical indexes, serial bibliographies, topical bibliographies, and electronic resources.

The entries follow the classed arrangement of the *Guide*, with clear and helpful annotations. It includes titles published in many Western languages, but Balay has "excluded titles in any language of which my knowledge was too rudimentary to permit me to deduce a work's intention" (*Introd.*). He specifically excludes indexes in Russian, while including the standard bibliographies of Russian periodical indexes. He does not mention whether titles in other languages have been excluded.

Early Periodical Indexes is indexed by author, title, subject, and dates of coverage. It is highly recommended for reference collections supporting research in periodicals published before 1900.—S.S.W.

Copyright

Crews, Kenneth D. *Copyright Essentials for Librarians and Educators.* Chicago: ALA, 2000. 143p. (ISBN 0-8389-0797-0). LCCN 00-59421.

During the last decade, questions of copyright have grown more daunting for libraries and their patrons, thanks not only to the new opportunities for the copying and dissemination of information provided by the Internet, but also to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act and the Sonny Bono Copyright Extension Act.

Hence, this brief guide by Kenneth Crews of the Copyright Management Center (CMC) at Indiana University-Purdue should be a welcome addition to reference collections as a tool for both orienting staff and introducing readers to the key issues.

An outgrowth of a series of online workshops sponsored by the CMC, the guide is divided into several chapters that trace, in a logical progression, the primary issues of copyright as they relate to libraries and education, from the types of material covered by copyright to the entry of material into public domain and from the principles of fair use to the implications of the new laws for distance education. Each chapter focuses on a fairly narrow question, allowing the table of contents to substitute quite comfortably for an index. The chapters themselves are very concise. In fact, one of the great virtues of this guide is its economy of words and effective use of layout: Readers can quickly grasp the key issues in just a couple of hours of reading. Marginal notes supplement the main text with discussion of related issues or reports of recent developments, and the end of each chapter lists references to key printed literature and Web sites where further information can be obtained. A full bibliography and other informational appendices, including a worksheet for evaluating the fair use component of a given project are provided as well. Thus, this book not only introduces readers to the issues in a most effective way, but it also provides more than adequate tools for further exploration.

The publication of this work by the ALA suggests its authoritative character. Arguably, this is a guide that virtually every practicing librarian should read, and it certainly belongs in every serious reference collection.—R.H.S.

Literature

Dictionary of Midwestern Literature. Ed. Philip A. Greasley. Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Pr., 2001. To be in three volumes. (ISBN 0-253-33609-0) LC 00-040753. Contents: v. 1. The Authors. 616p. \$59.95.

Sponsored by the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature, this volume "surveys the lives and writings of approximately four hundred [living and dead] Midwestern authors as well as some of the most important criticism of their writings" (*Introd.*). It includes writers of journalism, fiction, poetry, and drama whose roots were in or whose work featured any of the ten Midwestern states.

The one- to five-page essays, arranged alphabetically, include information about the writers' parents, important dates, biographical information, literary significance, and brief descriptions of their major works, and significant critical commentaries. An introductory essay, "The Origins and Development of the Literature of the Midwest," is a useful historical survey. In addition, there is an index of works and authors mentioned in the essays.

The readable essays are a good introduction to the writers and should encourage users to look for the books. As a definitive reference source, however, it is somewhat disappointing because there is no list of complete works for each author. Such a list may be intended for volume 2, but, unfortunately, there is no indication of this in the introduction. Any library supporting American literature should find this a useful introductory guide.—M.C.

Art

Encyclopedia of Italian Renaissance and Mannerist Art. Ed. Jane Turner. London: Macmillan; N.Y.: Grove's Dictionaries, 2000. 2v. (1,881p.) il. \$400/set (ISBN 0-333-76094-8; 1-88446-02-7). LC 99-41597.

This is the third title to be issued in the *Grove Library of World Art* and the first in a projected series of five titles in the *Grove Encyclopedias of European Art*, all spin-off volumes of the 34-volume *Dictionary of Art*, published in 1996. The first two titles in the *Grove Library on the Arts of the Americas* were reviewed in this column in September 2000, and the European volumes follow the same format.

The original authors of the *Dictionary* have reviewed their entries for the specialist volumes; editorial staff have updated the bibliographies by searching *BHA: Bibliography of the History of Art* (BF43) and *Art Abstracts* (BF41); illustrations have been added, including color plates; and selected articles have been edited to focus on the Italian Renaissance and Mannerist periods, defined as c. 1400–c.1600, beginning with the transitional Late Gothic and extending stylistically to the eve of the Baroque.

The chronological and geographical boundaries imposed on the contents allow users of these volumes to become thoroughly immersed in the art and culture of the Renaissance. In addition to biographies of artists, patrons, collectors, and writers are articles on the great variety of art forms and building types being developed, on the emerging artistic traditions of increasingly powerful cities and city-states, and on other topics unique to the period and place, such as the development of humanism. A review of the index, however, shows the emphasis to be primarily on names and places. There are lengthy essays on Italy (3 maps), Rome (various plans), and other important centers of artistic and industrial production.

As with the other encyclopedias, coverage of the print volumes is similar, but not identical, to that found in the *Grove Dictionary of Art Online*. Although the high-quality print illustrations may be static, they are numerous and plainly there on the page, whereas the online version will send the user out to external Web sites for images that may make it somewhat complicated to get back into the online dictionary after viewing them.

This is an ongoing publication program that all students of art will benefit from for decades to come. The forthcoming volumes are eagerly awaited.—B.S.-A.

Political Science

Encyclopedia of Nationalism. Ed. Athena S. Leoussi. New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Publ., 2001. 314p. \$125 (ISBN 0-7658-0002-0). LCCN 00-048403.

Encyclopedia of Nationalism. Ed. Alexander Motyl. San Diego, Calif.; London: Academic Pr., 2001. 2v. (1300p.) \$425 (ISBN 0-12-227230-7). LCCN 00-102545.

Two recently published encyclopedias tackle the difficult task of shedding light on the complex and often-contested concept of nationalism. Both aim to be a guide to the wide range of issues and debates in the field and to offer, if not a definitive theory, at least an inventory of analytical instruments for an interdisciplinary study of nationalism. Both encyclopedias underscore their unbiased and *non parti pris* approach.

Although the two works have similar goals and objectives, they differ in size, scope, and organization. The *Encyclopedia of Nationalism*, edited by Athena S. Leoussi, is a modest 300-page "inevitably incomplete" (*Introd.*) volume of essay-length entries on diverse types and theories of nationalism, its relationship to other disciplines and ideologies, and on key figures of nationalism. The essays are arranged alphabetically, beginning with "anti-Semitism" and ending with "Weber's Theory of the Nations." The essays—serious, scholarly assessments of the topic under considerations—are signed and conclude with a bibliography, often quite extensive. There is an index of entry titles and subjects.

Alexander Motyl's two-volume *Encyclopedia of Nationalism* is a much more ambitious undertaking. Billed as "a complete source of information on the phenomenon of nationalism" (*Guide to the Encyclopedia*), it presents both a series of extensive essays on the fundamental themes of nationalism (v.1) and a collection of shorter entries on people, places, movements, and ideas (v.2). The essays fall into three broad subject areas: Disciplinary Approaches (Anthropology, Political Science, Sociology, etc.), Historical Overviews (Economic History of Nationalism, etc.), and Thematic Issues (Violence, Gender Relations and the Nation, etc.). All the essays are similarly structured and include, along with the body

of the article, the name of the authors, an article outline, a glossary of terms, a defining statement, cross-references, and a bibliography. The essays are comprehensive and scholarly, yet easy to read and to follow, and thus of value not only to scholars in the field, but also to beginning students and the lay public.—O.d.C.

Leadership Library on the Internet. New York: Leadership Directories, 1997—. <http://ldi.bvdep.com/>

Leadership Directories' *Leadership Library on the Internet* is the Web-accessible surrogate for the popular directory series, *Yellow Books*. These useful directories provide contact information for individuals at organizations ranging from the U.S. Congress to federal, state, and local governments, to news media outlets and non-profit organizations. The online presentation of this resource is designed by Bureau von Dijk Electronic Publishing, which produces the database EIU Country Data, among many other titles. The presentation of these directories on the Web is ideal because it permits browsing the directories, arranged hierarchically, and also enables searching across all of the *Yellow Books*.

Upon connecting to the database, the user is presented with the quick search screen: eleven data elements that may be searched, including organization or individual name, address, and more. An advanced search permits a combination of several database elements at a time. A quick search across the entire database on the organization *New York Times* yielded thirteen results. There were two distinct links to the *New York Times* from the *News Media Directory*. Once followed, it turned out that one was for an entry for the entire *Times* staff, and the other entry included just the staff of the *New York Times Magazine*.

Many options are available for searching, which makes the database powerful, but perhaps somewhat confusing to the novice user. A list of search results presents boxes next to each entry that can be checked but, after this is completed, there is no instruction on what to do with the

selections. It might be useful to offer two different interfaces, one for the novice and one for the expert user.

The information presented in the database is of a very high quality—the directories are updated continually; thus, when organizational changes occur, they are reflected in the directory. Even future changes are noted: A search on Columbia University produced an entry for its new president, Lee Bollinger, with a note that he will not take office until summer 2002.

The new interface is currently available only to users of Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser; Netscape users may continue to use the old interface, which still allows for searching and browsing. It is of some concern that users of the new interface are urged to read a five-page Adobe Acrobat document explaining the upgraded interface—too much complexity built into a database is not always beneficial to users. Despite the clumsy interface, libraries that are current subscribers to the *Yellow Books* in paper should consider subscribing to the online version.—D.W.

African American Studies

The Harvard Guide to African American History. Ed. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Pr., 2001. 923p. \$125 (ISBN 0-674-99276-8). LC 00-053861.

This major new work is the first general bibliography on African Americans to appear in many years. It is a selective list of books, articles, and dissertations compiled by noted scholars in the field. There are introductory bibliographic essays on reference works (although there is no mention of *America: History and Life*), Internet resources, microform collections, newspapers, government documents, oral history, art, music, and film.

The bibliography proper begins in chapter 13, with comprehensive histories, followed by chapters arranged by chronological period; each chapter is further divided into a number of topics. Part three, "Histories of Special Subjects," includes bibliographies on women, geo-

graphical areas, and autobiography and biography.

There is an author index, but, surprisingly, no subject index, an unfortunate decision that complicates usage, especially in light of the chronological divisions. Someone looking for information about the black press, for example, would have to study the table of contents carefully to find the essay in chapter 6, "Newspapers and Periodicals," with its extensive bibliography; the section of "Secondary Sources on Newspapers and Periodicals" in the chapter on comprehensive studies; and the entries on newspapers and periodicals in the chronological chapters for 1831–1865 (South), 1831–1865 (North), 1867–1877, 1877–1915, 1915–1932, 1932–1945, 1945–1968, and 1968–1999. Without an index, it is almost impossible to find articles discussing a particular publication. At times, the listings seem a bit esoteric; there are only three works suggested for the black press from 1968 to 1999, two of which deal with coverage of the United Nations.

A CD-ROM accompanies the book, but there are no instructions on its use. It contains only the bibliographies beginning with chapter 13, not the bibliographic essays, and just reproduces the text. There does not appear to be searching capabilities built in, but I was able to approximate a keyword search by using the computer's automatic find command. Works discussing the Great Migration, scattered throughout various chapters, could be found this way, assuming, of course, that that exact phrase was used in the title.

The chronological arrangement, though, is very useful for students studying a particular time period, and this work has already proved to be very useful; if it had an index it would be much more so.—M.C.

Organizing Black America: An Encyclopedia of African American Organizations. Ed. Nina Mjagkij. New York: Garland, 2001. 768p. \$125 (ISBN 0-8153-2309-3). LCCN 00-061779.

This single-volume encyclopedia comprehensively describes the many historical and contemporary associations formed by African Americans: interracial organizations and groups working in the interest of African Americans. The 576 signed entries are listed alphabetically by association name with cross listings and were created by 184 scholars from Europe and the United States. Entries range in length from a paragraph to a few pages and discuss association leaders, prominent individuals, membership, chapters, publications, goals, activities, achievements, and failures. Almost all the entries contain short bibliographies for reading and a few with photos or illustrations.

The encyclopedia's coverage of black associations is the most complete in breadth and reflects the diverse interests of the organizations, some of them being concerned with civil and human rights, religious, occupational, professional, political, arts, health, youth, and sports. Although thorough criteria for inclusion are those associations that are "large or have regional, national or international importance" (*Pref.*). Excluded are "short-lived organizations, small groups and those of predominantly local significance." Cities with a significant black population, such as Chicago, New York, and Detroit, have separate entries.

The forty-page index is helpful, but inconsistent, and mostly composed of proper names. The few keyword entries attempt to identify associations by category (labor organizations) or by subject matter (Underground Railroad). A few tries may be needed to find the correct index entry. Association addresses or contacts are not included.

This valuable source provides a succinct overview of black association histories or a first step in research.—L.R.

Business

Cardis, Joel. *Venture Capital: The Definitive Guide for Entrepreneurs, Investors, and Practitioners.* New York: Wiley, 2001. 320p. \$34.95 (ISBN 0-471-39813-6). LCCN 20-10260.

This book is a guide for anyone seeking start-up capital from seed financing of \$500,000 up to later growth stages of around \$20 million. The content has proprietary or industry insider information built into the text to enable the entrepreneur to look at his or her business concept through the eyes of a venture capitalist.

The first section of eight chapters addresses the area of homework the entrepreneur must do before seeking out a venture capitalist. Predominant in this section is coverage of the various risk environments for the new business (i.e., market, people, technology, and money risk). The second section of the book focuses on getting funded.

In a further six chapters, the topics treated cover valuation, the business plan, presenting, negotiation, and due diligence. Appended materials include checklists, sample agreements, and resources for entrepreneurs. Highly recommended for collections serving business communities or graduate students.—J.L.C.

History

Americana in German Archives: A Guide to Primary Sources concerning the History of the United States and Canada. Ed. Christof Mauch. Reference Guides of the German Historical Institute, No. 12. Washington, D.C.: German Historical Institute, 2001. 317p. Free from the Institute. LC 2001-1375973.

This is a list, arranged alphabetically by city, of 223 federal and state as well as city, district, church, and private archives that have significant holdings relating to the United States and Canada. Based on questionnaires sent to the archives, supplemented by other research, the entries provide the address, hours, contact information (including Web addresses, when available), and a brief description of the relevant holdings. Most of the records are related to German emigration to the United States and Canada, and a significant number deal with political re-

lations between the United States and Germany.

The guide is also available on the Institute's Web site (www.ghi-dc.org); the editors hope to be able to add information and update the holdings online. This is a very good introductory guide for historians dealing with German-American relations.—M.C.

Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History. Eds. Mary Kupiec Cayton and Peter W. Williams. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2001. 3v. \$325 (ISBN 0-684-80561-8). LCCN 01-020005.

This handsomely designed three-volume set, part of Scribner's American Civilization series, aims to present the ever-changing character and rich variety of American thought and expression" (*Introd.*) from the 1600s to the present. Using the "reference essay," a more thorough examination of a topic than found in the usual encyclopedia, each signed, article-length entry is accompanied by black-and-white illustrations, sidebars, cross-references, and an extensive bibliography. A chronology in volume I puts cultural/intellectual events in their historical/political context.

The first eight sections are arranged as a chronological survey of early America to the present. The remaining nine sections take a more conceptual approach, covering broad themes such as cultural groups; the pursuit and exchange of knowledge; and arts and cultural expression, to name a few. Each section begins with an overview essay followed by ten to fifteen individual essays per section. Topics covered range from the black church to manhood to realism in art and literature to countercultural visions.

Taken as a whole, this work covers an enormous amount of multidisciplinary material. With more than 220 essays in its three volumes, it succeeds admirably in its breadth of coverage. An alphabetical table of contents in addition to the chronological one and a well-organized index provide easy access points to the infor-

mation. The entries are readable, informative, and scholarly, and the lengthy list of contributors includes an impressive cadre of historians, scholars, and museum curators.

A valuable resource for understanding cultural and intellectual issues, ideas, movements, and institutions in their historical context, this encyclopedia will be a worthwhile addition to academic reference collections.—A.M.

Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages. Ed. André Vauchez, in association with Barrie Dobson and Michael Lapidge. English trans. Adrian Walford. Cambridge, Eng.: James Clarke and Co., 2000. 2 v. (1,624p.) il. \$285 (ISBN 0-227-67931-8).

Medieval Archaeology: An Encyclopedia. Ed. Pam J. Crabtree. New York, London: Garland, 2001. 426p. il. \$135 (ISBN 0-8153-1286-5). LCCN 00-056156.

Medieval Germany: An Encyclopedia. Ed. John M. Jeep. New York, London: Garland, 2001. 928p. il. \$175 (ISBN 0-8240-7644-3). LCCN 00-045471.

The advance of networked electronic information must inevitably have an impact on the publishing of reference sources. The ubiquity, speed, power, and flexibility of online information tools are, in many areas, a serious challenge to older print formats. For strictly bibliographic tools, the effects of that challenge are already evident. A search of the OCLC database for books containing the words *bibliography* or *bibliographic* in their titles suggests a steady decline in numbers during the past two decades, with 3,607 such works listed with a publication date of 1980, 2,526 for 1990, and just 740 for the year 2000. One might expect to see a similar pattern with such "look-up" tools as dictionaries and encyclopedias. However, the OCLC record shows print dictionaries more or less holding their own, with 1,403 book titles containing the word *dictionary* in 1980, 1,836 in 1990, and 1,610 in 2000. The advantages of an online format notwithstanding, it would appear

that the more frequent and regular usage to which dictionaries (as opposed to bibliographic tools) are put, and the consequent need to have them close at hand at all times, is what makes the difference: Clearly, individual readers' workspaces are still far from being fully integrated into the networked environment, and reading from screens is still much far less comfortable than from a printed page.

In the case of encyclopedias, surprisingly, quite the opposite trend can be observed, with a marked rise in the number of books containing the words *encyclopedie* or *encyclopaedia* in their titles, from 541 in 1980 to 867 in 1990 and 1,305 in 2000. Those figures do square with a more impressionistic sense that the number of "encyclopedias" available for selection by reference departments has surged considerably in recent years. Although a number of explanations might be offered to account for this continued vigor of the print format here—frequent personal use, a larger, more specialized academic community, or the appearance of new fields of, and approaches to, scholarly research—it would also appear that the criteria and standards for what constitutes an "encyclopedia" are growing somewhat looser.

Traditionally, the term *encyclopedia* has suggested some degree of comprehensiveness and systematization in the treatment of knowledge or a particular discipline. The user of such a work, seeking to acquaint him- or herself with an unfamiliar topic, would expect to be able to find a basic introduction to that question here, ideally pointing the way to further research and information. Not surprisingly, the creation of a new publication of this classic type has often been a slow, even frustratingly slow, process. On the other hand, the rapid production of a large number of such tools increases the likelihood that the product will be less a comprehensive treatment than a large selection of informational articles relating to a given field, an interesting and instructive introduction to the topic, perhaps, but less useful as a reference tool.

The three works discussed here can serve to illustrate this broader trend. The first of these, *Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages*, does, in fact, represent an important new contribution to the English-language reference literature on this subject. It is the English version of a work produced first in French, as *Dictionnaire encyclopédique du moyen âge* (Paris: Cerf, 1997) and then in Italian, as *Dizionario enciclopedico del medioevo* (Rome: Citta Nuova, 1998–1999). Each step in that process has seen the addition of new articles to provide fuller coverage, first of the Italian and then of the British medieval experience. The English version has added bibliographic information as well.

The scope of coverage here is genuinely encyclopedic, with more than 3,000 brief articles on persons, countries, cities, regions, social groups, events, institutions, dynasties and families, languages, literatures and literary genres, sacraments and rituals, artifacts and regalia, artistic styles and movements, theological and intellectual issues, iconographic and symbolic themes, and so on and so forth, written by nearly 600 specialists from a wide range of specialists, primarily from European institutions, but with some representatives of American academia as well. Each article ends with a brief list of key bibliographic references. There is good coverage of Eastern as well as Western Europe, and articles on general topics tend to include a comparative survey of Western and Byzantine practice. The primary emphasis is on Christian society (including the churches of the non-Byzantine East), but there is basic coverage of Jewish and Muslim issues as well. The breadth of topical coverage is reminiscent of such larger works as the thirteen-volume *Dictionary of the Middle Ages* (DA148) or ten-volume *Lexikon des Mittelalters* (DA150), and indeed it was one of the aims of the editors to produce a more concise work of similar character that could be acquired by individual scholars as well as libraries. Simple, but useful, maps are available on the inside covers of both volumes; and tables of rulers, a list of con-

tributors, and an index round out the work at the end. Unquestionably, this is a work that many medievalists will want to acquire for their own collections, as will any reference library supporting research in history.

The other two works under review here focus on narrower fields, medieval Germany and medieval archaeology, both certainly worthy of encyclopedic treatment. The complexities of Germany in the Middle Ages, with its fast and fragmented array of political, social, and cultural institutions and formations, almost defy synthetic treatment or even definition. A reference tool capable of orienting English language to the bewildering range of politics, characters, events, and institutions she or he is likely to encounter in the study of this area would be a most welcome addition to the literature. Likewise, as the editor and contributors to *Medieval Archaeology* suggest, medieval archaeology has not heretofore received the attention it deserves. Moreover, the data of this field differ sufficiently in character from those of the traditional historical studies to warrant a systematic presentation of its own.

Certainly, both *Medieval Germany* and *Medieval Archaeology* contain a great deal of interesting and helpful material about their respective areas of coverage, written by established specialists in the field. However, I would argue that, in certain respects, they do not fully live up either to the promise of their titles, at least not as reference tools.

With well over 700 articles by academic specialists, most of them from American institutions, *Medieval Germany* does contain a wealth of information, along with citations to current scholarly literature. Moreover, most of it is material that a user of, say, the *Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages* would not find covered in a broader-ranging work. The problem really is that the work delivers both more and less than what the title might initially suggest to the average reader. More, because there is a great deal here not only on Germany, but also on the Netherlands, an area that

was certainly part of the medieval German empire (although a contemporary English-language reader might not expect to find such information here), less, because the range of topics covered is far more narrowly focused than the label "Medieval Germany" suggests. The introduction does hint at this narrower scope by indicating that this is "an introduction to the society and culture of German- and Dutch-speaking Europe from approximately 500 C.E. to 1500." In fact, however, this is really a survey of cultural topics, with only selected material on social and political issues. There is a host of articles on art and artists, literature and writers, education, and language. Entries for individual German cities devote ample space to the architectural monuments of the Middle Ages they contain. There is really very little on social issues per se—the nobility and peasantry are disposed of collectively in a one-and-a-half-page article, and there does not appear to be any synthetic survey of the towns and their social classes. Moreover, political and historical topics seem chosen almost at random, with virtually no articles on the principalities of the empire, for example, and only selected surveys of ruling dynasties (nothing on the Wittelsbachs, for example, or even on the Habsburgs). Likewise, although biographies of some important rulers are included, others, such as Ludwig the Bavarian or Sigismund Luxemburg, are mysteriously omitted. Likewise, although articles are devoted to some historical events and developments, such as the Battle of Lechfeld or the Investiture Controversy, others of equal significance, such as the Councils of Constance or Basel or the Hussite movement, are passed over. As a result, a reader looking to this volume for general reference help with the complexities of medieval Germany is likely to come away disappointed. At the same time, one looking for information about German culture in that era will find a substantial treatment of those questions. With those caveats in mind, this work can be a useful addition to reference collec-

tions dealing with medieval history, art history, or German studies in general.

Medieval Archaeology aims, among other things, to "bring together in one volume the research of a diverse range of scholars who work on a wide variety of archaeological problems" and to "provide the interested reader with a guide to contemporary research in medieval archaeology" (Preface). It certainly accomplishes the former goal and probably the latter as well. The 150 or so articles it contains, written by specialists in the field, are interesting and informative discussions of work in various countries, individual archaeological sites, and a variety of other issues and topics of relevance. A reader browsing in a leisurely fashion through the text can learn a great deal. Individual articles provide a frequently generous list of current bibliographic references as well. At the same, it appears that this work has not really attained the critical mass of information required for a genuine encyclopedia or handbook. Except for the country surveys (which are provided for major West European countries) and some other obvious topics, such as "Dendrochronology," "Radiocarbon Age Determination" (with a cross-reference from "Carbon-14 Dating"), "Castles," "Cemeteries," or "Coinage," it is hard to imagine what a reader might expect to be able to find here. For example, there are articles on some archaeological sites, but the number represents only a small share of the total and the criteria for selection are far from clear—many key sites mentioned in the national surveys, for example, are not given such treatment. In other areas, too, the coverage seems almost arbitrary. Thus, one finds an article on ceramics in the Netherlands, but not in other countries, or an article on ceramic tiles, but not an article on bricks. The lack of a simple alphabetical listing of articles at the beginning of the work compounds the look-up problem (although there is a listing of archaeological sites by country, another listing of articles by subject, and an index at the back of the book). Nor is the content consistent in character. Some articles

simply discuss the role or manufacture of a particular commodity in the Middle Ages. Others are really discussions of historical topics with a couple of passing references to archaeology. Sadly, too, the work appears to have been incompletely edited. In the course of random browsing, this reviewer quickly stumbled upon a misspelling of "Forteviot" as "Fonteviot," both in a cross-reference heading and in the list of sites by country at the beginning of the book, a curious, repeated misspelling of the Polish word *grody* as *grody* (employing a diacritic not used in Polish) in the article on Poland, and a mixing up of identifications on the key to a chart of archaeological remains in the city of Bratislava. And the presence of two articles entitled, respectively, "Archaeology and History" and "History and Archaeology," while perhaps a charming conceit, does not really lend itself to a reference tool.

These difficulties notwithstanding, libraries collecting in the field of medieval studies will probably want to acquire this work because so little is really available in the way of English-language guidebooks on the subject. However, its value as a look-up tool, rather than as a kind of discursive introduction to the topic, is limited. One looks forward to a later, more comprehensive edition that can do full justice to this important field. And one would hope, that in their seeming rush to produce encyclopedic reference tools, publishers, particularly ones of Garland's stature, will take greater pains in the future to produce works of genuine *reference* value, particularly at a time when the advance of online formats has arguably raised the standard of what readers ought to be able to expect from an encyclopedia.—R.H.S.

Kipfer, Barbara Ann. *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Archaeology*. New York: Kluwer/Academic-Plenum, 2000. 708p. \$150 (ISBN 0-306-46158-7). LCCN 99-053995.

The proliferation of new encyclopedias and dictionaries in the field of archaeol-

ogy continues with this short-entry compilation of more than 7,000 site, object, and proper name definitions (see also *C&RL*, Mar. 2001, pp. 189–92). The emphasis here is directed to the student, layperson, or professional archaeologist as reader or author. Although the primary work of locating, collecting, sorting, identifying, and classifying artifacts found in the physical environment is acknowledged, it is “the writing up and presenting [of] the data and the reconstruction based on that data” (*Pref.*) that form the main purposes for the choice of entries.

Definitions cover terms specific to the discipline, such as dating, excavation, material culture, and landscape evaluation but also make use of related terms from anthropology, computer science, botany, demography, economics, geography, geology, mathematics, pathology, statistics, surveying, physics, biology, and chemistry.

Place names are by far the most numerous and worldwide in scope, “with an entry for every site that has contributed uniquely to the essential body of information on which the current major classifications and interpretations of prehistory are based—and for major artifact types and major cultures and their phases and subdivisions.” Personal names are included but are relatively few and limited mostly to the usual well-known Western archaeologists of the last 200 years and to ancient rulers.

A special feature of this work is a time line of writing and archaeological decipherment from 60,000 B.C. till the twenty-first century, what the compilers term “the most glamorous achievements of scholarship” in this field. More standard features include a bibliography, a list of abbreviations, and a supplementary list of sites and terms. Although there are no illustrations, this is a useful reference for both the browser and the serious researcher, well bound and clearly presented.—B.S.-A.

La grande enciclopedia di Roma: personaggi, curiosità, monumenti, storia, arte e folclore della Città

Eterna dalle origini al Duemila. Ed. Claudio Rendina. Roma: Newton & Compton, 2000. 1,377p. il. L140.000 (ISBN 88-8289-316-2). LCCN 20-01363528.

This one-volume encyclopedia covers history, people, monuments, sites, art, and folklore of the city of Rome from its origin to 2,000. Articles are accompanied by monochrome illustrations, mostly architecture and portraits, and color reproductions of landscape paintings. In the people category, included are not only longtime residents of the city such as historical figures of ancient Rome, popes, and artists based in Rome, but also famous visitors such as Goethe, Wagner, Cervantes, and Stendhal. Even a brief stay and negative reaction to the place by Leopardi is noted. Appendixes offer lists of Roman proverbs arranged by subject and Roman idiomatic expressions.

One of the useful features of the book is its grouping of sites under a theme. For example, “mosaici” describes a number of sites with mosaics giving dates and brief explanation. “Madonnelle” will take you to roadside shrines dedicated to the Madonna in various areas of the city and includes an extensive list of shrines with addresses, dates of creation, and types of image.

The encyclopedia is pleasant to browse and useful to consult. This would be a good addition to a library that serves Italian-speaking patrons who are interested in Italian history, art, and architecture as well as folklore.—J.S.

Oxford Companion to Military History.

Ed. Richard Holmes. Oxford, N.Y.: Oxford Univ. Pr., 2001. 1,048p. il. \$60 (ISBN 0-19-866209-2). LCCN 20-01273896.

The new addition to the long line of Oxford Companions is a handy encyclopedia on military history. In recent years, military history in its new version is evident in scholarly congresses, journals, and Web sites. It would not be surprising to see a resurgence of interest in military history from new perspectives among the

general readership, especially when we are in the midst of waging a very unconventional war with mostly conventional weapons. This encyclopedia of military history covers wide and far in terms of both geography and time period. It includes the Peloponnesian wars down to the Gulf war and offers good coverage of the world beyond Europe and North America. The Mongol art of war and the Maneuver of Genghis Khan are discussed along with Clausewitz and the siege of Jerusalem (1099). The team of eight editors includes not only the specialists of war studies, but also historians of ancient Greece, medieval Europe, Japan, and the Islamic East.

The book aims to offer "a source of dependable information, thoughtful assessment for intelligent general readers of many kinds," but also "a reliable and quick reference for scholars in this particular field and its related disciplines" (*Introd.*). Articles are readable and well cross-referenced to give some unity and perspective to the topic. A good index refers the reader to topics not among head topics, but discussed in other articles. Articles are initialized, and many are accompanied with a brief bibliography, map, or illustration. It includes many social history topics such as women and homosexuals in the military, religion and war, pacifism, etc. Friends of animals would be delighted by the entry for "Animals and the Military" that recounts, among other things, the adventure of Simon the cat, "the only British cat to be awarded a posthumous decoration for gallantry" (p. 59). It is also interesting to see that the editors allowed some individuality to articles, and everything is not bland and neutral like some encyclopedias; try entries on some controversial characters.

The main emphasis of this encyclopedia is on land warfare; naval warfare and aerial combats are less extensively treated. For example, Alfred Thayer Mahan is mentioned in *Naval Power* but does not have a head article, whereas Mackinder, a proponent of the "heartland" geopolitics,

is assigned a head article. Anglo-Afghan Wars (1838–1919) are discussed in a medium-length article, but the Soviet involvement in Afghanistan (1979–1989) is only referred to fleetingly in an article on the Russian Army. Kalashnikovs appear under the creator's name, but the stinger missile is very discreetly embedded in the article on missiles under the category of surface-to-air missiles (SAM) and it is not even in the index. Another limitation of this otherwise excellent encyclopedia is that it discusses nuclear weapons, but not biological warfare. Recommended for all types of libraries.—J.S.

Schulz, Rima, and Adele Hast. *Women Building Chicago 1790–1900: A Biographical Dictionary*. Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Pr., 2001. 1,088p. il. \$75 (ISBN 0-253-33852-2). LCCN 00-058162.

This is my candidate for the best reference book of the year, and not only because I hail from Chicago. It is an excellent dictionary and, courtesy of two NEH grants, also a great bargain.

The 423 signed entries, which profile women who died before December 31, 1990, are very well researched and written. Each entry lists sources, including manuscripts, published writings, interviews, and secondary works. There are black-and-white photographs throughout, as well as a section of color plates, mostly reproducing paintings by Chicago artists. A substantial introductory essay provides a historical survey and discussion of the roles women played in the history of Chicago. There is a comprehensive subject index as well as lists of entries by year of birth. With more than a thousand pages, this is a major reference work and is recommended for all libraries with strong collections in American history.—S.S.W.

New Editions

The Dictionary of German Biography (DGB), edited by Walther Killy and Rudolf Vierhaus (Munich: Saur, 2001. To be in ten volumes. \$2,100), is a direct translation of

the *Deutsche Biographische Enzyklopadie* (DBE, 1995–2000), with a few additions (e.g., a glossary). When complete, its 59,000 entries will cover “historical figures whose influences were considerable and far-reaching” (*Editor’s foreword*). Each entry consists of a name with variants, personal data, and biographical and bibliographical references. The *Neue deutsche Biographie* (AH210), still in progress, does overlap with the DGB, but when both cover a person, the NDB has a longer entry. Both are useful.

Elaine T. Partnow’s *Quotable Women: The First 5,000 Years* (N.Y.: Facts on File, 2001. 974p. \$113) is the revised and updated edition of the 4th edition, 1992 (BE111). Now in alphabetical order, the 3,667 women treated include 952 non-English speakers (with the quotations given in English). The volume ends with four indexes: biographical (name with dates and identifying phrase); ethnicity and nationality; subject; and careers and occupation.

A second edition of *Artists & Writers Colonies: Retreats, Residencies, and Respite for the Creative Mind* (Portland, Ore.: Blue Heron Publ., 2000. 330p. \$19.95) offers descriptions and detailed information about more than 260 programs currently available in the U.S. and abroad. Sensibly arranged, well researched, and interspersed with personal narratives from participants, this useful book includes residency, retreat, fellowship, and grant opportunities for architects, writers, artists, performers, composers, journalists, and scholars. Listings are grouped by geographic region with an appendix arranged by genre.—A.M.

The *Concise Oxford Companion to Canadian Literature*, edited by William Toye (Don Mills: Oxford Univ. Pr., 2001. 529p. \$49.95) is not a true abridgment of the second edition of the *Oxford Companion to Canadian Literature*, also edited by Toye (1997. 1st ed. BE833). Yes, there is a reduction in the number of entries and gone are most survey articles (except Aboriginal literature, Exploration literature, and Writing in New France), critical bibliographies (though biographies are noted),

and Francophone authors who do not have at least one title in English translation, but added are sixty-one new entries for writers and subjects with the cut-off date of 2000. The work still lacks an index, and there are few cross-references.

The entries for the second edition of the *Oxford Companion to Politics of the World*, Joel Krieger, ed-in-chief (N.Y.: Oxford Univ. Pr., 2001. xxxi, 1018p. \$79.95) have been rethought. “The first edition took shape in 1989...as democratic ideals swept away authoritarian regimes in most of the world” (1993. CJ29). “As the new century unfolds, conflict and squalor ... vie with equally democratic accounts of the widening circle of opportunities associated with a liberal political order and the global” (*Pref.*). The *Oxford Companion* hopes “to provide a comprehensive guide to international relations and national democratic politics” through 672 articles from 500 contributors from 40 countries. The articles include twenty-three interpretive essays (ethnicity, globalization, country articles, and biographies) and six paired views on affirmative action, the UN, future of entitlements, censorship, limits of liberal democracy, sustainable development). This edition ends with a good index and cross-references.

The *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations* to the 10th edition has grown to six volumes (Detroit: Gale Group, 2001. Formerly published by Worldmark Pr. CJ35): The UN, Africa, The Americas, Asia and Oceanic, Europe, World leaders. Now including 200 articles, the publisher states that every government was asked for their assistance. The world leaders volume treats 193 “heads of nation’s government and bears primary responsibility for the country’s policy” (note to the 10th ed.).

National Party Conventions (Washington, D.C.: CQ, 2001. 297p. 5th ed. 1831–1988. CJ265) updates to 1831–2000 taking in the Bush–Gore election. There is a new chapter on the origins and development of presidential primaries. The bibliography is a good starting point for under-

standing the nominating process and the conventions. The volume ends with a comprehensive index.

Volume I of Everett Jenkins's *Pan-African Chronology: A Comprehensive Reference to the Black Quest for Freedom in Africa, the Americas, Europe and Asia 1400–1863* (1996), with the second volume covering 1865–1915 (1998). This third volume, *Pan African III*, treats 1914–1929 (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2000. 628p. \$75), World War I, the "great awakening... the corollary development of baseball and cricket in the Caribbean, ... literary and cultural contribution of the artists of the era, ... in depth exploration of the careers of W.E.B. Dubois and Marcus Garvey" (*Introd.*). Most of the information in the chronology is from secondary sources, but much

attention has been given to corrections and updates.

The sixth edition of *British Electoral Facts*, compiled by Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2000. 313p. \$60), now covers 1832–1999, with most of the statistics taken from the 5th edition (1989. CJ364, which covers 1832–1987, edited by F.W.S. Craig who compiled all the previous editions). This volume gives such tables as regional voting patterns since 1955, election and by-election results since the Great Reform Act, including the European Parliamentary elections. Public opinion data are considerably expanded. There is a listing of tables omitted from the 6th edition (e.g., candidate expenses 1837–1880 and analysis of constituencies 1832–1917).